

Welcome to
St. Mary's Church Shortlands
28th December 2025
First Sunday of Christmas



Today

10.30am Holy Communion

Celebrant and preaching: Rev. Dave Edmondson

Reading: Helen Harper

Intercessions: Kay Coleman

This week

Tue 30 Dec 10.00am – 12 noon - Craft and Chatter

Wed 31 Dec 10.00am – Morning Prayer in the Chapel
10.30 - 12.30pm - Community Café

Christmas

We hope you have all enjoyed the beautiful Christmas decorations in the church, apart from the Crib scene they will all be removed on Monday, the 5th of January 2026. If you can spare any time that morning we would be extremely grateful. If you are thinking of retiring an old artificial Christmas tree, please could you contact Cecilia, as we can make use of the greenery from it. Please call 07511 885941.

PS, it would not be used as a tree.

Thank you the flower team.

Our Mission of the Month (MOM) for December is
The Children's Society

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

We wish you a Happy New Year

Readings

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Gospel reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns:

62	O come all ye faithful
73	Unto us a boy is born
54	I cannot tell
Comm:55	In the bleak mid winter
56	It came upon the midnight clear

- **Mobility class resumes** on the 6th January.
- **Baby and Toddler** resumes on the 8th January.

The Friends of St Mary's have booked a Burns night dinner in conjunction with the Langley Park Golf Club for Friday 23rd January 2026. Tickets are now available Tickets available after 10.30am service or midweek at the cafe at £49 for three course dinner (including coffee, half a bottle of wine and a dram – and there will be a piper and a caller)!

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Community ...

For the daily reading of God's word. All Bible Societies, Homegroups and their Leaders.

The World ...

Pray for suffering from the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

The Sick ...

For those who are recently unwell, including Leonie Rhodes, Patrice Cooper, Bob Norfolk-Thompson and Kathleen Duncan. 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.

We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Jane Shepherd, Dora Coulson, George Humphreys, Vera Cooper, Fred Batts and Sylvia Reynolds.

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

safeguarding@stmaryshortlands.church or 020 8658 0470

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: Ladies Deodorant, Men's Deodorant, Multi Surface Wipes/Spray, Shampoo, Conditioner, Long Life Dessert (not refrigerated), Squash, Long Life Fruit Juice (not refrigerated) & Sugar

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