

Love is all you need

Love, love, love...

All you need is love, love, love is all you need.

These words, familiar to many of us, are of course from the Lennon and McCartney classic, *All You Need Is Love*, released in 1967, a song that remains a favourite for many of us. The words should ring true for all of us, because all we need **is** love. With Valentine's Day being recognised on 14 February, love is very much in our thinking.

In the New Testament, the word 'love' is mentioned an average of 230 times, depending on which translation you read, so the word must be important.

I am drawn to 1 Corinthians 13, when the Apostle Paul talks about love in the context of community and that love is the premier virtue. It towers above all others in importance, and it must be the ground, the foundation, the first principle, of everything we do and are. It is down to us to do what we can, beginning to manifest this love in our lives and within the community.

We can talk with real pride about the past twelve months and how we have embraced love in our support of others during incredibly challenging times, but it is now and going forward in our lives that love is even more important, a virtue that should continue to be at the heart of all we do within our community.



A WINTRY SCENE: St Mary's was briefly dusted with snow last month

Community Support

At this time of heightened anxiety over the local and national COVID situation, St. Mary's Church is here to help in whatever way we can, offering pastoral, practical or spiritual support to anyone who might be in need.

We can arrange for regular telephone calls to be made to individuals, along with assistance with essential shopping. It may be that you would like the church to be praying for you or for friends and family: please let us know.

Whatever support can be provided, the team at St. Mary's will do our very best to help during these challenging times.

Please contact Revd Gary Best

07493 072 695 or 020 8460 0262

vicar@stmarysshortlands.church

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Whoever we are, whatever our faith, let us not be people obsessed with accumulating possessions and money; let us not be people just living for the good opinion of others; or a people whose greatest desire is to impress others and to be popular and well-liked. Because, in the end, Paul would say to us, none of that's going to last; it's all going to pass away.

What will last? Only three things, says Paul – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love.

So let us never let ourselves settle for less than this. Let's never forget that love is the most important thing we can work on because, without it, everything else is just noise and busy work. Love, love, love.... love is all we need.

Love and Blessings, Revd Gary Best

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Tommy Wetton 4 Dec age 17
Roland Dannan 18 Dec age 77
Barbara Skinner 27 Dec age 95



Avoiding Scams

Scams are a way of cheating people out of their money. A scammer may try to approach you on your doorstep, by post, over the phone or online. They often pretend to be someone they are not, or make misleading offers of services or investments. New friends may be asking for or accepting expensive gifts from you.

New digital ways of communicating have led to an increasing number of scams and more and more people are being tricked by them. You can protect yourself by knowing what to look out for and what to do if you suspect a scam.

If you are worried that you or someone you know may be being scammed you should look out for warning signs. For example, perhaps the person is getting unusually large amounts of post or spending a lot of money. Give them some relevant advice from the guide on the Safeguarding noticeboard at the back of church, or see www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud

If you need more information please speak to Kay Coleman on 07879 337567 or ring Age UK Advice on 0800169 65 65.



Stay in touch!

To keep up with the latest news from St Mary's



you can 'like' our page on Facebook
www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

or follow us on Twitter - search for
'St Mary's Shortlands'

If you're not sure how to do it, contact the office and they'll put you in touch with someone who can give you an introduction to 'social media'

Do you have a laptop you no longer need?

The Rotary Club of Beckenham is seeking to provide local primary schools with laptops for children who need them.

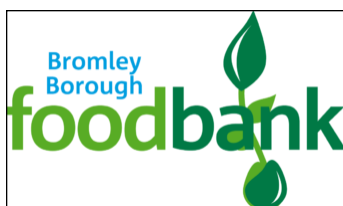


Donated laptops have their memories wiped, defective parts replaced and surfaces cleaned before Windows 10 Education is loaded and they are delivered to schools.

Anything with Windows 8 operating system would be welcome. Please contact Peter Braithwaite on 07757 058929 for more information.

BROMLEY BOROUGH FOODBANK – helping local people in crisis

Thank you to all donors for their amazing support, especially in this current situation.



The following items are particularly needed at present:

Long-life fruit juice (urgent); UHT milk (urgent); Desserts; Cold meat; Tinned vegetables (particularly carrots); Shaving gel/ razors.

Please provide long-life food – the Foodbank cannot accept fresh or chilled goods.

For information, call 0800 9202324;

e-mail info@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk.

My day job

I am the Managing Partner of a London-based public affairs consultancy focussing on Africa. I am married with two daughters aged 19 and 22.

My career started in Law which was my passion but with a young child and a husband whose job involved a lot of travel, and no support system at the time, I was often paying more than the daily nursery fees in late pick-up fines. When the opportunity arose to join the consultancy and work from home, I jumped at it. As the girls have grown up my role has evolved, and I am doing more travelling and client development.

