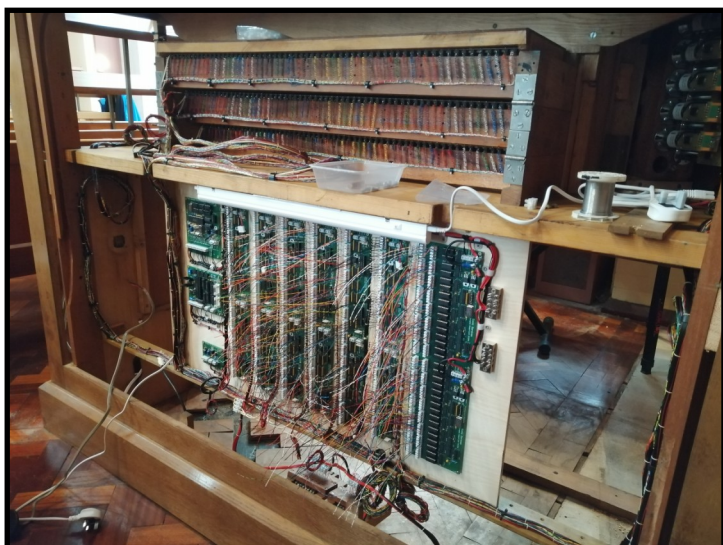


# Open for Business!

What a wonderful feeling to have been able to open wide the doors of St. Mary's again after a second closure due to the COVID pandemic. This time it feels different: with the success of the COVID vaccination programme and with infections very low here in Shortlands, it felt right that we should safely return to communal worship once again.

Of course, not everyone will be comfortable about returning to church and so I am delighted that we now have the audio-visual system installed, providing a live-stream of all services held at the church. The system will also allow the live-streaming of all community events held at the church.

With the newly installed kitchen, the AV system now in place and up and running, and a fully refurbished organ, the time is right to return our attention to the Future Generations Project. We are considering how St. Mary's Church can become the hub of the community that so many desire, opening our doors to the community, whilst maintaining the integrity of St. Mary's as a place of worship.



**SPRING CLEANED:** Read more about our fully refurbished organ on page 2.

Very exciting times lie ahead, involving discussions and open days for everyone to play their part and be heard. More details will be shared during the coming weeks and months. As I was discussing the Future Generations Project with someone last week, I was asked about my 'calling' to St. Mary's. I had a chance to reflect on the two years (at April 27<sup>th</sup>) that I have been the parish priest here in Shortlands, one year of which has been living in lockdown.

My reflection was easy. What I have learnt is that I am truly blessed to be serving a parish where the love of Christ shines through so many, not just through the regular church-goers but through many within this community.

My hope right now, as we start to see real light at the end of the lockdowns, is to get to know you more, to listen to what you want from your parish church, to serve you as Christ has called me to serve and to ensure that all that I have shared above, and much more to come, will enable us to flourish as a community today and for future generations.

***Love and blessings, Revd Gary Best***

## Special Events and Services

**Friday 2 April – Good Friday**  
**2.00pm An Hour at the Cross**

**Sunday 4 April—Easter Day**  
**10.30am - Holy Communion**

*Followed by Traidcraft, Junior church and family friendly  
Stations of the Cross in the church grounds*

Services will take place in church and will be streamed via Facebook. All activities may be subject to change based on government COVID restrictions. Any updates will be shared through [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands).

## Community Notices

Please let the Parish Office know of any community events that you would like promoted on the display screens now in church.

# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## Poverty and Hope Appeal

The Poverty and Hope Appeal is the Diocese of Rochester's annual fundraising opportunity to express Christian belief in justice for the poor and food for the hungry. This allows those who give to show commitment to tackling the causes and effects of poverty in different parts of the world.

The Appeal has been raising money since 1977 to help eradicate poverty in the UK and abroad and it aims to do this by supporting national and international projects that focus on core issues that lie at the heart of poverty. In previous years over £30,000 has been given to the Appeal's chosen projects.

The Appeal supports projects in agriculture, education, empowerment of disadvantaged people and communities, and healthcare. It also seeks to foster education about these issues in the Diocese, working with schools on issues of global citizenship and encouraging churches, schools and communities to learn more about the causes of poverty and how it can be tackled around the world.

The projects chosen are usually supported for three years to help them grow and become self-sustaining. They are funded through partner charities with which the Diocese works to identify suitable opportunities, and which provide checks that the funds are properly applied.

