

# St Mary's Shortlands

## News Sheet for May 2021

*Please take a copy of this News Sheet home with you*

Our Sunday services are live-streamed for those who are unable to attend in person. Morning prayer and compline are only available online. Please go to [www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands) or follow the link on our website [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk).

### **Sunday worship in church**

**Sunday 10.30am** Holy Communion

*At the moment there are no refreshments after services but, following current guidelines, we can talk in small groups in the church grounds.*

### **Special services this month**

#### **Sunday 9th May**

6.30pm Informal Worship led by the Music Group on the theme "Hearts on Fire"

#### **Thursday 13th May**

8pm Ascension Day Service

#### **Sunday 16th May**

6.30pm Choral Evensong

### **Weekday services**

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion (in the Millennium Chapel) *Starting from 19<sup>th</sup> May*

Monday to Saturday, 9am Morning Prayer (live-streamed only)

Wednesday, 8.30pm Compline (live-streamed only)

The Church is open for private prayer and reflection from 10am to 3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

## St Mary's Annual Church Meeting

The 2020 APCM was held on 2nd May. The meeting received the Annual Report and accounts for 2020. During an unprecedented year because of the Covid pandemic, St Mary's had responded positively to the challenging situation by streaming daily prayer as well as Sunday worship and providing a network of pastoral care. The Church had also made progress with projects including the new kitchen facilities, repairs to the organ and the new audio-visual equipment. Members had responded generously to the stewardship appeal in 2020 and the church was financially stable. Revd. Gary thanked everyone involved for their contributions to the smooth running of St Mary's in the past year and looked forward to the many opportunities that lay ahead.

At the meeting Sarah Leonard and Kate Buchanan were elected as churchwardens, and Catherine Bingham, Tim Dawson, Julie Fox, Mark Fox, Hazel Leech, Stephanie Maurel and Rachel Tillotson were elected to the PCC to serve for three years. The annual report can be found at [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk/span/annual-parochial-church-meeting](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk/span/annual-parochial-church-meeting)



### Community Café – Can You Help?

The St Mary's Community Café is starting on 19<sup>th</sup> May, to be open every Wednesday, 11am to 1pm. This is an exciting new venture that will provide a safe and welcoming meeting place for those within and beyond our community.

We already have a team of helpers but would welcome more volunteers to share the work. So, if you can help in any way – to serve drinks, bake cakes, set up tables or clear up afterwards, please speak to Jay Sharma 07900 971 867, [jay@joelkibazo.com](mailto:jay@joelkibazo.com); or Gill Dawson 07767 365 318, [gill@gill.dawson.name](mailto:gill@gill.dawson.name).

## Helping St Mary's Finances

A reminder that you can now help St Mary's when shopping on Amazon by using Amazon Smile. Use <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1130802-0> or search on Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)) for "St Mary Shortlands". The church will receive 0.5% on eligible purchases at no extra cost to you.

## Home Group

A new home group is starting from Wednesday 12th May, meeting fortnightly at 8pm. The group will be co-led by Hazel Leech, Glo Sherman and Sue Slaney. We will initially meet on Zoom and hope to gather together in our homes (or in the Chapel) for fellowship and study as soon as we are permitted to do so. For the first few meetings we will be looking at: "Where is God in a Coronavirus World?" If you would like to join us, please send an email to the Church office and we will send you the link.

### Plant Swap / Sale



On Saturday **15th May**, 10am – 12 noon  
in the church grounds



A second chance to swap seedlings with  
other gardeners or buy plants for your garden

*Refreshments will be available, and there will also be  
a Cake Sale in support of Christian Aid.*

## Memorial Service for John Westropp

There will be a memorial service for John Westropp at St Mary's on Saturday 4th September at 2.30pm, with refreshments in the church hall afterwards. The service will be live streamed for those would prefer not to attend in person and whatever restrictions in place at that time will be adhered to. Please make a note of the date.

## They have taken the Lord

Stuart Buchanan has recently written a book on Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. "They have taken the Lord" has now been serialised in five 'chapters' by BRF on their website. In it we journey with the disciples from the despair and confusion of the empty tomb and rumours of resurrection, through wrestling with doubt and new understandings of who Jesus is, to meeting with Jesus in Galilee and the implications of Jesus' commission for us today. As Jesus is again taken from the disciples through the Ascension, we consider how these passages might help us rediscover Jesus in new ways in our own lives.

The chapters can be freely downloaded at

[www.brf.org.uk/product/they-have-taken-the-lord-part-1-easter-day/](http://www.brf.org.uk/product/they-have-taken-the-lord-part-1-easter-day/)



## Mission

During May we are following a sermon series on The Five Marks of Mission and there are also displays and prayer stations on these themes in church.

You are invited to spend some time exploring the displays.

## Future Generations

We have raised close to £120,000 so far for the Future Generations project and are now looking to the next stage. On the 10th July, at the Future Generation Open Day at St Mary's, the fundraising group will be auctioning off prizes - the prizes are the gifts of our congregation. If you are able to offer interview support, taxi driving, 11+ practice, painting and decorating skills, dancing lessons etc, then please let Stephanie Maurel know so that they can all be collated for 'sale' on the day. Offers can be as different or unusual as you like!

Also, the Future Generations Group are organising a sponsored walk up Snowdon on Saturday 18th September 2021. There are a minimum of three spaces for those that are interested. For more information please contact [iza.seabrook@gmail.com](mailto:iza.seabrook@gmail.com). For those less keen on taking part in the walk, we would appreciate any sponsorship you feel able to give.

## Hearing at St. Mary's

With the introduction of the new audio-visual system, St. Mary's is keen to ensure that all those with hearing difficulties are comfortable with the sound output, especially those who wear hearing aids.

If you would be prepared to share your thoughts with Revd Gary, which can be treated in confidence if desired, please contact him to discuss further. It may be that some testing needs to be carried out in the church building, for which your help would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks, Revd Gary.

*Please send any items for the June News Sheet to Kate Buchanan [kateinww@btinternet.com](mailto:kateinww@btinternet.com) by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you.*