

## Extraordinary in the Ordinary

The Church of England divides the year up into various seasons some are well known, such as Advent, Easter, Lent: others less so. The Church celebrated Pentecost on the 8<sup>th</sup> June: Pentecost is the day in which the Church remembers the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the first followers of Jesus.

The Church of England now enters its longest season, Ordinary time. This lasts all the way up unto the end of October. This is not the most exciting name of a season. Life in the ordinary and every day can be monotonous, repetitive, mundane and a host of other emotions and feelings. We all settle into our patterns and rhythms, no matter what in our stage in life. However, in the ordinary and the everyday there can be things which energise us, bring life and joy and happiness. There have been several of these at St Mary's in June: the summer picnic and parade service, and the celebration of Sea Sunday, to name several.

These have been large events but it is in the ordinary, in the day to day, I have found life and joy at St Mary's, whether it is hearing a story of God at work over a cup of tea, hearing a bird sing in the church grounds or joining in with our family activities at Church. I believe the extraordinary and God's presence can be found in the everyday not just the large grand occasions. A book which is precious to me is 'Liturgy of the Ordinary', by Tish Harrison Warren. I find it deeply helpful to me and my faith in the everyday, creating moments of extraordinary in the ordinary.

One of my favourite quotes is this: 'Holiness sneaks up on us in the ordinary. It meets us in the

laundry room, in the checkout line, and in the moments we often overlook'. I find it helpful for me to remember that God cares about our 'ordinary' rhythms and routines and delights in them. As Ordinary time stretches out before us all, I hope that there are extraordinary moments for you in it. They may be big celebrations or events, or they may be celebrating and recognising those extraordinary, everyday, ordinary moments.

**Rev Dave Edmondson**



Pictured: THANK YOU to Sammy Marshall, volunteer at St. Marys.  
(See page 3)

### ***Special Services and Events***

**Sunday 13 July**

**4.00 – 5.30pm Tea Time Together**

**6.00 – 7.30pm Youth Club**

**Sunday 20 July**

**6.30pm Choral Evensong**

*Followed by refreshments with the Friends of St Mary's*

**Thursday 17 July**

**10am – 3pm Toddlers' Party**

*Families welcome – bring a picnic!*



### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:  
Daisy Braithwaite      22 June

### Memorial Service

We extend our sympathy to  
those who loved:  
Helen Crowe      23 June

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## Wartime memories

*Our recent VE Day exhibition displayed many memories of the Second World War from members of St Mary's congregation. We think these deserve an even wider audience so will be sharing some of them in SPAN in future months, starting with these recollections from Stan Clark.*

3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, War declared. My father was already in the Territorial Army so was called up straight away but he and my mother decided that I should be evacuated. A friend asked if their son Alan could come with me. We had to report to a school at Clapham Junction but they decided we were too young to go alone so my mother came too.

Train from Clapham Junction to Hove then to a local school. In the playground there were rows of wooden chairs, on the back there was a carrier bag containing tea, biscuits and other things including half a bar of chocolate, unheard of for us boys of 7.

We were taken to live with Mrs Christopher of Gladstone Road, Hove. Us boys jumped up and down on the bed and it was claimed we broke the bulbs in the flat below, my mother had to pay for new ones!

School was shared with the local children, half a day in school, half a day on the beach. Then Dunkirk happened, so they moved us inland. By then they considered we were old enough to be on our own. They put us in a house with a big estate. We used to pinch the apples from the orchard and hide the cores in the piggery (no pigs) but were found out and told off.

Another move to a family in Old Woking. Every time you went out you had to take your gas mask with you. They were looked at from time to time and mine had the eye glass broken so I would not last long if there was a gas attack. School was under the stadium of Woking Football Club.

*Next time, Stan moves back to London and shares his memories of bombings and VE Day.*

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## Our new Secretary

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May, Helen Bird took over the important role of PCC Secretary from Jay Sharma.

Helen told us: 'the role involves supporting the role of the Vicar and Parochial Church Council, including preparation for meetings, taking notes, recording minutes, some record keeping, formal notifications required to the diocese, etc. I shall also be responsible for the electoral roll. I am very new to this so I imagine the role will grow and evolve as I gain more understanding - there will be a bit of a learning curve. There is a handbook!'