The charities the Poverty and Hope Appeal is currently working with are Christian Aid, Church Mission Society USPG and Commonwork, and projects like the USPG initiative tackling HIV and AIDS stigma in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is one of the countries hardest hit by HIV and AIDS globally.

The launch of the 2020 annual appeal was delayed last year due to COVID-19 and so the Appeal is still welcoming donations.

More information on the work the Appeal does can be found at the back of church and at [www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/poverty-amp-hope/poverty-hope-new.php](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/poverty-amp-hope/poverty-hope-new.php)

## Biden's Bible

A couple of days after the inauguration of Joe Biden we received some exciting news from Catherine Kriegel, one of our friends in the Church of St Francis of Assisi in Douai.

American Presidents choose their own Bible for the inauguration ceremony and Joe Biden, a Roman Catholic, brought with him to the Capitol a Bible used in his family for more than a hundred years. The Bible was in English; it had been translated from St Jerome's Latin Vulgate in 1569; the scholars making that translation were working in Douai.

In those days of painful Church division, Douai was the seat of an English Catholic College. It prepared young men to return home to Protestant England to serve Catholic families (maybe while hiding in priest-holes in grand houses) and hopefully to convert. As tension grew between Rome and London there was even some encouragement to dispose of Queen Elizabeth.

We live in happier times. For 26 years now St Mary's has fostered this link with Douai. We stay in each other's houses, we share meals, we go together to places of local interest, we join together in worship, we come to the Lord's Table side by side. We are proud to be maintaining this connection of long ago: for us it is about joy and about unity.

## My Day Job

I was born in Neath, South Wales in 1959. I have an identical twin sister and a younger sister. I went to the same church school as Katherine Jenkins albeit 20 years earlier.

Aged 11, I went to Howell's School Llandaff as a boarder for five years before returning to Swansea for A-levels. I studied Optometry at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology (UWIST) in Cardiff then started my working career in Blackfen, Sidcup, qualifying in 1983.

I joined Boots Opticians in Bromley in 1984, moved to Aberdeen in 1985 working for First Sight and returned to Boots Bromley in 1987.

I took early retirement in 2014, had a six month break then returned to Boots as a locum working in the Bromley area, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks. It was a very rewarding career, exhausting some days but very satisfying helping people with visual problems.

I met my husband Tom at UWIST (he studied Mechanical Engineering), and we married in 1984 at St Mary's, Hayes. We lived in Hayes Road, then Hayes Lane before moving to Keston Village 24 years ago. Our daughter Sophie was born in 1993 and our son Benedict in 1995.

Over the last 6 years, I've been to many new and exciting places. Tom and I have a busy year of travel (fingers crossed) ahead of us as we are now both retired.

I've been attending Wednesday communion for the last six years with my friends Kathy Hook and Ayeda Dial. I help with reading, serving and tea duties (until the Pandemic!) I'm looking forward to life getting back to normal.

*Gill Kelleher*

## PLANT SWAP / SALE

*In the church grounds 10am – 12 noon*

*Saturdays 17<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May.*

*Plants for sale*

*if you don't have any to swap.*



## Well tuned

The refurbishment of the organ has now been completed.

A new power circuit has been installed for both the organ and the organ loft. All the electro-pneumatic and mechanical switching in the organ console and loft has been replaced with state of the art electronic switching. We now have a cutting edge organ!

We would like to thank Tarquin from Tarquin Williams Ltd for all his hard work and Mike Harrison and Tim Dawson for the new power circuits.

Many thanks to all of you who have made donations towards the refurbishment. We still have to cover the total cost of this work: £35,000.

If you would like to make a donation towards this, please make cheques payable to St. Mary's Shortlands PCC, or make an online payment to NatWest Bank: Sort Code 60-04-02; Account number 42417112.

## 'You're on mute, Miss'

When school closures were announced on 30<sup>th</sup> December, at Harris Primary Academy Shortlands we knew a second school closure would be detrimental to our pupils' learning. We strived to limit that impact as much as possible.

We decided to replicate our school day on MS Teams, teaching all subjects as live lessons from 8:45-3:30. We wanted our children to receive a rigorous online curriculum that would reduce the likelihood of gaps forming in their knowledge.

Our teachers switched from being MS Teams novices to experts within 24 hours and our pupils and their families embraced it wholeheartedly, with a 'can do' attitude.

Thanks to support from the Department for Education, and the hard work of the Harris Federation ICT Team, we loaned over 50 laptops to families who did not have a device for remote learning.

