

God so loved the world

March is a great time to reflect on the environment. As Christians, we believe in a creator God and marvel at the universe's complexity and our beautiful planet. We recognise dynamic evolution and the forces of change which drive adaptation in nature, and the importance of working with but not against these forces to maintain and encourage biodiversity.

We appreciate the need to care for the Earth for future generations. We recognise the need to be in sympathy and symphony with nature. Touching the Earth and feeling nature are vital to human well-being and mental health. Over a long period we have ignored, neglected and deliberately destroyed our natural habitats. The result is climate change, global warming, sea and air pollution and propagation of new diseases. We have not heeded the warnings.

In 1976, as a concerned scientist, I wrote about the emerging trend for disposable, single use products and its potential impact on the environment and societal behaviour. Today we are a 'disposable society'. Is all doom and gloom? No, nature is adaptable and resilient. But we must respond and play our part. Practically we need to conserve more, reduce waste and packaging, recycle more, walk more often, keep the heating lower, repair more and grow more plants and vegetables in every location.

This was the challenge I issued as the Mayor of Bromley. Many, especially the young, responded, joining street and park friends. You can help pick up litter, join Thames21 in restoring our local rivers, or support the young gardeners project.

Spiritually we should seek to be less self-absorbed and self-centred. The main drivers of our current environmental crisis are greed and thoughtlessness. Science and technology offer solutions and hope. God is increasingly working through science and in our laboratories. Pause and appreciate the beauty of nature

and see the glory of God in our world this spring. Remember that Jesus died to save us and this world. Come and find out more this Easter at St Mary's.

David Jefferys



CONGRATULATIONS to Heather Donovan who celebrated her 100th birthday at St Mary's Mobility Group

Special services and events

Sunday 1 March

6.30pm Informal service with the Music Group

Sunday 8 March

4.00pm Tea Time Together

6.00pm Youth Club

Sunday 15 March - Mothering Sunday

10.30am Parade Service

A service for all the family with distribution of posies

Sunday 22 March

10.30am Holy Communion

With Rt Rev Dr Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Rochester

Sunday 29 March - Palm Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Cross of Christ

My 'day job'

Another in our occasional series to find out more about people who make a contribution to our life at St Mary's

I have been coming to St Mary's since I was born and I was christened in the church. I remember Mum and Dad getting married here too!

I operate the AV system along with Jon which means I livestream the services on Facebook to people who cannot attend that service. This means that they can still take part and know what is going on. Some people also listen to the service again afterwards.

On weekdays, I am at college. I study creative media (TV and film) which explores how films and TV shows are made and goes through each stage of production. This includes pre production, main production, and post production. I am over half way through my extended BTEch now.

I have always had a keen interest in the production of TV and film particularly sci-fi. I have liked TV shows such as Doctor Who and Stranger Things and how they were able to create thrilling dramas. Mum and Dad took me to Cardiff a lot when I was younger to look round the BBC studios and Dr Who experience. One aspect that I quite like is the storytelling. I find it fascinating how the writers of TV shows can create intricate and detailed stories that explore interesting themes.

I am intending to go to University to study television production. I have been going to open days over the past few months to find out which university is best for me.

Zach Scott



Looking forward to Easter

We invite you once again to slow down and walk with Jesus through the events of Holy Week: an unfolding story of love, service, suffering and hope. From the joy and challenge of Palm Sunday, through the quiet reflection of Compline, to the solemnity of Good Friday and the anticipation of Easter, each service offers space to pray, listen and reflect together.

On Maundy Thursday, our Holy Communion will include hand (rather than foot) washing: a simple, practical act that allows everyone to take part if they wish, recalling Jesus' call to serve one another.

Whether you come often or occasionally, you are warmly invited to join us as we journey together towards the joy of Easter morning where all the family are invited for our Family Communion Service!

29 March - Palm Sunday Service - 10.30am
Holy Communion (Junior Church during the service)

29 March - Cross of Christ - 6.30pm
A traditional service looking forward to Holy Week with Bible readings, hymns and anthems

30, 31 March & 1 April - Compline - 8.00pm
A reflective, said service of Compline in the Chapel

2 April - Maundy Thursday - 8.00pm
Holy Communion with hand washing

3 April - Good Friday at the Cross - 2.00pm
Reflections, Bible readings, hymns and anthems

4 April - Easter Saturday Soup Supper - 6.00pm
Reflect together with a simple meal together in the Church Hall. Sign up via the Parish Office.

5 April - Easter Family Communion - 10.30am
Family Communion with Easter Egg hunt



Library update

While Shortlands Library is temporarily closed, some events are running in the Choir Vestry, St Mary's Church House on Mondays:

9.45-10.45am - **Stay & Play**: children of all ages are welcome to join us for stories, crafts and more.

11.30-12.30pm - **Tea & Talk**: A chance to meet new friends, chat with library staff and friends of Shortlands Library whilst enjoying free refreshments.

