

Welcome to St. Mary's, the Parish Church of Shortlands



St. Mary's, Shortlands endeavours to bring the love of God into the everyday lives of the people of Shortlands.

We have a hearing loop system in the Church: members of the congregation with hearing aids should switch to 'T' for better reception

28 February Second Sunday of Lent

Services Today

10.30am	<p>Holy Communion - online only - Reverend Gary Best Address: Reverend Gary Best The New Testament reading will be: Romans 4:13 – end read by Philippa Shelton Intercessions: Kay Coleman Gospel: Reverend Gary Best</p>
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Services and Events this week

Mon 1 Mar	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Tue 2 Mar	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Wed 3 Mar	9.00am 8.30pm	Morning Prayer - live streamed only Compline - live streamed only
Thu 4 Mar	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Fri 5 Mar	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Sat 6 Mar	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 7 March	10.30am	Holy Communion - online only - Reverend Gary Best
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

With immediate effect, there is a temporary suspension of communal church services at St. Mary's.

This decision has not been taken lightly, but with the serious increase of national and local Covid cases, we believe it is the right decision in consideration of the health, safety and welfare of everyone who might attend church services.

This decision will be reviewed on a regular basis.

The church will remain open for private prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 10am-3pm.

All church services will be streamed online, with a Holy Communion Service on Sundays at 10.30am, available through our website or our Facebook page.

Second Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of
your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the
same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

New Testament Reading

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had

Cont...

.... promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Church ...

Rochester Cathedral

Dean: The Very Rev Dr Philip Hesketh; Chapter Clerk: Simon Lace

Chislehurst, Christ Church

Vicar: The Rev Dave Johnston

Chislehurst, St Nicholas

Rector: The Rev Jonathan Bauer

Chislehurst, The Annunciation

Vicar: The Rev Paul Farthing

Hayes, St Mary the Virgin

Rector: The Rev Napo John

Barnehurst, St Martin

Vicar: The Rev Gareth Bowen

Belvedere, All Saints

Vicar: The Rev Simon Archer

The World ...

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your
love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastoral, Practical and Spiritual 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 visit:

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

The Community ...

For the Dean and Cathedral staff of Rochester.
For former members of St. Mary's now living elsewhere.

For the SOS Children's Village in Bethlehem.
Give thanks for the many and varied gifts amongst God's people. Pray for those training for ministry, Lay and Ordained.

For James, Bishop of Rochester, and Diocesan Staff.

For the Area Dean, Reverend Jeremy Blunden Lay Chair of Synod, Sarah Poole, and the Beckenham Deanery Clergy.

For our Member of Parliament, Bob Stewart, our Local Councillors, Mary Cooke and Aisha Cuthbert, and the Shortlands Residents' Association.

For the Reverend Gary Best and his family. **For** Reverend Beverley Ejimofo and her family. **For** the Parochial Church Council.

For the witness of St. Mary's in the community, the outreach through SPAN, the editors and production team.

For the work of Mothers' Union Worldwide & St. Mary's Fellowship group. The Toddler Group, Julie Runicles, and all who assist.

The Sick ...

For all who are unwell, including Sally Aldred; Melanie Jones; Joan Austen; Paul Corben; Ann Gramlich; Gill Humar; Ron Nowell; Gwilym Davies.

For all those who bring their prayers to our Church.

The Departed ...

For those who have recently died including Mike Ring; and all who mourn.

We also remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week at this time: Tony Norris; Keith Taylor; Edith Jordan; Stanley White; Freda Greenwood; Nick Chalk; Brian Knight; Philip Standley; Vida Haynes; William Bond; Betty Cook; Eve Jolliffe.

NOTICES

Church will be open for private prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10am - 3pm.

- ◆ **Traidcraft** - If you wish to make an order from Traidcraft please contact Cecilia on 020 8313 0246 or (07511) 885 941. She can deliver you a catalogue, or you can visit the Traidcraft website, and then give her your order. Traidcraft is carrying on its vital work supporting some of the most vulnerable producers around the world. Some catalogues shall also be left in church.
- ◆ **Lent Lending Library** - if you are looking for some reading for Lent, a lending library has been set up at the back of the church, offering a range of books for Lent. These can be accessed when the church is open for private prayer and reflection.

Our Mission of the Month for February is:

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

There is a display at the back of the Church. Five per cent of our giving will support the work of this mission, and additional gifts may be given through the plate by the display.

AMAZON SMILE—If you are shopping on Amazon you can now donate to St Mary's by using Amazon Smile. Go into Amazon on 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>

Thank you to all of our donors for your amazing support, especially in this current situation.



The following items are in particular need at present:

TOILET PAPER; UHT MILK; TINNED POTATOES; TINNED FRUIT.

All donations gratefully received

A reminder that we cannot receive fresh or chilled goods - **ONLY LONG LIFE FOOD.**

For information please contact Vici Nightingale.

Online wine tasting evening

Saturday 13th March 7.30pm

6 wines - 3 red & 3 white

£12 per person

Cash or Cheques payable to "St Marys Shortlands PCC" to Revd Gary, Tim Dawson or post through church House door please.



We will need your delivery address, email address and mobile phone number for delivery of wine, zoom invite and in case of any hitches



Stay in touch!

To keep up with the latest news from St Mary's, you can 'like' our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter - search for

'St Mary's Shortlands'.

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

Website

www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk

Parish Office

CLOSED

office@stmaryshortlands.church

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Curate - Revd. Beverley Ejimofe

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