

Time to celebrate

Celebration is something that at St Mary's we do best with cake. In May, as a church we celebrated our 30th anniversary of being twinned with Douai in France, my licensing as Vicar, VE Day and all that has happened in the life of the church in the past year at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There has been celebrating around the world too, with many Christians giving thanks to God for the life of Pope Francis and then for the announcement of Pope Leo XIV.

Often, celebrations can bring with them mixed emotions. As we celebrate, we often wonder what could have been, thinking about people we may wish were alongside us but are no longer, we remember events we wish had gone differently.

As we celebrated VE Day, we remembered all those who lost their lives in that horrific conflict. We remembered that war is still in our world and with it comes a terrible cost for those affected by it. We pray for them, and we hold onto hope that peace will reign. It can be easy to live fixated on all the hurt and pain in the world and lose hope. It can also be easy to ignore it all and just focus on what brings us happiness. I believe we are called to live in the tension of the two: to celebrate the good in our lives and the world, whilst remembering the world is not perfect, holding onto hope and doing what we can to help it become the world it was created to be.

At St Mary's we try to hold this tension in all that we do as we believe there is always hope with God. On Sunday 8th June we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, remembering the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus. It is sometimes thought of as the Church's birthday, signifying the beginning of the Church's mission to the world.

It is a celebration for Christians: a sign that God is with us now and a vital reminder that Christianity is not only for a specific people but for everyone and all are welcome. You are always welcome at St Mary's. So, this month, what are you giving thanks for and celebrating?

Rev'd Dave Edmondson

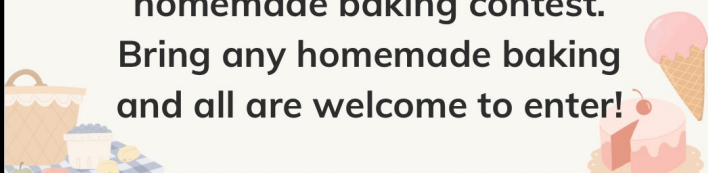
PARISH PICNIC

IN THE CHURCH GROUNDS

**Picnic follows the Family Service at
10.30am**

Bouncy Castle, Ice Creams, Activities,
Tuck Shop, Donation Bar, BBQ food for
sale or Bring your own picnic & more.

**This year we are having a
homemade baking contest.
Bring any homemade baking
and all are welcome to enter!**



Special Services and Events

Sunday 8 June - Pentecost Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

4.00pm Tea Time Together

For families of all ages

6.00pm Youth Club

Sunday 15 June

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 22 June

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parade Service

Followed by the Parish Picnic

Sunday 29 June

10.30am Holy Communion

*With a talk by the Secretary General of the Mission
to Seafarers*

Welcome Revd Dave!



On 6th May, Revd Dave Edmondson was licensed as Vicar of St Mary's, in a service led by the Bishop of Tonbridge and attended by clergy and other representatives from across the Deanery and welcomed by representatives from the local community including the Mayor and Mayoress of Bromley.

During the service, the ministry team joined in prayers for Revd Dave's ministry in Shortlands.

Looking forward – and thank you!

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held on 11th May, was chaired by Revd Dave Edmondson: a busy day for him as he had just presided over his first Sunday service at St Mary's.

In his report he said that he was 'bowled over' by his installation service and he and his family were thankful for the warm welcome they had received: they are looking forward to being part of the community.

He said that God had been at work in this church and parish during the Interregnum (the period when the church was without a vicar), and that he was excited for the future of St Mary's. He thanked the many people who had been active in the church during the Interregnum.

The current churchwardens, Glo Sherman and Robin Hogg, were reappointed for the next year, with thanks for all their work in the previous year. Jay Sharma was thanked for her work as Secretary to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Helen Bird was appointed in her place.

Thanks were also given to the outgoing members of the PCC, and three new members were elected: Toks Taylor, Suzie Evans and Julie Fox.

Tim Dawson, the Treasurer, emphasised the need to increase income as a loss on unrestricted income was recorded last year. He highlighted a generous donation towards installing a new servery at the back of church and thanked everyone who gives sacrificially towards the life of St Mary's.

Pat Chase

Things to look out for in the summer



Thinking back to when I first moved to Bromley in the early 1980s, the sights and sounds that defined summer have changed a lot, perhaps not for the better. Gone are the screaming groups of swifts that appeared with the emergence of the flying ants, the raucous flocks of starlings with their youngsters feeding on the lawn, the wheezing call of greenfinches and the memorable moment of freeing a bullfinch from the netting over my ripening strawberries.

Pleasant though nostalgia is, it shouldn't be over-indulged. We are fortunate to live in a borough that has more green space than many. Swifts still cling on, and our green spaces, whether our gardens or municipal, have much else to offer in summer.

One of the most positive developments in recent years has been the encouragement of gardeners and councils to mow and tidy a bit less, and let nature have a bit more elbow room. I now leave two substantial patches in the lawn to grow as they will, from spring to late autumn. The results have been dramatic.

