



St Mary's Shortlands

News Sheet for Sundays

26th July to 16th August, 2020

Worship at St Mary's

Although there are no services in church at present, we are still able to join together in prayer and worship. Services are available every day via the St Mary's website or Facebook page. The services are 'live-streamed' but can also be watched at a later date/ time. The relevant orders of service are available by clicking on the link on the website.

Sunday, 10.30am A celebration of the Eucharist

Monday to Saturday, 9am Morning Prayer

Junior Church is now on its summer break.

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For our prayers

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We pray for The World

- For all in this country and around the world who are affected by the coronavirus and all who are anxious and concerned about the impact on their lives.
- For scientists and researchers who are leading the way in understanding and finding ways to control the Covid 19 pandemic.
- For our government and leaders of the nations, for wisdom and clarity in their decisions.

The Community

- For people who are facing redundancy and financial hardship through this crisis.
- For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs.
- For the safety of those who serve us in this community as businesses and services re-start.

The Sick

- For all who are unwell, including: Jane Green; Melanie Jones; Revd Hugh Broadbent; Joan Austen; Paul Corben; Roger Bullen.

The Departed

- We pray for those who have recently died and all who mourn, especially remembering Ivy Burton.
- We also remember those whose anniversary we keep at this time: **w/c 26th July** – John Saward; Margaret Lilley; Maureen Bowen; Ethel Clarke; Laurie Bray; Joan Cobley; Florence Debois. **w/c 2nd August** – Stanley Goodway; John Jackson; Gordon Smith; Ron Smith; Linda Moody; Irene Smith. **w/c 9th August** – Philip Godfrey; Peter Westropp; Helen Wilson; Susan Ballard; Dennis Murphy; Mary Varley. **w/c 16th August** – Kathleen Byford; Hilda Dodman; Marion Martin; Robert Jones; Douglas Worgan.

Father, in the name of Jesus, hear our prayer for a rebirth after lockdown;
fruitfulness after fallow; plenty after scarcity and may all share your blessings
(Prayer by Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark)

Junior Church Feedback

On Sunday 28th June we had another fun Zoom session together. We played an online game of 'Pictionary' guessing some of the stories we had looked at over the last few months. We then heard the story of Zacchaeus and how Jesus changed his life. We thought about the wrong things Zacchaeus had done and how we can all make mistakes in our lives. We remembered that, as Christians, Jesus is always with us and we can ask for his help in making changes in our life.

Our prayer this week was: *Father, We have learned that you called Zacchaeus by his name and enabled him to grow through the love of Jesus. We ask that you enter our lives so that we too can grow into the people that you want us to be. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

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On Sunday 5th July we explored the story of Jesus calming the storm. We thought about how frightened the disciples must have been and how surprised they were at experiencing Jesus's power. We shared times when we feel scared and how we can encourage each other to trust that God, through Jesus, is with us. We had another 'kitchen percussion' session creating our own storm music and finished with a prayer.

Father, We thank you for being a safe place to go to when our fears and worries seem so much bigger than we can manage. Help us to remember that you are the creator of the universe and that nothing is too big or too hard for you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Returning to Church

St Mary's Church continues to be open for personal prayer and reflection on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, between 10am and 3pm. I am also delighted to confirm that St. Mary's will be open for public worship from Sunday 6th September, 4.30pm; and on Wednesday 9th September, 10.30am; and will follow this pattern for the foreseeable future. These will be Communion services and we will be following strict guidelines in respect of social distancing, hand sanitising, etc; Communion will be in one kind (bread only); there will be no choir or music group and there will be no singing of hymns. However, and despite these guidelines, I look forward to welcoming you all back into our church building for worship and the sharing of the most holy of Sacraments together as one body, present in our church building, another step forward in regaining life as we knew it back into our church and community.

Live streaming of the Sunday 10.30am service will continue, as will Morning Prayer, Monday to Saturday at 9am.

If you are in the 'shielding' category I would not expect you to be visiting the church. If you know of any health reasons, underlying or otherwise, where you may be at risk, I would strongly encourage you not to visit the church at this stage. For those unable to leave their homes or who will struggle to get to the church, our pastoral team is available to talk through any concerns you might have

Kitchen facilities

We now have a new 'temporary' kitchen at the back of church, with access to water and a suitable electrical supply for making drinks. This will be a very useful addition to our facilities at St Mary's in the coming months, both for the time when we can once again have refreshments after services and also for using the space at the back of church for a café or other gatherings. Many thanks to Tim Dawson and Mike Harrison for all of their work on the kitchen during the lockdown.

Can you help to dig a trench?

The final job needed to complete the kitchen is to dig a trench to link with the main sewerage system on site. Tim Dawson is looking for some able-bodied helpers (with or without their own spade). Please contact Tim Dawson tim@tim.dawson.name (8460 5884) if you are able to help.