Helen has been coming to St Mary's since 2013 and has lived in the area since 2014. 'I very much enjoy the church music and the choir family. Robin and I got married in St Mary's in 2016, so you are kind of stuck with me now.... I am not alone in talking about the warmth of the welcome I received and I feel very blessed to have found a church where I am happy with the music, the worship, the community.'

## For the record

The church has to keep many records to satisfy legal and diocesan requirements: for example, records of baptisms, marriages and funerals.

We have also amassed a large collection of historic documents and photographs. Even when we no longer have to hold records at the church, some have to be transferred to the Archives at the London Borough of Bromley.

We have been able to use these historic materials to mount displays such as the recent excellent VE Day exhibition.

Kay Coleman, who led the team mounting the VE Day exhibition, has kindly agreed to become our Parish Archivist, overseeing the recording and management of these files and transferring them to the Bromley Archives when required.

Kay said: 'I feel honoured to have been appointed as the Parish Archivist for St Mary's Church. Having long loved genealogy and historical research, I look forward to exploring and recording the church history and archives in more depth, adding to them and working in collaboration with the Bromley Archives.'

Please do assist Kay if she asks for information to carry out her role and feel free to ask her questions about St Mary's interesting history: [k.h.coleman@btinternet.com](mailto:k.h.coleman@btinternet.com)

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## St John's Eden Park

The electrification of the railway branch line between Hayes and Elmers End via Eden Park in 1925 brought through trains to London in 1926: this encouraged more rapid development of affordable housing, making Eden Park an attractive option for growing numbers of commuters.

Along with all the amenities needed for suburban life, it was noted that there was a lack of churches to minister to the spiritual needs of the people. A Mrs Petley generously gave the land on the east side of Eden Park Avenue for building a church and on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1931 the first congregation gathered in a field and conducted a service with a portable organ.

The congregation of Christ Church Beckenham had undertaken to raise the funds to start a daughter church in Eden Park 'provided that the evangelical principles which are so dear to us all and for which we stand are properly safeguarded'.

When the Mission Hall on Croydon Road closed in 1931 it was dismantled, re-erected and enlarged in Eden Park and dedicated as a temporary church in February 1932. The foundation stone for the new church was laid in June 1932. Only a year later, the completed church was dedicated by the Bishop!

The church was designed by Pite, Son and Fairweather (Mr. Pite was a member of Christ Church). The builder was J. Ellerman and Son who also built the Town Hall and much of the Marian Vian schools.

The building's exterior is somewhat spartan in appearance, plain brick, likened by some to a factory or warehouse. Inside, the lack of columns allows an unimpeded view across the church, a spacious, simple design with excellent acoustics.

As elsewhere, St John's was not unscathed by World War Two. The Beckenham Journal of February 1945 said that 'the bomb landed in a field behind a modern C of E church. The building was badly damaged and the church hall [the former Mission Hall] was smashed'. This has been replaced by an enviable complex of two halls, committee rooms and a lively café.





## Thank you Sammy!

Local resident Sammy Marshall is making a much-valued contribution to St Mary's while he works towards his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award which requires, amongst other things, volunteering within the community.

He has lived in Shortlands all his life, having attended the Thursday toddler group, Preschool and Beavers at St Mary's.

Sammy delivers SPAN and occasionally plays the piano at the Community Café, which he thoroughly enjoys. He hopes to assist with the Audio Visual on Sundays in the future.

He is also part of the team who rearrange the chairs and tables in church for all the different activities that happen each week: he helps with the big change from Community Café on a Wednesday to be ready for Toddlers on a Thursday, and then resetting to prepare for Sunday services after Toddlers.

Sammy hopes to continue volunteering for St Mary's for the Gold Award. In his spare time he enjoys playing tennis, the double bass and guitar.



