

SHORTLANDS PARISH NEWS

St Mary's Church
endeavours to bring the love
of God into the everyday
lives of the people of
Shortlands

the SPAN

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

May 2022. Year 42 Number 5

What goes up

The next major Christian festival is Ascension Day, celebrating the ascension of the resurrected Jesus to heaven. At St Mary's we will celebrate this at 8pm on Thursday 26 May.

There is a saying 'What goes up, must come down'. Although this might not apply to the cost of living and fuel prices, we believe it does apply to Jesus. We often stop the narrative immediately after the actual ascension, but the next verse in the Bible re-assures us that Jesus will return.

Jesus' return ties in with the vision of God returning to rule directly on earth that is found in the last chapters of both the prophet Isaiah, in the Old Testament, and the book of Revelation, at the end of the New Testament. Both passages describe a renewed creation. Isaiah speaks of the absence of 'the sound of weeping' and infant mortality; of a world without exploitation, where creation is back in harmony with itself and with people. The book of Revelation speaks of God 'wiping every tear from people's eyes' and 'where mourning and crying and pain will be no more'.

For me these often-ignored references to Jesus coming back to reign on earth and ushering in a New Heaven and a New Earth, are at the heart of God's purposes and, in turn, give purpose to my life. We need to work to protect the environment and stop the exploitation of the earth's resources and the damage that is being caused through climate change. We also need to challenge the exploitation of people, countries and people groups and work towards trying to make this world, and our own communities, kinder, more caring places.

Platinum Parish Picnic



*Join us in celebrating the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee!*

Sunday 5 June

12 noon, following the Parade Service

St Mary's church gardens
A must for your diary!

Lots of fun for everyone – all are welcome

Extra large bouncy castle + slide ; bar; sweets; raffle;
tree planting ceremony; fancy dress and royal games.
Enjoy lunch from our BBQ or bring your own picnic.

We are not called to stare at the heavens awaiting Jesus' return. We do need to continually look to Jesus, to remind ourselves of his purposes and our part within them, as we also look at God's world and discover what we should be doing to help prepare the ground for the New Creation that Jesus will usher in on his return.

Stuart Buchanan

Special Events and Services

Sunday 8 May

4 - 5.30pm Tea Time Together

*Activities for families of all ages on
the theme of faithfulness*

Sunday 15 May

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 26 May – Ascension Day

8.00pm – Holy Communion

Services will take place in church and will be streamed via Facebook. Any updates will be shared through www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk and www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands.



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Alfred Cobley 13 Apr Age 95

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Audrey Beale 26 April



Alf Cobley

Alfred Cobley was born in 1927, in Westminster. During World War II Alf was evacuated to Pease Pottage and very much enjoyed his time in the countryside.

After the war he carried out his National Service and joined the Royal Navy. He sailed to Australia and was involved with bringing back war brides to the UK. After his National Service he was employed in the local council's stores department.

Alf met Joan and after a courtship they married in 1951 at the Church of St Gabriel's, Warwick Square. They moved into a flat in Pimlico: Alf's parents were living next door.

Joan and Alf enjoyed their trips to Hastings to visit family. When they moved to their last home, a lovely bungalow in Shortlands, they spent many years rehoming a number of cats, which took over the house, plus their little dog.

When Joan passed away in 2014 Alf's health deteriorated and his mobility was greatly reduced. He was very fond of his neighbours who provided both company and help.

Alf regularly received Holy Communion at home from St Mary's.

As he always wanted, Alf stayed in his home to the very end. He very much missed Joan and it's nice to think they will be reunited again at the garden of rest.

Community news

Shortlands Residents' Association (SRA) held their Annual General Meeting on 5th April. At the beginning, one minute's silence was held to remember Councillor Mary Cooke.

Mark Dempsey stood down as Chair of the SRA, having served on the committee for more than 10 years.

Various local items were discussed:

- Proposals for 87 Beckenham Lane (the building behind the hoardings in Shortlands Village);
- Lifts to be installed at Shortlands Station (there is local concern about the height of the two lift towers);
- Planning proposals for Bromley Town Centre;
- Improving the Shortlands Station road junction for pedestrians (any scheme has to be approved by Transport for London);
- Commuter parking, gutter and gulley cleaning and litter.

For more details and to keep up to date with local news, see shortlandsra.org.uk. The SRA would welcome more volunteers: contact them via the website.

On parade

St Mary's church welcomes all of the uniformed organisations associated with the parish at parade services at four special times of the year: Mothering Sunday, the day of the Parish Picnic, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday.

With heads held high and looking so smart in their uniforms, the young people parade down the aisle bearing flags which are placed either side of the high altar for the duration of the service. The flag bearer and two supporters then take up positions in the front pews, alongside other members of their groups and their leaders. At the close of the service, they collect the flags and parade back down the aisle to be formally dismissed outside.

