

The power of music

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in Thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This is the Chorister's Prayer. It was originally published in 1934 by an organisation now known as the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music), but the core words resemble ancient liturgical texts from as early as the 4th century. The prayer was used to ordain psalmists and cantors. It recognises that the choir's singing is not a performance but an act of service to God, and it prays for sincerity. When the choir uses the prayer, we pray for a holy lifestyle, one that connects our Sunday worship throughout all daily aspects of our lives. St Mary's choir said the prayer at Choral Evensong in May, when we admitted three new choristers, appointed head and deputy head choristers and announced the winner of the award of the Friends of St Mary's. If you are interested in becoming a member of the choir, please contact me (details on back of SPAN). We are always keen to welcome new members.

The choir have an exciting summer coming up. We are singing for ABCD (Action around Bethlehem for Children with Disabilities) - a charity we have supported as a church for many years - at the 40th anniversary service at St Botolph's in London at 6.30pm on 16th July. On the first weekend in August we will be singing the services at St George's Chapel, Windsor. All are invited to attend all of these events. August gives us time to refresh, reflect and enjoy a well-earned break before thinking about the many services we have in the autumn term. As a music therapist, I understand how powerful music can be. It can trigger emotions and memories. Interwoven with the prayers and the Bible, it can help us encounter God more deeply, stirring memories, reflection and prayer.

I would like to thank everyone at St Mary's for their support to the choir and we are grateful to provide the music to enhance the ministry of the parish.

Claire Tillotson (Director of Music)



In May the Friends of St Mary's presented Lydia with the annual Chorister of the Year award.

Special services and events

Sunday 5 July

6.30pm Informal service

Led by the Music Group

Sunday 12 July

4.00pm Tea Time Together

6.00pm Youth Club

Thursday 16 July

10.00am – 3.00pm Baby and Toddler Group Summer Party

Service at 11.00am, bring your own picnic

Sunday 19 July

6.30pm Choral Evensong



From the Registers



Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family: Beatrice Moreton 21 June

Spotlight on...

Our 10.30am Sunday service lies at the heart of life at St Mary's, a warm and welcoming Family Communion where all are invited to belong.

When you arrive, you'll be greeted with a friendly welcome and given a service book, notice sheet, and hymnbook to help you take part. Those serving wear badges, so it's easy to know who to ask if you have questions, but we're a friendly bunch, so do feel free to speak to anyone.

You're welcome to sit wherever you feel most comfortable. The church has step-free access, an accessible toilet, and baby changing facilities. We have a hearing loop, and space at the back for babies and toddlers. All ages are truly welcome here. We love the life and noise that comes with being a church family - the sound of children is not a distraction, but a gift.

Our worship follows a liturgy, which simply means a shared form of worship that helps us pray, listen, and respond together as a community. It helps both those who find it familiar and those coming to it new.

Our singing is beautifully led by our choir. We sit or stand at different points, guided by the service book and those leading. Both clergy and choir wear robes simply and deliberately to point us beyond ourselves to God.

Holy Communion is central to our worship each week (we also have all-age parade services, held four times a year). All are welcome to come forward, either to receive communion or a prayer of blessing. Don't worry if you're unsure what to do; someone will gently guide people forward. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

There is Junior Church for children and young people during the service: a place where they can explore the love of God in ways that are engaging and meaningful and be encouraged in their own journey of faith.

Afterwards, we gather for refreshments: a chance to chat, connect, and build community.

Rev Dave Edmondson

Three men in a boat

In May, a group of people led by our former vicar, Canon Paul Miller, embarked on a pilgrimage to Cyprus, entitled 'In the footsteps of St Paul and St Barnabas'. The addition of St Mark gave rise to the unofficial title of "Three men in a boat"!

Following the first century Christians in the places where they stood and shared the Good News in a challenging context, brought much encouragement to us all. They included Saints Paul, Barnabas and Mark but also Lazarus, the first bishop of Larnaca, Andrew, Mary and John.

Paul and Barnabas arrived in the east at Salamis and travelled as far as Paphos in the west, over 100 miles, where the Roman proconsul was converted to Christianity and became one of the first Christian rulers. It was the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey of which there were to be two more. It was estimated that he travelled over 10,000 miles across the ancient Mediterranean...and without the help of British Airways!

Since 1974 the island has been divided by the Green Line into the Turkish-Cypriot north and the Greek-Cypriot south: our pilgrimage encompassed both sectors. Cyprus is blessed with a huge number of important archaeological sites spanning thousands of years through Greek, Roman, various medieval and Ottoman occupations and was pivotal in the growth and spread of Christianity. Occupiers adapted, plundered and repurposed the buildings of those who came before: though much has been lost, so much more remains as they utilised what they found.

From the seashore at the Apostolas Andreas monastery, on the tip of the Karpaz peninsula, Lebanon could be seen as a thin dark line on the horizon, illustrating Cyprus's strategic position in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Over the week we celebrated various daily acts of worship including morning prayers on the coach, singing hymns in a Roman amphitheatre, Holy Communion in a ruined basilica under the deep blue Mediterranean sky and night prayer after dinner.

