

# St Mary's Shortlands

## News Sheet for December 2021

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### Sunday worship in church

**Sunday 10.30am** Holy Communion *with Junior Church*  
*followed by refreshments at the back of church*

#### ***This month***

#### **Sunday 5th December**

4.00pm Taizé Service

#### **Sunday 12th December**

4.00pm **Christingle Service.** A candle-lit service for children and adults celebrating Jesus the Light of the World, with a collection for the work of the Children's Society



#### **Sunday 19th December**

6.30pm **Carol Service.** Traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. *Followed by mince pies and mulled wine*

#### **Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord

#### **Saturday 25th December, Christmas Day**

10.30am Family Communion

**Sunday 26th December** *There will be no 10.30am service*

#### **Weekday services** in the Millennium Chapel

Monday 5pm Evening Prayer *(not 27th December)*

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion *(not 29th December)*

#### **Live-streamed services** *(up to 23 December and from 3 January)*

Monday to Saturday, 9am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, 8.30pm Compline

## **Services this month**

We are very pleased to welcome the Revd. Jane Kustner who is standing in for Revd. Gary for a few weeks and leading most of the services at St Mary's through December and over the Christmas period. We are also grateful to Archdeacon Paul Wright and Revd Jane Peters who will be leading some of our services.

Revd Jane Kustner was recently the Chaplain at a residential home for clergy for a couple of years, and prior to that was priest in charge of a church in a relocation area in KZN, South Africa. Before that she was priest in charge of a church in Hither Green for 8 years and Area Dean for East Lewisham during that time. We look forward to getting to know Jane better while she is with us at St Mary's.

## **Future Generations Project**

In November the PCC approved in principle the proposal to update the heating system in church by installing underfloor heating with new flooring and with moveable seating to allow more flexible use of the building. These changes are estimated to cost around £275,000, of which over £120,000 has already been raised.

The Group will now move forward with fund raising and will also prepare specifications to enable detailed costs to be obtained. There is currently a vacancy for the lead role for fundraising, so if anyone with experience of fundraising would like to help with this project, please contact [treasurer@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:treasurer@stmaryshortlands.church)

## **Christingle**

A reminder that our Christingle service will take place at 4pm on Sunday 12th December. At Christingle we remember the valuable work of the Children's Society in helping vulnerable children who need support. Please give generously, either using one of the collection envelopes in church or by donating online: St Mary's Shortlands PCC, Sort code: 30-84-51, A/c no: 47608468, Reference: "Christingle".

## **Community Café**

The Community Café is open every Wednesday 11am-1pm except for 22nd December. There is a special Betwixt event, 11am to 2pm, on Wednesday 29th December

## **On Retreat**

Last month Jan Boam and I took a trip to the Yorkshire Dales for a retreat entitled "Advent with the Celtic Saints". So what were the highlights? Well the main highlight for me occurred even before our arrival at Scargill House. The sunset as we drove northwest over the Yorkshire moors to Grassington was absolutely stunning. It lasted for about 45 minutes and became more beautiful as it went on. I've never seen the northern lights but this would definitely be a rival. The second highlight was a music workshop led by the chaplain at Scargill who had been a professional singer with Opera North prior to ordination. It took place in the chapel, we had no music or words to look at. We listened, copied, sang in a round, in harmonies, without instruments and in tune! It was quite wonderful.

So what were the sessions like? We didn't learn much about the Celtic Saints individually, it was more to do with their practical way of travelling and spreading the gospel. The main message was to **do** something and do little things well. There is no secular/spiritual divide in Celtic spirituality, our faith should be part of us always, *Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go* Joshua 1 v9. God can be met in the sunset, in music, and walking in the drizzle up to Connie Pie (a limestone outcrop).

*Marion Westropp*

## **A Winter Concert**

Do join us for a French Horn recital by David Tillotson at 1.15pm on Friday 17th December in church. David is currently in his final year of studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and we are pleased that he is able to give this recital while home for the Christmas holiday. Tickets will be £5 (on entry) Light refreshments to follow and all proceeds will go to the Peter Westropp Memorial Trust.

## **At the Heart of Christmas**

Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily (Monday to Saturday) until the Epiphany (6 January), the Church of England is sharing twelve days of stories and meditations for Christmas. On each of the days, a different contributor will share something that lies close to the heart of Christmas for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and questions to ponder. Sign up on the Church of England website to receive the reflections by email.

## Family news

We are delighted to welcome two more babies to the St Mary's family. Congratulations to Samantha and Tom Paul on the birth of Tamsin Rose on 15th October - a sister for Nathaniel and Harriet. Congratulations also to Lauren and Peter Jefferys (son of Ann-Marie and David) on the birth of Blake Barrington on 29th October.

## Christmas Carols

The St Mary's Choir will be leading a carol concert at St George's Bloomsbury at 6.30pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December in support of ABCD – Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability. A number of us will be going to this event so do speak with Claire or one of the church wardens for more information. Tickets are £10, including Palestinian nibbles and wine. Go to [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search for "ABCD 2021 Carol Concert"



### You are warmly invited to **Betwixt**

A special seasonal Community Café event, on  
**Wednesday 29th December, 11am to 2pm**

Light savoury and sweet treats for the festive season.

A chance to meet informally with others.

**All are very welcome**

## Diary Dates

- Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm St Mary's Choir Carol Concert in aid of ABCD Bethlehem, at St George's Bloomsbury
- Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> December Gardening and leaf clearing in the church grounds, from 9am
- Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> December Christingle making, in church from 10am
- Wed. 29<sup>th</sup> December Betwixt Community Café, 11am to 2pm

Please send any items for the next news sheet to Kate Buchanan [kateinww@btinternet.com](mailto:kateinww@btinternet.com) by Wednesday 29th December. Thank you.