

# 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.



## 5 December Second Sunday of Advent

### Services Today

10.30am	<p><b>Family Communion</b> - Reverend Jane Kustner  <b>Address:</b> Reverend Jane Kustner  <b>The Old Testament reading will be:</b>          Baruch ch.5 read by Marion Westropp  <b>Gospel reading:</b> Susie Shelton  <b>Intercessions:</b> Stephanie Maurel</p>
4.00pm	Taizé service

### Services and Events this week

Mon 6 Dec	<p>9.00am 5.00pm</p>	<p><b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only  <b>Evening Prayer</b> - in the Millennium Chapel</p>
Tue 7 Dec	<p>9.00am 11.00am</p>	<p><b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only  <b>Sunnyfields Day Nursery Christmas Service</b></p>
Wed 8 Dec	<p>9.00am 10.00am 11am-1.00pm 5.00pm 8.30pm</p>	<p><b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only  <b>Holy Communion</b> - in the Millennium Chapel  <b>Community Café</b>  <b>Harris School</b> - Christmas Performance  <b>Compline</b> - live streamed only</p>
Thu 9 Dec	<p>9.00am 9.30-2.00pm 7.00 &amp; 7.30pm</p>	<p><b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only  <b>Baby and Toddlers</b> - sessions at 9.30am &amp; 12.30pm  <b>Junior Choir &amp; Choir rehearsal</b></p>
Fri 10 Dec	<p>9.00am 9.30 &amp; 2.00pm</p>	<p><b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only  <b>Highfield Junior School</b> - Christmas Performances</p>
Sat 11 Dec	9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only

### Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 12 Dec	<p>10.30am 4.00pm</p>	<p><b>Family Communion</b>          - Reverend Jane Peters  <b>Christingle Service</b></p>
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## Second Sunday of Advent

### Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succor us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered in running the race  
that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily  
help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you the the Holy Spirit, be honour  
and glory, now and forever.

### Old Testament reading

#### Baruch ch.5

Take off the garment of your sorrow and  
affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from  
God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes  
from God;

put on your head the diadem of the glory of  
the Everlasting;

for God will show your splendour everywhere  
under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,  
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look toward the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and  
east

at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain  
and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of  
God.

The woods and every fragrant tree  
have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,  
in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come  
from him.

### Gospel

#### Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made  
low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

### Post Communion

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility  
and purit of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord

## Junior Church

### Today

All children are welcome.  
The children will meet during the main  
10.30am service in the church hall,  
where activities will be available for all  
age groups.

The memorial flowers in  
church this week are in  
memory of David Glynne



## ***Please remember in your prayers this week...***

### **The Church ...**

#### **Dartford deanery**

The Rev Dr Richard Mortimer, Area Dean; Mr Andrew Carr, (proxy) Lay Chair

#### **Gillingham, St Barnabas**

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Liz Cox

#### **Gillingham, St Mark, and St Mary's Island**

Vicar: The Rev Saju Muthalaly

#### **Gillingham, St Luke**

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Garry Jenkins

#### **Gillingham, St Mary Magdalene**

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Liz Cox

#### **Rainham, St Margaret**

Vicar: The Rev Nathan Ward

#### **South Gillingham: Hempstead, All Saints; Wigmore, St Matthew; Bredhurst, St Peter; and Parkwood, St Paul**

Team Rector: The Rev Canon Brian Senior

Team Vicars: The Rev Pam Alexander, The Rev Pat Lenton de Dickin

### **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.



### **Time for reflection**

We invite you to a calm and reflective start to Christmas

**Taizé worship  
Today at 4pm.**

Led by the Music Group & Choir

### **The Community ...**

**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 Baby and Toddler Group, Julie Runicles, and all who assist.

**For** the many youth organisations, and our engagement with young people in the community.

**For** our Junior Church Co-ordinator, Rachel Tillotson.

**For** residents and staff of Durham House, Franklin House and Merlin Court.

**For** local hospitals and St. Christopher's Hospice, Sloane Hospital, Medical and Social Services in the Borough.

**For** the Missionary Societies of the Church, especially those supported by St. Mary's, and our Mission of the Month.

**For** the care of our Church and hall. Cleaners, gardeners and flower arrangers. That all may be done to the glory of God.

### **The Sick ...**

**For** all who are unwell, including Sylvie Cleaver; Brenda Tyndall; Janet Nicholls; Jean Osborne; Sally Aldred; Melanie Jones.

**For** all those who bring their prayers to our Church.

### **The Departed ...**

**For** those who have recently died, and for all who mourn.

**We** also remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week at this time: Arthur Clegg; Sylvia Greener; Joan Portwine; Elizabeth Banfield; Irene Fisher; Jane French; Rginald Clarke; Starkey Smee; George Portwine; Linda Mills; John Knight.

Our Mission of the Month for December is:

### **The Children's Society**

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.

# NOTICES

**Church is open for private prayer on  
Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10-2pm; Tue 10-12pm; Thu 10-2pm (Chapel)**

- ◆ **Christingle making** - if you would like to help make Christingles this year, in the back of church, on Saturday 11 December from 10am. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.
- ◆ Do come and join the **Bromley musical theatre company** on Monday 13 December, as they perform a range of Christmas music from 6.30pm in the Church. Tickets £5 available on the door to include mulled wine and minced pies.
- ◆ **Study Group** - a reminder that the Wednesday study group has its final gathering for 2021 on Wednesday 15 December at Sue Slaney's home.
- ◆ We are grateful to the Revd Jane Kustner who will be leading most of our services through Advent and Christmas while Gary is on extended leave and retreat away from the parish. During this period any queries or requests should be directed to Nicola in the parish office or to the churchwardens, as appropriate. Members of the ministry team and pastoral teams are also available as usual.

Nicola Blake - office@stmaryshortlands.church (020 8460 5682)

Kate Buchanan - kateinww@btinternet.com (07811 528181)

Sarah Leonard - saraheleonard45@outlook.com (07725 313432)

- ◆ **Foodbank volunteers** - we are looking for volunteers to help deliver our collected donations to the central hub. You will need to be able to collect, carry and drive the donations to their destination approx once a fortnight. Please contact Vici Nightingale.

Thank you to all of our donors for your amazing support, The following items are in need at present:



**COOKING SAUCES, TINNED FISH, TINNED POTATOES SIZE 5 AND 5+ NAPPIES.**

We are also looking for:

**Christmas Sweets, especially for Children; Mince Pies and Yule Logs ; Small Christmas cakes, Christmas biscuits, Christmas puddings.** (These must be dated 26th December)

**All donations of long life and in date food gratefully received.** Financial donations by cheque or direct debit only please.

A reminder that we **CANNOT** receive fresh goods; chilled or frozen goods or baby milk.

For information please contact Vici Nightingale.

- ◆ **The choir** shall be singing at St Georges, Bloomsbury on Friday 10 December from 6.30pm to raise funds for ABCDbethlehem. Ticket details can be found online at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) searching for "ABCD 2021 Carol Concert"

## A Winter Concert

A French Horn recital featuring David Tillotson, Date: Friday 17th December. Time: 13:15pm. Location: St Marys Church, Shortlands. Tickets £5 (on entry). Light refreshments to follow. All proceeds will go to the Peter Westropp Memorial Trust.

**Traidcraft** - the stall will be available after the Sunday service TODAY.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Parish Office

Open 9.30am-12.30pm

office@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 020 8460 5682

**Vicar - Reverend Gary Best**

### Website

[www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)