Junior Church

We have now finished our Junior Church teaching programme for this term. We hope that the children have enjoyed our time together and the activities posted on the website. I would like to say a big thank you to Sally Aldred and Rachel Tillotson. They helped make the Zoom sessions both fun and meaningful. It has also been a real pleasure to have 'seen' our lovely group of children each week. We are planning a 'socially distanced' end of term picnic, and are so looking forward to the time when we can all be back together in our church building. *Jo Eade*

St Mary's Site Development - Update

Back in February and early March we received very positive feedback about the extra space at the back of church that we created by removing, on a trial basis, the last two rows of pews. This really helped us to see how we could make the space in church more flexible. Having heard this feedback, the PCC has decided that, once we are back together in church, we will retain this space and look to develop a greater range of activities during the week.

Once we are able to meet together again we will reschedule the meetings we had to postpone, so that members of the congregation can hear what we've researched and ask questions about options for seating and flooring in church. We will listen to feedback to see what people think about this before moving forwards and will continue to hold this project in our prayers as we seek to understand what God is asking us to do here in Shortlands.

We have started to consider whether there is potential to make greater use of audio-visual facilities in church once we are back in church (for example, streaming services to a wider audience) and to support our wider mission. If you'd like to be part of a working group looking at this, please contact Revd. Gary. If you have any questions about the site development, please email futuregenerations@stmaryshortlands.church.

Recipe Book

Stephanie Maurel is compiling a book of favourite recipes of the congregation, which will be sold to raise money for the Future Generations project, hopefully to go on sale in the autumn. Please send any recipes to stephanie.howarthmaurel@yahoo.co.uk

Passing the peace in the time of COVID

Social interaction has changed in confusing ways since COVID-19 reared its ugly spikes in our lives. The disappearance of handshakes, the appearance of masks, the physical distance from others have affected our physical communication, some say perhaps forever. One aspect of Christian worship has also been affected. The passing of the peace has, of necessity, lost its physical component; shaking hands, hugs, and leaning in toward the other can no longer be practiced. With the addition of masks, even smiles are limited to whatever our eyes can reveal.



Many persons have begun using the words and hand position of namaste as an alternative. Namaste is a Sanskrit word used as a greeting in Hindu/Asian traditions. It translates as "I bow to you." The hands are at heart or eye level in a praying position, palms together with fingers pointed up. Eye contact is deliberate and not fleeting. It can be both a verbal and spiritual recognition of respect for and oneness with the other. The spiritual interpretation I find most meaningful is, "The divine light in me bows to the divine light in you." *Glo Sherman*

The Fair Trade Stall

While we do not have access to the usual Fair Trade Stall, Cecilia is happy to order goods for you from Traidcraft and deliver them to you. The full list of available stock can be seen on the Traidcraft website - www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. There is no delivery charge on items that Cecilia orders. Contact Cecilia Willatt (0208313 0246) gwillatt@hotmail.com

Coffee mornings in August

We are launching the new temporary kitchen at the back of church by holding a couple of coffee mornings during August. Do come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and cake at the tables at the back of church, and meet with others. Any donations of cakes for these mornings will be gratefully received, but please just turn up and be waited upon and enjoy some fellowship with friends in the church.



From 10.30am on Wednesday 19th and Wednesday 26th August



Bromley Foodbank

The Bromley Foodbank has faced a huge demand for emergency food during the Covid crisis and is expecting continued high demand over the summer holidays when families often need extra support. The items most needed at the moment are: *long life fruit juice, custard, rice pudding, squash, jam, packet mashed potato, cold meat (tinned), biscuits, shampoo, men's shower gel, men's deodorant, nappies size 5 or 6, washing detergent.* (They have plenty of beans, pasta, soup, rice, tomatoes.) There are drop-off points at: Sainsbury's – Orpington, Locksbottom, Petts Wood, West Wickham (Station Road), and Chislehurst; Tesco – Orpington and Bromley; Waitrose – Green Street Green. Items can also be left at the Bromley Warehouse – Ex Adventure Kingdom Building, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH – 8am to 11.30am, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Revd Gary – Annual Leave

Revd Gary will be on annual leave from Friday 31st July to Friday 14th August, inclusive. For any urgent matters, please refer to Adolph Williams, Churchwarden, on 07914 343 495.

Supporting others

St Mary's has a team of people available to provide both pastoral and practical support to any members of the congregation and the wider community who may be in self-isolation, unwell or feeling alone at the moment. If we can help in any way, please contact Revd. Gary by e-mail at vicar@stmaryshortlands.church (020 846 0262)

If you have any suggestions for items to include in a future News Sheet, please send them to Kate Buchanan, kateinww@btinternet.com
Items for the next sheet are needed by Sunday 16th August

How to access online services (without a Facebook account)

1. Go to the St Mary's website www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk
2. Go to the line "To access our live services and recordings of our most recent services, please click [here](#)" and click with the mouse or pointer on the word '[here](#)'
3. This takes you to videos on the St Mary's Facebook account. The most recent video will show at the top of the screen or be the first in the list (top left hand side).
4. If the video seems to be stuck, try clicking on the pause/ play button on the left hand side. If you were expecting to see a live service but the video seems to be an older one, it's probably that the live service hasn't started yet. Wait for a minute or two and then try again from step 1.