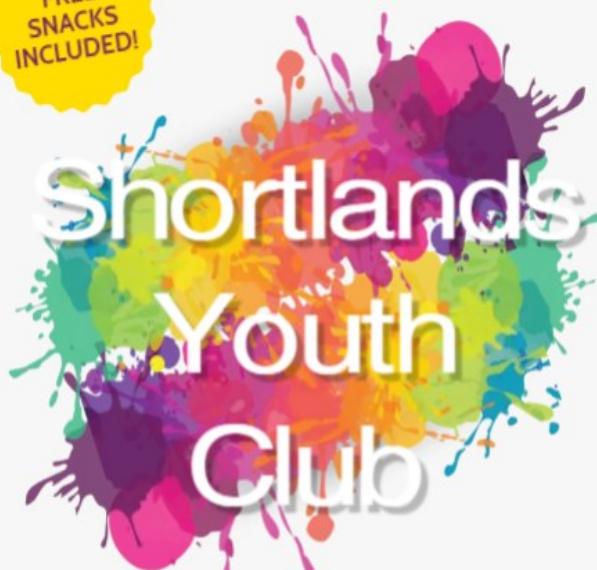
St Mary's is the patron of the 7th Bromley Scout Group, whose members – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - meet in its grounds. The Scout law mentions 'Duty to God and Queen': whichever god members of the movement recognise, the parade service is acknowledged as showing respect and an honour for members to attend.

The Girlguiding units - Rainbows, Brownies & Guides - are also very much part of St Mary's and hold their weekly meetings in the Church Hall. Each year the Guides do a good turn for the church by clearing dead leaves from church gardens after their Christmas sleepover.

This year Friday
Guides have clocked
up two firsts -
helping make
Christingles for the
Christingle service,
and posies for
Mothering Sunday.



You are warmly invited to:



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Christian Aid

In May each year St Mary's supports Christian Aid, a charity that works to alleviate poverty and give practical support to communities in some of the poorest countries in the world. The needs are no less now than when Christian Aid was founded in 1945. For the first time in a generation global poverty is rising due to the combined effects of coronavirus, conflict and the climate crisis.



The Christian Aid Week 2022 appeal focuses on Zimbabwe where the climate crisis has brought intense droughts that have left the land barren. With no rain, people can't grow enough food, and women struggle to provide for their children. In times of drought, many families can only afford to eat one bowl of porridge a day. Mothers often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have.

Your donation could help a family in Zimbabwe to grow drought-resistant crops, to set up a water tap on their farm, and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. You can help to turn dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

During Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), we will be delivering Christian Aid envelopes to homes in Shortlands. Please return your donations to St Mary's Church as we will not be calling back to collect. Donations can also be made online at www.christianaid.org where you can also find more information.

PLANT SWAP/SALE
In the church grounds
11am – 2pm
Saturday 7 May



Donations welcome
Please remember us
when dividing
perennials and
taking cuttings

CAFÉ OPEN

Job opportunity

St Mary's church is looking for an office administrator to work as one half of a job share, 4.5 hours a day, Monday to Wednesday (13.5 hours/ week).

Core hours are 10.00 am-12.30pm with the other two hours each day being flexible depending on the needs of the parish and the postholder's requirements.

The successful applicant will have:

- a general knowledge of office equipment and filing procedures;
- a good level of computer literacy, familiar with applications such as Microsoft 365 (including Word, PowerPoint, Excel) and Publisher.
- knowledge of QuickBooks or willingness to learn;
- the ability to work under pressure and prioritise tasks;
- an ability to relate pleasantly to all visitors and telephone contacts.

Salary of £7,000/ year. If interested please send your CV to rhogg@upanet.com by 12pm on 20th May.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 8 May, after the 10.30am service.

Papers for the meeting will be published at www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk at least a week in advance.

All are welcome to attend the meeting and if you are named on the church's electoral roll, you also have the right to vote.

For more information, contact stephanie.howarthmaurel@yahoo.co.uk

Coming together over a coffee

As we emerged from the first period of the COVID lockdown our vicar wanted to open the church to the local community and hosted two coffee mornings. While we were expecting 15-20 people, over 60 people attended on the day. Clearly, there was a need in the community to bring people together.

We decided to start a trial Community Café on Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm, never expecting the impact it would have. One regular said 'It has been a life saver for me. I lost my husband, and the Café has given me a new lease of life.' Another said 'It has meant a great deal to me. I have made a lot of friends and they have made me feel welcome especially as I'm not a churchgoer.'



The general consensus from our attendees is that the Community Café is a warm and welcoming place to everyone and offers friendship and kindness in addition to delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee.

As we celebrate our first anniversary the St Mary's Community Café Team would like to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly to make it a success. In particular, our gratitude goes to Revd Gary Best whose initiative it was to start the Café: this is his legacy.

Jay Sharma

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of St. Mary, Shortlands



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WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Monday to Saturday 9am - Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion
8.30pm - Compline

You can access these services online at:

www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stmaryshortlands

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

Licensed Lay Ministers	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
Readers	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Pastoral Assistants	Mr S. Buchanan	8777 8008
	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mrs S. Leonard	07725313432
	Mrs K. Buchanan	07811528181
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Mrs. S. Maurel	01689 331793
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs. K. Coleman	07879337567
Electoral Roll	Mrs. S. Maurel	01689 331793
Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503 680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE 020 8460 5682
office@stmaryshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can
be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8402 6599
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)	VACANT	
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

Guides (Tue)	Ms. N. Crittenton	07767242920
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgins	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	2ndshortlandstrainbow@gmail.com	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. A. Cuthbert (E: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)

Residents Association 8460 0395

Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood 8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk

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