

Back to School
Holy Communion Service
7th September 2025



St Mary's Shortlands

Welcome to St Mary's Shortlands. We are glad that you are joining us for worship today. All are welcome at St Mary's. We hope that within our worship you will encounter God's love and presence and discover more about the gifts God has given you.

If you are visiting us for the first time today please do stay for refreshments after the service. Our vicar and sides people would love to say hello.

Services today

10.30am **Holy Communion**
Celebrant and preacher – Rev. Dave Edmondson
Reading - Freya Myers
Intercessions – Susie Shelton

This week

Tue 9th Sept 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter

Wed 10th Sept **10.00am – Morning Prayer**
10.30am – 12.30pm – Community Café

Thurs 11th Sept 9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions

Sun 14 Sept **10.30am - Holy Communion**
4.00pm - Tea Time Together - For families with children up to Yr 5
6.00pm - Youth Club – For Years 6 -13

Hymn- God is Here (301)

We stand to sing

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore

what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you
All: and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

All: Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;

**through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Please sit

Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

We stand and Sing

**All: Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest,**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest,**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

receive our prayer.

Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest,

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest,

The Collect

Let us Pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen

We sit

First Reading – Psalm 139: 1-7

¹ O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ² You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways. ³ For there is not a word on my tongue, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. ⁴ You encompass me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. ⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, so high that I cannot attain it. ⁶ Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁷ If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn - From Heaven you came (432)

We stand to sing

**From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve
and give your life that we might live.**

***This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.***

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will, but yours,' he said.

This is our God, the Servant King...

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God, the Servant King...

Gospel Reading - Luke 14:25-33

We remain standing

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them,²⁶ 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,³⁰ saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

We sit

We stand to say the Nicene Creed

**All: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped
and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers

We sit to pray

This or another response may be used.

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

At the end

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our saviour Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

The Peace

Please stand for the Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you,

All: and also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn - Brother, sister, let me serve you (393)

We stand to sing

As we sing a collection plate is passed around. Giving is part of our worship at St Mary's for our regular congregation. You are invited to give but there is no obligation.

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;**

we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented and the
table is prepared.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before
you. Which earth has given and human hands have
made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation
through your goodness we have this wine to set before
you. The fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It
will become for us the cup of salvation.

All: Blessed be God forever

Eucharistic Prayer

We remain standing

The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things from the
beginning,
and formed us in your own image.
Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the
cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.
Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

We sing

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest.**

We sit

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness
of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All: Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is Sung as we share amongst the servers.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,**

you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

*You are invited to come forward to receive Communion or a
Blessing. The Choir Sing*

Communion Hymn - Awake my Soul (1)

Anthem - If ye Love me - Tallis

Post Communion Prayer

We sit

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Notices

*Please see the last pages of this booklet for this week's
notices and prayer points.*

Hymn – Praise my Soul The King of Heaven (555)

We stand to sing

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Blessing of the Backpacks

*All who have brought a school bag or work bag are invited
to hold them up and/or come forward.*

Creator God, we give you thanks for the new start which September brings.

Lord of life and love:

All: Hear our prayer

We thank you for schools, colleges and universities, and all who learn, teach and serve in them.

Lord of life and love:

All: Hear our prayer

We thank you for places of work, for colleagues and clients, challenges and tasks.

Lord of life and love:

All: Hear our prayer

We thank you for the opportunity to learn and grow at every stage; for the gift of making mistakes and trying again.

Lord of life and love:

All: Hear our prayer

We bring before you these bags, which through the year to come will carry the tools of learning and working.

Lord of life and love:

All: Hear our prayer

We bring to you those days when these bags feel heavy and difficult, and those days when they feel light and easy.

Lord of life and love:

All: Hear our prayer

Bless these bags, all that they will contain, and your those who carry them.

Lord of life and love:

All: Hear our prayer. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank you for joining us for our worship this morning. Please do stay for refreshments after the service. All are welcome here at St Mary's. For more information on any of our services please pick up a flyer or visit our website. If you have any questions, please do ask a welcomer or member of the Clergy.

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Community...

For St. Mary's Pre-School staff and the children. For the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The World ...

For family life, those facing stress, unemployment and retirement. For single parents and the bereaved

The Sick ...

For those who are recently unwell, including Leonie Rhodes, Val Leveton and Annette German. We continue to pray for Bob Norfolk-Thompson, Sally Aldred, Graham Smedley, Angela Ash, and for those who seek our support by bringing these prayers to our church.

The Departed ...

We pray for everyone grieving the loss of loved ones, especially the family and friends of Rebecca Gowing and Ann Parks. We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Mary Williams, Len Hovey, Joseph Yeulett, Ann Gramlich and June Khan-Panni.

Our Mission of the Month for September is Friends of Griffins

There is a display at the back of the church. Each Mission of the Month receives equal donations from the church and donations from individuals.

Donations for Bromley Foodbank can be left in the church porch.

Items most needed are:

- Tinned tomatoes
 - Sugar
- Washing up liquid
 - Bleach
- Tinned cold meats

Please use this QR code to make a donation to St Mary's. Thank you.



Notices

The memorial flowers in church this week are in memory of Ann Gramlich.

Kay Coleman and the family of her daughter, Rebecca Gowing, would like to thank everyone for all the messages of condolence, prayer and support they have received. It has meant a great deal to them all at a very difficult time.

The funeral of Ann Parks will take place here, on Monday September 22nd at 12.30pm. All are welcome at a reception at the Bromley Court Hotel, Bromley Hill, BR1 4JD at 2pm to further celebrate Ann's life. Please write your name on the list at the back of church if you will be attending the reception.

Thank you for all the very generous donations to Macmillan Cancer Support at the Community cafe this week - we raised an amazing £200.96.

Intercessions Morning Sat 27th September at 10am-11.30am. If you are part of the intercessions rota or are interested in becoming part of the team please do come along. Please contact Rev. Dave

Monthly Youth Alpha Course – Starting 28th Sept! Would you like to explore the big questions of life, Christian faith, and purpose? It's a space to bring your thoughts, doubts, and questions and to share good conversations with others. Contact Rev. Dave

Holy Communion for Children - We'd love to know if any baptised children are interested in joining a course to prepare for Holy Communion. If you are interested in your child taking part, or would like more information, please speak to Rev. Dave.

Interested in confirmation? There will be deanery confirmations on 16th November. Contact Rev. Dave.

On Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm, the government will carry out a national test of the Emergency Alerts system. This means most mobile phones and tablets across the UK will receive a test message, accompanied by a loud siren-like sound and vibration that will last for about 10 seconds.

Harvest Sunday 5th October. After the Parade Service we are having a bring and share lunch. Sign up sheets are at the back of Church. Please sign up and spread the word. All are welcome

Contacts

Parish Office

Open Monday - Friday 10am–12noon

office@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 020 8460 5682

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Vicar

Rev. Dave Edmondson

vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 07592136421

Church Wardens

Gloria Sherman - glowarden@stmaryshortlands.church

Robin Hogg - robinwarden@stmaryshortlands.church

Safeguarding Officer

At St Mary's we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously: we are committed to ensuring our church and hall buildings are safe places for all. If you have any concerns about safeguarding you can contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer Dr Pauline Lambourne

safeguarding@stmaryshortlands.church

020 8658 0470