I run the practice day-to-day and am responsible for the events we hold on behalf of our clients. This is my favourite part of my job which has allowed me to travel widely and to meet some fascinating people. My year is usually pre-planned and very busy, ending with an annual legal forum for a global law firm in November, leaving me December to prepare for Christmas and Christingle at St Mary's - my favourite time of the year.

My day job is hard work, but I love what I do, and I believe I am good at it although it can be stressful at times.

However, I am at all times a parent and work stress has been nothing compared to my duties as a mum. But for my faith, that task would have been even more of a challenge. I pray a lot, usually just thanking God for all the positive things in my life of which there are many.

In 2019 when my younger daughter agreed to get confirmed after several years of my explaining to her why it was important, I felt God had heard my prayers. It was a profound moment for her when she suddenly realised the significance of confirmation. For me, as a parent, it was job done!

In 2020, when life as we knew it was turned upside down, we had to adjust quickly and learn to work remotely using Zoom to serve our global clients. Work became deskbound but nevertheless continued and last year was as busy as ever.

Outside my work duties the pandemic has, I believe, brought out the best in many of us especially the church groups I am a part of: the volunteers, coffee rota and the music group. My family and I feel truly blessed to be part of the St Mary's community.



Jay Sharma

Songs of Praise

live-streamed via Facebook on

Sunday 21st February, 6.30pm

Please send any hymn requests to

canonclaire.tillotson@gmail.com, along with a reference to why the hymn means something to you

Thomas Charles Dewey

This is the latest in a series of articles on blue plaques commemorating notable people in and around our parish.

Dewey, born in 1840, pioneered public health and education improvements.

He lived in Bromley from the 1860s, at Tweed Cottage, High Street and for many years at South Hill Wood, Westmoreland Road. He became a leading member of Bromley society, served as a churchwarden of Bromley Parish Church for 30 years and was a patron of many local charities and sporting organisations.

He endowed and was closely associated with St Mark's Church, Westmoreland Road. The church was designed by the architect Evelyn Hellicar, of whom Dewey was patron. In 1898 Hellicar extended Dewey's house and in 1902 he designed the music pavilion within the grounds, the design of which was exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts.

His time as Charter Mayor of Bromley in 1903-4 is marked by the inclusion of his initials on a link of the Borough's Mayoral chain. He was made Honorary Freeman of Bromley in July 1904 and was called upon to lay the foundation stone to Bromley's Municipal Buildings (Town Hall) in 1907.

In July 1907 Dewey celebrated his 50th year of service with the Prudential Assurance Company, having entered as a junior clerk at the age of 17 and eventually becoming President. He was made a baronet in 1917.

During the First World War Dewey made South Hill Wood available as a VAD hospital. In 1922 he was honoured by the King of Belgium with the award of the diploma and insignia of Medaille du Roi Albert for his services to wounded Belgian soldiers. He died in 1926.

The Blue Plaque is on the wall of No 2 South Hill Road.



Lent 2021

This Lent St Mary's will be hosting an online Lent course, held via Zoom.

The course is a great way to pause and reflect on the meaning of Lent as we look forward to the great festival of Easter. It's a friendly space to read the Bible and discuss what it means in the context of the world today.

The course will run on Tuesday evenings and again on Wednesday mornings on the following dates: 23 & 24 February, 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17 and 23 & 24 March.

You're very welcome to join us: please e-mail office@stmarshortlands.church to receive the confirmed timings, resources and Zoom link.

If you require any further information, please contact Revd Gary – vicar@stmaryshortlands.church.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza provides specialist care and emotional support for children with serious or terminal conditions and their loved ones, so they can enjoy time together as family, for as long as they have. There is no formula, everybody's journey is unique.

Demelza looks after children up to 19 years old with life limiting illnesses and their families in two residential hospices, Demelza House at Sittingbourne and Demelza Eltham, as well as Demelza nurses going directly into the children's homes and offering hospice style care with Demelza Community Hospice East Sussex.

Demelza offers support at diagnosis, symptom management, respite care, therapies, sibling and family support as well as end of life care and bereavement support.

It is working hard as an organisation to respond to the current COVID-19 situation as and when it develops. During the pandemic Demelza has continued to deliver family support remotely via online media. End of life and urgent care has continued as before on site. Any non-urgent face to face activity such as emergency short breaks, care at home, Family Support activities and Practical Volunteering Support are delivered appropriately within the remit of care to vulnerable people.

The nature of social distancing has meant Demelza has had to cancel or postpone most of its fundraising events and Government guidelines mean its high street shops are now all closed and unable to accept donations. This has had a significant impact on income. There are however virtual events and other fundraising initiatives.

For more information go to www.demelza.org.uk

AMAZON SMILE

If you are shopping on Amazon you can now donate to St. Mary's, your local parish church, by using Amazon Smile. Go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and search for 'The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Shortlands'. The church will receive 0.5% on eligible purchases at no extra cost to you. The direct link is <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1130802-0>



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