Our front office received endless phone calls with technical issues and forgotten passwords. Our teachers coped with lessons freezing; responding to 'You're on mute Miss,' and constant reminders of 'Only write in the chat to ask or answer a question! Not to talk to friends.'

We settled into a new rhythm and routine. Our pupils showed great motivation and resilience, with the majority attending our online school daily. It was a privilege to be able to see our children daily and remain connected as a community. Pupils who attended school as children of critical workers accessed the same learning on laptops in school.

We were however delighted at the news that we would all return to school!

Every child came back to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March ready and eager to learn. They have settled back into their routine and we are so proud of them. Now we will address the impact of the school closures on their academic development, and their wellbeing; starting with weekly yoga lessons.

A colleague told me that the inventor of the MS Teams 'Mute All' button deserved a Nobel Peace Prize. It is perhaps the only thing that we occasionally miss now we are back at school.

**Hannah Tryl (Principal)**

## Some of our favourite Girlguiding things

Toasting marshmallows while sitting round campfires,  
Climbing and abseiling, going down zipwires,  
Camping, grass sledging and big basket swings  
These are our favourite Girlguiding things.

During the lockdowns on Zoom we've been baking,  
Chocolate pastries and Christmas wreath making,  
Foodbank donations for people in need  
Girlguiding in Shortlands has taken the lead.



After Covid we'll go camping,  
Share a tent with mates,  
We'll light fires and cook all our favourite food  
A far better time awaits

*(with apologies to Julie Andrews!)*

After 29 March our Girlguiding units based at St Mary's are allowed to meet up outdoors, and then indoors after England enters Step 2. We are so looking forward to returning to some kind of normal and we expect the girls to be enthused by the chance to meet up with friends again.

With the weather entering the warmer seasons now we are looking forward to an opportunity for outdoor activities (always the best bits!) to burn off some energy and challenge ourselves.

We welcome adult volunteers to ensure that we can continue to provide life-enhancing experiences for girls and young women in our community. Please email [bromleycentral.district@gmail.com](mailto:bromleycentral.district@gmail.com) or register your interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).



Unfortunately we have recently had some bad news: our local Ravenswood campsite at Cudham is under threat as our Girlguiding Region want to surrender the lease for the land. This facility has been used over many years by many girls: Rainbows attending day events; Brownies attending holidays based in Brownie houses on site; Guides regularly camping and Young Leaders doing overnight challenges.

We have also used the site for evening meetings many times, not needing much of an excuse to organise a campfire, marshmallows and a sing-a-long.

A petition has been set up to appeal to Region to keep this wonderful facility for our girls. If you would like to sign the petition please go to <http://chnq.it/YTBbTvFW>

**Nicola Blake (Bromley Central District Commissioner)**



## Stay in touch!



To keep up with the latest news from St Mary's

you can 'like' our page on Facebook

**[www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands)**

or follow us on Twitter - search for

**'St Mary's Shortlands'**

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



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### WORSHIP

Whilst in-person services are currently suspended, you are very welcome to join online services:

**Sunday 10.30am – Holy Communion**

**Monday to Saturday 9am – Morning Prayer**  
You can access these services at:

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

[www.facebook.com/stmaryshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryshortlands)

**Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.**

### PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev'd Gary Best	8460 0262
(day off Monday)	Vicar@stmaryshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
Ministers	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Readers	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
	Mr S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mr A. Williams	07914343495
	Mrs S. Leonard	07725313432
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Mrs. S. Maurel	01689 331793
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music		
	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr. D. Beach	8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs. K. Coleman	07879337567
Electoral Roll	Mrs. S. Maurel	01689 331793
Junior Church	Mrs. J. Eade	3624 0559
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

**PARISH OFFICE** 020 8460 5682  
office@stmaryshortlands.church  
Open 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays.  
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

### ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8402 6599
Craft and Chatter	Mrs. J. Boam	8460 7101
Friends of St Mary's	Mr. T. Chase	8464 6188

For admission to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
Cubs (Tue)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954437658
Beavers	Ms. E Hay	07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Guides (Tue)	Ms. N. Critten	07767242920
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	Mrs S. Tigh	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C Willatt	8313 0246

### LOCAL CONTACTS

CLlr. M. Cooke	07912 649058
(E: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
CLlr. A. Cuthbert	(E: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)
Residents Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614
<b>SPAN INFORMATION</b>	
Website	<a href="http://www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk">www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk</a>
Editorial	Parish Office
Distribution	Mr. M. Harrison 07821 691567

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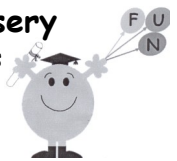
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