

Welcome to St. Mary's Shortlands



16 August 2026 – 11th Sunday after Trinity

Today

10.30am Holy Communion

Celebrant and preacher: Rev. Jane Peters

Reading: Keith Mills

Intercessions: Helen Bird

Hymns

456 - Happy are they

485 - Jesu the very thought of thee

477 - In Christ there is no east or west

254 - For the fruits of his creation

Fairtrade stall after 10.30 am service

This week

Mon 17 Aug 10.00am - Flower Team Meeting in the Choir Vestry.

Tue 18 Aug 10.00am - 12 noon - Craft and Chatter

Wed 19 Aug 10.00am – Morning Prayer in the chapel
10.30am – 12.30pm – Community Café

Sun 23 Aug 8.00am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Holy Communion

Our Mission of the Month (MOM) for August is Médecins Sans Frontières

There is a display at the back of the church. Each MOM receives equal donations from the church & from individuals.

Junior Church

Takes place in the hall during the morning service. All children of all ages are very welcome.

September: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

October: 11th, 18th

Tea Time Together at 4.00pm

for families with children
up to Yr 5

Youth Club from 6.00pm

for Years 6 -13
Sept 13th, Oct 11th, Nov 8th

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First reading: Romans 4.13-18

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.'

Gospel reading: Matthew 1.18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Post Communion

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Community...

For Sunday worship at St. Mary's. For the discernment of vocation in our church family.

For our neighbouring parishes and Churches of other denominations, their priests and ministers. For the work of Churches Together in Beckenham.

The World ...

Pray for the safety of refugees and for all working to bring relief to those in vulnerable situations.

Pray for those affected by and for all suffering from the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

The Sick ...

For those who are recently unwell, including Betty Rider, Ian Brentnall, Sheila Dowling, Christine Perzyna and Robert Barnes. We continue to pray for Eileen Abbam, Sally Aldred, Angela Ash, and for those who seek our support by bringing these prayers to our church.

The Departed ...

We pray for everyone grieving the loss of loved ones, especially the family and friends of Kate Nickalls.

We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Kathleen Byford, Hilda Dodman, Marion Martin, Bob Jones and Douglas Worgan.

**Bake & play at the Community Café on
19th & 26th August from 10:30 am - 12:30pm.**

Primary school children are invited to come and bake and play at the Community Café. We will bake & decorate some sweet treats for the children to take home. Please bring an adult with you.

NOTICES

- **The Flower Team** are holding a meeting tomorrow at 10 am in the Choir Vestry. If you are interested in joining us in decorating the Church at any time, come and find out more, Helen has promised to bake us a cake!
- **Men's Group:** We are planning to create a men's group this autumn, with a range of activities. If you are interested, or have ideas, please contact David Jefferys (on jefferysconsulting@btinternet.com) or come to a meeting immediately following the service on Sunday the 23rd August.
- **MTS Mission to Seafarers:** Please see charities' notice board for a "Hot off the Press" account about the tragic situation in the Straits of Hormuz"
- **Embrace the Middle East**, that was our Mission of the Month in May, is partnering with UK churches in the "Time to Act" campaign, responding to the call of Palestinian Christians for courage, compassion, and action amid ongoing violence and injustice in Israel and Palestine. Church leaders, including the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, have urged Christians to support this campaign and pray and advocate for a just and lasting peace – details at Embrace's Time to Act online or Pauline Lambourne.
- **9.30am & 12.30pm - Baby and Toddler sessions** resumes on the 3rd September.
- **Back to School Sunday – 6th September - 10.30am Family Communion.** Bring a school/ work bag for a blessing.

- **Choral Evensong – 20th Sept at 6.30pm.** A traditional reflective service on God's word which is led by our choir.
- **Save the date: Pet & Teddy Bear Blessing Service, Sunday 27th September.** Bring your beloved pet or favourite teddy bear for a short, family-friendly service of thanksgiving & blessing. All are welcome. Refreshments afterwards.
- **Safeguarding Training for All Volunteers**
The Basic Safeguarding Training is designed to give us all a shared understanding of what safeguarding is, why it matters, and how each of us contributes to creating a safe and healthy church environment. It helps us recognise potential concerns and respond appropriately. Even for those who have served faithfully for many years, it provides a helpful common foundation. How to complete the training:
 - **Online:** A simple course which can be completed individually. Please create an account and complete the Basic Safeguarding Course using the Church of England training portal: safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org . Or
 - **In person:** For those who prefer to do this training in person in groups we have some planned dates are Saturday 12th September - 10am and Sunday 18th October - Midday

There is a sign up sheet at the back of Church or email Dave. Thank you for your help and support.

Safeguarding is a vital part of our shared ministry, helping us ensure that St Mary's remains a safe and welcoming church for all. Once you complete training please email safeguarding@stmaryshortlands.church

Fairtrade Dates

August – Sun 16th, Wed 26th

Sept – Sun 13th, Wed 23rd

Oct – Sun 11th, Wed 21st

Taketime meditation

10.15am-11am (Chapel)

12th Sept, 10th Oct,

14th Nov & 12th Dec

At St Mary's we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously: we are committed to ensuring our church and hall buildings are safe places for all. If you have any concerns about safeguarding you can contact our

Parish Safeguarding Officer Pauline Lambourne

on 020 8658 0470 or safeguarding@stmaryshortlands.church



Staying in Touch at St Mary's

We are beginning to use our email list to share news and information about upcoming events at St Mary's. If you would like to receive emails from us, you can sign up by completing a short online form using the QR code provided, or by filling in one of the paper forms available at the back of church.

**Please use this QR code to
make a donation to St Mary's.**

Thank you.



**Donations for Bromley Foodbank
can be left in the church porch.**

Items most needed are
Tinned Potatoes, Long Life Desserts,
Sweets/Chocolate, Jam, UHT Milk,
Cooking Sauces, Fruit Juice,
Washing Up Liquid, Men's
Deodorant & Conditioner

Parish Office

Open 10am–12noon - office@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 020 8460 5682

Rev. Dave Edmondson - vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Tel: 07592136421

Church Wardens

Gloria Sherman - glowarden@stmaryshortlands.church

Robin Hogg - robinwarden@stmaryshortlands.church