

## Change and continuity

It's that joyful time of year again when nature wakes up and displays at her best in our gardens and in the birdsong we hear in our local green spaces. A time when we begin to feel a little more optimistic despite whatever may be dragging us down. A time of hope. A time of daily change all around us.

Here in the community of St Mary's Shortlands we reach, again, a time of change. A time of challenge perhaps. After many years of long-serving incumbents/vicars, recent years have brought more rapid change than we might have wished. But every change, welcome or otherwise, brings new opportunities as well as challenges and it is in this spirit that we come together now and look to the future.

Our Wednesday morning Community Café is enjoyed by many who wouldn't otherwise be at church. A solid foundation for community life in a warm and welcoming place: just what we need in a time of more change.

We have a strong team of three Licensed Lay Ministers (people who have felt they are called to minister pastorally and in teaching roles but not for ordination), a strong pastoral team and me. I have been a priest for 16 years now and attached to St Mary's for most of that time. Our aim is to cover as many of the services and roles as possible during our time without a Vicar, so that we have continuity and so that our familiar faces are accessible to anyone who needs us, be it for the joy of baptism or marriage, for the vital role of support during bereavement or just for a chat.

I personally feel very optimistic for the future of St Mary's in the heart of Shortlands. Do keep an eye on your copies of SPAN when they pop onto your doormat. See what we are up to over the next few months and come in to see us for a coffee or chat.

There will always be one of the team at the Café on Wednesday mornings and around the

church on a Sunday, and if you need any help please ring the office on 0208 460 5682.

We hope to see you soon.

*Rev Jane Peters*

### PLANT SALE

Saturday 11 May

11am - 2pm

in the church grounds

Refreshments from

St Mary's Community Café

### Special Services and Events

Sunday 7 April

10.30am Holy Communion

*Led by Archdeacon Allie Kerr*

Sunday 21 April

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 28 April

5.00pm Come Holy Spirit

*A service of silence, readings and  
worship songs*



### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family: Leo Williams 17 Mar  
Shaleni Dodandeniya 20 Mar

### Remembering

#### Jenny Whitehead

Jenny was born in Whitstable in 1936 to Jim and Marnie Fairburn. They moved to Petts Wood and then the Second World War arrived, during which she had stints away on farms near Cirencester. After the war she went to Ashford Girls school as a boarder.

As a nurse she took the opportunity to travel and work abroad – first in Canada, then travelling around America with friends. She later worked as a nurse for BP in Aden (now in Yemen) and in Singapore as a ward sister. She was modest about the travelling, brushing it off as if it was the norm.

Jenny came back to the UK, to train to secure more money and a better post. She was also a midwife, a health visitor and a teacher of midwifery.

She met Alan at Park Langley Tennis Club and they married in 1974. They were a very strong partnership: Jenny supported Alan in running his company.

Their daughters Sonia and then Lucy followed a few years later. Once they had left home Jenny took Alan on adventures so that he could experience the world as she had, including trips to Brazil, the Caribbean and India. She was however more interested in how you travelled somewhere rather than where you had been.

Jenny always liked to be active – in addition to tennis she went water skiing and sailing and her main sporting love was golf.

After stopping paid work after Lucy was born, Jenny always volunteered. She was Brown Owl at St Mary's Wednesday Brownies for over ten years.

She listened to children at Alexandra Infant School reading and volunteered at Bromley District Talking News, helping to pack and deliver audio papers for the blind. She was also a keen committee member of the Park Langley Residents' Association.

A strong woman, Jenny took every opportunity that came to her, saw things in a positive way, had a sense of fun and most of all loved people. Even when she was in hospital as a patient, the nurses commented how she was rare in asking them about their families and lives.

#### Hike and chips!

Every two years Friday Guides and 7<sup>th</sup> Bromley Scouts get together for a night hike from Keston to Shortlands. It was a very muddy walk this year, but the highlight as always was the chip stop in Hayes. The residents in George Lane must have wondered what was going on as the Scouts and Guides sat on the pavement outside their houses, and 52 portions of chips disappeared in double-quick time! Water bottles were topped up, and then the hikers, suitably refreshed, resumed their route back to Shortlands.