Staff are also able to offer help and advice with books reservations/renewals and downloading free Ebooks and Audiobooks.



There are spaces available at St Mary's Pre-School from September. The Pre-School is OFSTED registered, with session times 9.15am-12.15pm, Monday to Friday, term time. The 15 hours government funding each week are accepted.

If you have any questions please contact the Pre-School leader, Christine Hall on 0208 290 6704 or email: st.marys.preschool@hotmail.co.uk. The registration form can be found on the website: www.stmaryspreschoolshortlands.co.uk.

World Day of Prayer 2026

The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe.

Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties. The service they have prepared reflects on the theme "I will give you rest, come."

The preparation for this day is extensive. The writing country and theme are chosen years in advance, and the service then travels to the international committee in New York for translation and dissemination to national committees in over 120 participating countries. From there it is adapted and shared locally, culminating in gatherings at hundreds of churches every March.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer! You can find more information at www.wwdp.org.uk.

This year the World Day of Prayer service for churches in the Beckenham deanery is to be held here at St Mary's, Shortlands.

Please do join us for this service on Friday March 6th at 11.30am and for a light lunch / refreshments afterwards. All are welcome!

Flowers at St Mary's

Flowers and decorating the church have always been an important part of our community life at St Mary's. Lent this year starts on Wednesday 18th February: from this day until April 4th is the only time when we do not decorate the church with flowers, but we will be making preparations for Easter decorations.

We are holding three workshops alongside the Community Café on 4th, 11th, and 25th March. Anyone is most welcome to join us.

On Mothering Sunday (15th March) we give out posies of daffodils. We will be holding a workshop in church at 9.30am, 14th March to make the posies. The Guides join us, it is a very enjoyable morning with refreshments provided and all are welcome.

On Easter Saturday (4th April from 9.30am) we will be decorating the church for Easter. All are welcome to join in with no experience necessary, all materials will be supplied and, in the tradition of St Mary's, refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Cecilia on 07511 885941.



Growing in faith together

On a wet, February Saturday St. Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) met outside the parish for an Away Day, to consider how well we fulfil our mission of sharing God's love and how best to further it.



Through communal worship and structured activities we reflected on our church life, our strengths and weaknesses. We questioned how we could develop and improve what we do and in what other directions we could expand our mission and move forward.

We believe that God is guiding us to live out our faith. He is actively helping us to discern meaningful ways to demonstrate this through our actions within both the church and the wider community.

Underpinning this is the belief that all our undertakings require the whole congregation to work with the PCC to further the mission of the church and enable us to grow in faith together.

Jan Boam



TARTAN AND TOGETHERNESS: Many members of St Mary's congregation joined with Park Langley Golf Club to celebrate Burns Night in January.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Primrose Breast Cancer Support Centre

The Support Centre is based in the old chapel at the Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough. It was set up in 2010 by the founding chief executive Mary Spinks to support those diagnosed with breast cancer. It first opened its doors in November of that year and recently celebrated its 15th birthday. Mary passed away in 2023 and the Centre is now run entirely by volunteers.

The charity fulfils a huge local need, supporting hundreds of visitors a year. As a registered charity it relies completely on fundraising and charitable donations.

The Centre is supported by a staff of qualified therapists. Therapies they offer include lymphatic drainage, reflexology, mindfulness, manicure, oncology massage, reiki, yoga, talk therapy, nutrition and lots more. The charity does not make a charge for these therapies but is grateful for donations which provide services now and into the future. It welcomes offers of fundraising on its behalf.

Complementary therapies sit alongside shared experiences with others in a similar situation, to help aid recovery. They support all affected by breast cancer whether directly or indirectly. Visitors come from a large geographical area within London and the South East, do not need a medical referral and can contact the Centre by telephone, email or in person.

For more information, see the display at the back of the church, visit www.primrosecentre.org.uk or call 01689 880218.

Spring is coming

The days are getting longer, it's time to shake off the winter blues and think about the garden. Please sow extra seeds, divide perennials and take cuttings for the community centred St Mary's Plant Sale on Saturday 16th May



between 11am and 1pm. Refreshments will be available at St Mary's Cafe in the church.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 21 March, 7 for 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall

Donation bar, nibbles on each table

Sign up as a team (max size 8)

or individually to join a team

Tickets £5 available after

10.30am Sunday services, at

Community Café or online



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You are welcome

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WORSHIP

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@stmaryshortlands.church		
Churchwarden	Mrs G. Sherman	07500751265
Churchwarden	Mr R. Hogg	
robinwarden@stmaryshortlands.church		

Licensed Lay Ministers	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
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PCC Secretary	Ms. H. Bird	
secretary@stmaryshortlands.church		
Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 020 8460 5682

Email: office@stmaryshortlands.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
Guide (Fri)	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
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C Willatt	07511885941

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. G Turrell	Gemma.Turrell@bromley.gov.uk	
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Website www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

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