Early summer brings lots of white oxeye daisies and wild violets, followed later by yellow bird's foot trefoil and increasingly, common spotted orchids! Who would have thought that those might be lurking unsuspected in an 'unimproved' suburban lawn? The longer grass is appreciated by the birds, who find more insects and then seeds later. It is also appreciated by butterflies, especially the Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper, which have become welcome visitors in the garden.

The same principle has been applied at South Hill Wood, where an area near the electricity substation is left for meadow and insect friendly plants to grow as they will. It has proved popular with a variety of insects and butterflies including more unusual ones such as the Marbled White butterfly. I recommend it on a warm summer's day, and there is a most welcoming bench nearby!

David Linstead

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United in Christ



A group of nine parishioners from our twin parish of Saint Francis of Assisi came to visit us at the start of May. We met them at Hever Castle where we enjoyed a cream tea together, visited the castle and explored the beautiful surroundings in glorious weather.

There were two "cluster" dinners, home hospitality overnight, and then a celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday morning in the presence of our Mayor and Mayoress, David and Ann-Marie Jefferys, and our MP Liam Conlon, where we gave thanks for the 30 years of the Jumelage (or twinning). In the church hall people had the opportunity to see photos of our exchange visits since the link started, before enjoying a delicious meal cooked by Tim Dawson.

Our French guests thanked us for the welcome they had received and gave us a very special gift to mark 30 years of friendship, faith and fun together. It is a beautiful stained glass picture made by the artist who created the stained glass windows at Sainte Thérèse in Douai.

Three of the longest-standing French members of the Jumelage stayed on for a few days so they could see Revd Dave's installation and be part of this important event in the life of their twin parish. They are bidding farewell to their priest in September and welcoming his replacement and have invited people from St Mary's to join them for this.

This was the last such group exchange visit, but the Jumelage will live on. The friendships forged through our link will ensure that we remain "United in Christ ... Unis en Jésus-Christ".

Gill Dawson

What are Friends for?

The charity the Friends of St Mary's was established in November 1955 to help meet the financial needs of the church and parishioners. These days it helps to pay for some of the 'extras' that the church might otherwise not be able to afford. These have included new choir robes, catering equipment and furnishings for the Church, a data projector for presentations in services or at meetings for the Church and mulled wine and mince pies for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols!

To do this members pay a small annual subscription, and we organise social events to raise funds. Currently we are helping to raise funds for the 70th anniversary of the re-consecration of the church and the founding of the Friends and to meet any unexpected/unbudgeted expenses of the Parish.

The Friends are now actively looking for new members. To find out more, or if you would like to join, please speak to one of the committee - names and photographs can be found on the noticeboard just inside the inner church doors - or contact me (churchwarden) or Tony Chase (Friends of St Mary's): our details are on the back of SPAN.

A good way to find out more about the Friends will be to join us at Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on 20th July and have a chat over drinks afterwards.

Robin Hogg

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Welcare

Welcare is a family support charity working with families and children up to the age of 13 in Bromley, South London and East Surrey. Its services are dedicated to bringing support to those whose joys of childhood and raising children are constrained by social isolation, domestic abuse, financial hardship or disadvantage.

The focus of the charity's work is to provide practical and emotional support and advice, individual one-to-one work and group work programmes, supervised by senior social workers. They work alongside parents and carers helping them use their strengths and skills to nurture secure and confident children.

Welcare runs programmes such as Caring Dads: a group for fathers which aims to increase men's awareness of abusive or neglectful behaviour and to enable them to take responsibility for their actions. Capability in Schools is an early intervention group work programme delivered in schools for children with emerging social and emotional support needs.

There are parenting support groups that help parents to understand their children's behaviour and become positive and confident in their parenting, and Recovery from Domestic Abuse, a group for children and their non-abusive parent.

Welcare's services are driven by Christian values, and it works with those of all faiths and none; its sole aim is to help those in greatest need.

St Mary's continues to support the charity along with many churches in our Diocese. Please see more information on our Mission of The Month board at the back of church or go to www.welcare.org for more information.

Tea for Victory



Over 60 people attended St. Mary's tea party for VE Day. While they enjoyed the many sandwiches and cakes, the large screen showed a compilation of photos from the 1945 celebrations and wartime melodies played in the background.

Floral tributes commemorated organisations that had contributed to the war effort, whilst an exhibition featured themes such as the Services, the Home Front and Personal Recollections, with one section dedicated to the Liberation of France, to the delight of the visitors from Douai.

The culmination of the party was a singalong of wartime favourites including 'We'll meet again', finishing with the National Anthem. A very special thank you to all the café team for their hard work and to the bakers for their 'exceedingly good cakes'!

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

Link Parish
St Francis of
Assisi, Douai, France



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.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

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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	thomas.nickalls@gmail.com	

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

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Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com	
Rainbows	2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
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Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884 8
Fair Trade	Mrs. C Willatt	07511885941

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. G Turrell	gemma.turrell@bromley.gov.uk
Cllr. F. Bainbridge	Felicity.Bainbridge@bromley.gov.uk
Cllr. A. Grant	Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk
Residents Association	8460 0395
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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