The Guides slept over in the Church Hall, the Scouts in the Scout Hut, and then the Scouts treated everyone to bacon butties for breakfast in the Scout Hut. This set the Guides up well for their annual task of posy making in church ready for Mothering Sunday the following day.



### Holy Trinity



This impressive parish church in Lennard Road Penge was built in 1878, during the rapid expansion of church building in the Victorian age. The land was provided by that generous benefactor, Albemarle Cator, who also funded the enlargement of St. George's. Francis Peek, whose name is synonymous with Peek Frean biscuits, financed the building works as a memorial to his parents.

Two noted architect friends collaborated on its design, H. Dawkes, an admirer of Pugin, and E.F.C. Clarke, noted for promoting the Gothic Revival style in churches. The distinctive west tower was added in 1883. The church features on the Penge Heritage Trail downloadable from [www.pengeheritagetrail.org.uk](http://www.pengeheritagetrail.org.uk)

Internally there were beautiful decorative mosaics by the noted Venetian artist Antonio Salviati, which were unfortunately mostly destroyed in the 1993 arson attack. Photos taken of the interior before the fire show a very traditional and spacious, cruciform layout. Within the grounds there stands a Grade 2 listed, Portland stone war memorial.

The church has emerged, phoenix-like, from the flames. Its interior has been reordered to provide a flexible worship and activity space, whilst the former apse has become a peaceful memorial garden. This is all to enable the church to continue its outreach in the community. A major achievement is the Living Well charity, founded by the previous vicar, Nick Reed, which offers a range of activities, assistance and advice to local people.

In a momentous leap of faith in 2021, Holy Trinity combined with St. John the Evangelist, Penge to become one church, Holy Trinity with St. John's. The other half of the story is to follow...

### ANNUAL MEETING

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on 19 May after the 10.30am service. If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like to be added, please collect an application form from the back of the church. Completed forms must be returned by 4 May.

### Taketime meditation group

Relax and find time for a 20 minute meditation followed by a cuppa at St Mary's church. 10.15am, second Saturday of the month, starting 13 April

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### Transform Trade

Was your Easter egg made of Fair Trade chocolate? If it was, you can be reassured that no child or slave labour was involved in the growing and harvesting of the cocoa, the farmers received a fair price for their cocoa and a premium was paid to the community or co-operative for that community to decide how they use it. This may have been to improve healthcare or the water supply in their area or to improve a local school.

Transform Trade (formerly known as Traidcraft Exchange) is a global community of farmers, workers, collectives, campaigners, donors and supporters, each committed to transforming trade so that everyone benefits. Wherever possible, they take a lead from people with direct experience of injustice in trade and partner with them to move forward to a better system and a better world. 'People centred trade' is a different way to do business.

Here at St Mary's we are signed up to be a Fair Trade Church. One of the things we do to is to serve Fair Trade refreshments wherever possible.

We hold two monthly stalls of fairly traded goods, on the second Sunday of each month after the 10.30am service and on the last Wednesday of the month at the Community Café from 11am. We also hold the yearly Big Brew event and have additional events during Fair Trade Fortnight, which this year falls between September 9th and 21st.

For more information, visit [www.transform-trade.org](http://www.transform-trade.org) or see the board at the back of church

### A night at the opera

Jesus Christ Superstar is classed as a rock opera and the Churchill Theatre certainly rocked for a group of thirty people from St. Mary's in February! It was an ideal opportunity to meet socially away from church and caused much reminiscing and lively debate. Many people remembered the original musical, premiered in 1971, and the first film based on the stage musical which was released in 1973.

Interestingly, some preferred the film version with its authentic locations having been filmed in Israel and other parts of the Middle East. Some thought this more recent version had been 'rocked up' whereas others were firmly of the opinion that it was true to the original.

However, the general consensus was that the performances were both powerful and moving as the story of Christ's Passion and betrayal by Judas was played out to the final, dramatic crucifixion scene.