As is usual in the orthodox tradition, there was extravagant use of gold and silver in the churches and monasteries with amazing workmanship in the stunning mosaics, frescoes and icons. We also saw small, older churches decorated with faded wall paintings which in their simplicity reflected a quiet, deep spirituality reaching down through the centuries.

Canon Paul Miller was delighted to have a Shortlands connection within the party: "It's always great to meet those from a former parish and I was delighted to hear about the good things happening at St Mary's".

Pictured: Canon Paul with his wife Lynne (left) and Marion Westropp (right), in the amphitheatre at Salamis.



Jan Boam

GALA FUNDRAISING DINNER

Sunday 18 July, 7 – 10pm

St Mary's Shortlands

Guest speaker: Andrew Bailey,
Governor of the Bank of England

Three-course, fine dining meal with wine

Tickets £100 in support of

Future Generations Project

Contact: fundraising@stmaryshortlands.church

St Michael's and All Angels



As with many churches in the deanery, St. Michael's had a humble beginning and was originally on a different site. In 1868 a small tin hut was erected in Harding's Lane in the Alexandra district of Beckenham. However in 1877 Holy Trinity church in Lennard Road was built so St. Michael's moved to the Birkbeck estate and another tin hut was erected in Birkbeck Road.

The building of a new, permanent church commenced in 1898 in Ravenscroft Road and was completed in 1935! However it was consecrated in 1906. Sadly, as with many other churches it was badly damaged in World War Two. Over 24th and 25th March 1944 it was bombed, burned completely out of control, and was reduced to an empty shell. As repairs were not viable the church was demolished and rebuilt in 1955-1956 to designs by the architects W. H. Hobday and F. J. Maynard.

In 1978 St. Michael's combined with St. Augustine's in Churchfield Road. Then in 1992 a combined benefice was formed with St. James, and St. Michael's became the new parish church. Both churches worship in the modern catholic tradition of the Church of England, overseen by the Bishop of Richborough.

The church was refurbished in 2018 into a flexible, light and open space. The Lady Chapel and the former Baptistry, now known as the Angel Chapel, contain much of the church's beautiful stained glass. It also has a modern John Mander organ, the design of which was based on that in St. Giles's, Cripplegate. (Photograph courtesy of www.londonchurchbuildings.com)



Pet and teddy bear blessing service

Sunday 27th September 4:00pm

Bring along your beloved pet or teddy bear (furry, feathered, scaled, cuddly or soft) for a short, family-friendly service of thanksgiving.

Refreshments afterwards.

ALL ARE WELCOME

For more info:

vicar@stmaryshortlands.church



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza is a charity providing extraordinary care to extraordinary children with serious or life-limiting conditions and their families. They provide care as unique as every family they support, from symptom management, day care and short breaks, to practical and emotional support for families and siblings, creative arts therapies, memory making, end of life care and bereavement support.

At Demelza they want life to be the best it can be for these children, and for those who love them. Support services are provided wherever best suits families – in their homes, at the hospice sites in Sittingbourne and Eltham or in the community. Demelza's service and support model is built on more than 25 years' experience.

The charity supports children and families living in the Demelza catchment areas of Kent and Medway, East Sussex and South East London (specifically the boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark).

Demelza is here to support them and their families at every step, from first diagnosis and for as long as needed.

Their specialist nursing and care teams can help keep children out of hospital, or leave hospital sooner, and they support parents to learn to meet their children's complex medical needs with confidence.

All of Demelza's families can access holistic, wraparound support, including counselling, a range of therapies, family experiences, and much more.

For more information please go to www.demelza.org.uk or see the display at the back of church this month.

Bea's testimony

Bea has kindly shared her thoughts on what led her to baptism at St Mary's.

I first felt called to come to church last year after I began reading about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in the Gospels. Something started to really resonate with me, and I quickly moved on to read the letters in the New Testament and the wisdom in the Old Testament. Over time it started to become a part of my routine and became a source of advice and a kind of scaffold to how I wanted to build my own life.

St Mary's is my local church and because of all the family events and fêtes I'd been to there it seemed like the perfect place to start looking for my church community. Everybody there was so kind and friendly to me, and I got to meet so many lovely people and hear their stories.

As someone who had never really been to a church service before I was nervous about looking out of place and not knowing what to do but everyone was so understanding and helped me learn how the service worked and what to do. It was so nice to feel supported and cared for and I'm so grateful for everything that the volunteers and people working there do and I'm very excited to officially become a part of the community at St Mary's.



Pictured: Bea with her godmother Isabel

Beatrice Moreton

St. Mary's Shortlands You are welcome

Link Parish, St Francis of Assisi, Douai, France

WORSHIP

8 am Sunday Holy Communion in the chapel - the 4th Sunday of every month.
Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion in the church and online at

www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

Wednesday Worship 10.00am in the chapel
For more information contact the Parish Office or visit

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. Dave	07592136421
vicar@stmarysshortlands.church		
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Churchwarden	Mr R. Hogg	
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	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 020 8460 5682

Email: 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

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mr O. Swinfen	07758458077
Cubs (Tue)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954437658
Beavers	Mr. T. Nickalls	
thomasnickalls@gmail.com		

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

Guides (Tue)	Ms. E Thompson	07910340908
Guides (Mon)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Thu)	fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com	
Rainbows	2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	07511885941
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
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LOCAL CONTACTS

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