CONGRATULATIONS to Robin Hogg and Glo Sherman who were recently admitted as churchwardens by Archdeacon Allie Kerr for another year. (Pictured left to right: Robin, Archdeacon Allie, Glo, Rev Dave, Rev Richard Jones, Area Dean of Beckenham)

## Can you help?



St Mary's Pre-School needs a volunteer Treasurer from September 2025. This position would suit someone with experience of working in finance and payroll functions.

We need someone who ideally is qualified in accounting, has experience of running a payroll and can deal with the day-to-day expenses of the Pre-School, working closely with the Pre-School Leader.

Core duties are flexible, depending on the needs of the Pre-School and the postholder's availability, but finance updates and attendance at three committee meetings and the AGM each year are essential along with preparing the annual accounts.

An honorarium is payable. Please send your CV to Penny Horsman (Pre-School Chair): [pennyhorsman19@gmail.com](mailto:pennyhorsman19@gmail.com).

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### The Mission to Seafarers

This year, St Mary's celebrated 'Sea Sunday' early on 29<sup>th</sup> June with a guest speaker: The Ven. Dr Peter Rouch, the Secretary General of Mission to Seafarers (MTS).

We are all part of the shipping world, be it going on a cruise or as evidenced by the goods in our homes. Did you know that more than 90% of all our goods and fuels come by sea? Shipping is an essential part of the global economy, and demand for seafarers is consistently high. Their work however is mostly under-appreciated and is often in less than ideal conditions.

Many regularly work long voyages of up to nine months, leaving them isolated from family and friends, which unsurprisingly can have a detrimental effect on their mental health. Life on board ship is tough and often dangerous with extreme weather conditions, war zones, shipwreck and piracy ever present threats.

MTS operate day and night, 365 days a year. Their port chaplains' frequent visits onboard and on-shore centres provide respite and welfare for all seafarers.

Our church has supported MTS for many years, with knitted hats from our Craft and Chatter group and Christmas cards hand made by our uniformed organisations. Together with monies from our collection in church these are much needed and greatly appreciated by this global charity which looks after the men and women working in the profession and their families worldwide.

Please visit our display in church this month to learn more about these 1.9 million international seafarers and discover just why they are so important in helping to maintain our way of life, or visit [www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)

## Welcome back!



3rd Shortlands (Tuesday) Guides were delighted to have their leader, Eleanor Thompson, back with them at the start of the summer term after she had taken a few months break for the birth of her baby daughter Megan.

Eleanor is shown here with Rusty (Gill Dawson) who came to present her with her Going Away Licence which enables her to run an overnight event for her Guides. Big thanks to her assistant, Amy, who has held the fort in the meantime, with the help of a rota of volunteer leaders from other units.

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### WORSHIP

**Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion in the church and online at**

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

**Wednesday Worship 10.00am in the Chapel**

**For more information contact the Parish Office or visit**

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

### PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. Dave	07592136421
vicar@stmarysshortlands.church		
Church warden	Mrs G. Sherman	07500751265
Churchwarden	Mr R. Hogg	
robinwarden@stmarysshortlands.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. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Mrs. E. Woollven	8460 5682
Safeguarding	Mrs P. Lambourne	8658 0470
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	
PCC Secretary	Ms. H. Bird	
secretary@stmarysshortlands.church		
Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
Safeguarding	Mrs P. Lambourne	8658 0470
Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

### PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 020 8460 5682

Email: [office@stmarysshortlands.church](mailto:office@stmarysshortlands.church)

Open 10.00am - 12.00pm weekdays.

Contact the office for Baptisms and Weddings

### ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

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

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mr O. Swinfen	07758458077
Cubs (Tue)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954437658
Beavers	<a href="mailto:thomas.nickalls@gmail.com">thomas.nickalls@gmail.com</a>	

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:fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com">fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com</a>	
Rainbows	<a href="mailto:2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com">2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com</a>	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	07511885941
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C Willatt	07511885941

### LOCAL CONTACTS

Cltr. G Turrell	<a href="mailto:Gemma.Turrell@bromley.gov.uk">Gemma.Turrell@bromley.gov.uk</a>
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Cltr. A. Grant	<a href="mailto:Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk">Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk</a>
Residents Association	8460 0395
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

### SPAN INFORMATION

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

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