### Friends of St Mary's Wine Tasting evening

Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start  
Saturday 20 April

St Mary's Church Hall, St Mary's Avenue

Come and test your knowledge of wines  
(or just drink the wine!)



Tickets from the Church/Church Office, and the Community Café, £12 per person. Come on your own or make up a team.

We will be tasting three white wines and three red wines. There will also be wine quizzes for both amateurs and beginners to enjoy during the evening.

## Life as an LLM

When I was licensed as a lay minister (LLM) in May 2019 I had no idea in which direction God would take me. As it's turned out I'm not doing what I expected, but I'm so pleased that God had an exciting plan!

My ministry has taken me to places and situations that I neither anticipated nor expected. As well as leading services as part of the Biggin Hill Memorial Chapel team (see January SPAN) I am also a Day Chaplain at Rochester Cathedral. This takes me to the Cathedral monthly to lead the communal prayers which occur four times during the day. More importantly I engage with the many visitors, the volunteers and the paid staff.

I listen to concerns, pray with people and help when needed. Visitors come from near and far, and I especially enjoy engaging with young families and the many veterans who come to remember colleagues. It is a full and very busy day but one where I believe I can make a difference and bring the love of God into people's lives.

I have had the opportunity to lead a service in a City church, say Grace at a City Banquet at Guildhall, and the privilege of preaching at St Paul's Cathedral in February by the kind invitation of the Dean. The latter was an amazing experience and it was wonderful to meet people from all over the world at the end of the service.

This, alongside my ministry at St Mary's, has been a humbling experience, taking me out of my comfort zone, enabling me to be a small part of the faith journeys of so many.

I look forward to where the next five years of ministry takes me, and being part of God's plan for Shortlands.

*Anne-Marie Jefferys*

## Enhancing our green spaces

The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen (FSHWKG), in partnership with London Borough of Bromley and idverde, have been putting to good use funds from the Platinum Jubilee Parks Grant. The Friends applied for Grant funding in 2022 so it's been quite a process!

In South Hill Wood the Queen's Coronation Gates



have been repaired and re-painted and the herbaceous border alongside has been extended and planted with holly, Butchers' Broom and suitable shade tolerant shrubs. At Kingswood Glen entrance (South Hill Road), there's a new wooden sign, newly planted hazel and cornus, and the electricity sub-station will be repainted in dark green.

Patrick Phillips, Chair, FSHWKG said: "We're really grateful for SPAN readers' support over the years. It's wonderful to see joint efforts coming to fruition. Thank you too to our local volunteers for litter picking and cutting back overgrowth, creating light and space for native flora and fauna to flourish. We hope more people will come along and volunteer with us so we can all continue to enjoy these fabulous green spaces at their best."

FSHWKG volunteers meet on the second Saturday of every month 10.30am-12.30pm at the Bowling Club Pavilion, Tootswood Road.



**The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands**



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**WORSHIP**

**Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)**

**Wednesday 10.00am - Morning Prayer. Holy Communion will take place once a month**

You can access Sunday services online at:

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

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

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

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

Vicar		8460 5682
	vicar@stmaryshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Ministers	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Mrs. E. Woolven	8460 5682
Churchwarden	Mr J. Hollingdale	07903016601
PCC Secretary	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music		
	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Safeguarding	Mrs P. Lambourne	8658 0470
Electoral Roll	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Junior Church	Miss. R Tillotson	07503680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

**PARISH OFFICE**

Telephone: 020 8460 5682  
Email: [office@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:office@stmaryshortlands.church)  
Open 10.00am - 12.00pm weekdays.  
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

**ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS**

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	07790 304711
Craft and Chatter	Mr. 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](mailto:7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com)

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mr O. Swinfen	07758458077
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. E Thompson	07910340908
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)		<a href="mailto:fourtbromleybrownies@outlook.com">fourtbromleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
Rainbows		<a href="mailto:2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com">2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com</a>
Pre-school	Ms. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Ms. C. Willatt	07511885941
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884 8
Fair Trade	Ms. C Willatt	07511885941

**LOCAL CONTACTS**

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