

Being Still

Remember, remember the Fifth of November' - words from the famous poem, remembering the Gunpowder Plot - I am sure you are familiar with it. November is a time of Remembering.

On 31st October we hold our Service for the Departed at St. Mary's where we remember those whom we love but see no more. Then we move on to remember those who gave their lives through war and conflict, as we hold the Remembrance Day Service on 14th November.

As we remember we stand still for a few minutes, we remember and then move on, continuing our busy lives.

Should we consider standing still more often? Should we make time in our busy lives to just be, take a break, be still and breathe?

I cannot deny that this is something that I haven't modelled too well in my life: 'do as I say, not as I do!' I now know that to be still in life is so important on many levels.

Being still gives us a chance to look within ourselves to find what we want to do as opposed to what we should do. It gives us an opportunity to try and discover within ourselves the things that might make us happy. For me, it provides a time to listen to God, to open my mind and my heart to hear what He is saying.

For you, being still may be different. Perhaps it provides a relief from the stresses of life that many

experience. Our constantly running around, trying to jump over the obstacles that life throws at us is good enough reason to stop, be still and breathe. Moments to ourselves help us gain perspective. It is important to always remember the things that make us happy. During this month of November perhaps take time to renew a hobby, to write, to spend time with loved ones... or just be still and breathe.

Love and Blessings, Revd Gary Best

Special Events and Services

Sunday 7 November

4 - 5.30pm Tea Time Together

Music, arts and crafts for the whole family with the theme of Peace.

Sunday 14 November

10.00am Remembrance Sunday

Family Communion and Parade Service

Including Act of Remembrance, Two Minutes Silence and Laying of Wreaths. (Note the earlier start time - meet in church at 10.00am, and by the War Memorial at 10.45am)

Saturday 27 November

2.00 - 4.00pm Christmas Fayre

Held in the church grounds and church building

Sunday 28 November

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 5 December

4.00pm Taizé Service

Services will take place in church and will be streamed via Facebook. All activities may be subject to change based on government COVID restrictions. Any updates will be shared through www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk and www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands.



Time for reflection

We invite you to a calm and reflective start to Christmas: Taizé worship on Sunday, 5 December at 4pm. See page 3 for more information.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

John Leverett 26 Sep
Ava Simcox 24 Oct

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

John Staffurth 30 Sep Age 101
Ann Gramlich 6 Oct Age 78



HARVEST HOME: St Mary's was beautifully decorated for Harvest last month. Gifts of non-perishable food from the all-age service on 10 October were donated to Bromley Foodbank.

If you would like to help with the collection of food donations from the church and delivering to the local Foodbank Distribution Centre, please contact the Parish Office. The donations are collected and delivered on a fortnightly basis.

My day job

I was born and raised in Streatham, South London, apart from four years' evacuation to Lincolnshire with my mother and brother during the war whilst my father remained at home to continue in his veterinary practice. I attended Streatham High school for girls and then on to Guy's Hospital to train as a physiotherapist.



During this time I met Mike, a research chemist, at the Wigmore Tennis Club, beginning a lifelong shared passion for tennis. We married in 1960 and moved to Norbury. I worked at St Giles' Hospital, Camberwell until daughters Sue and Tricia came along.

In 1973 we moved to Park Langley and joined both the tennis club and St. Mary's. Both girls were involved with children's church and pathfinders, and I was now back working full-time in paediatrics.

Fast-forward, with both girls married and five children between them, I went back to part-time work in order to help with childcare. This enabled me to become involved with Mothers and Toddlers at St Mary's for many years, alongside Marian Parr and Andrea Hewitt. I finally retired from work in 1992 and volunteered to help with hydrotherapy at Coney Hall School. I also joined U3A to assist with the memory singing at the United Reformed Church in Bromley.

Mike took early retirement due to declining health, so I regularly attended the 8am service to fit in with his care needs but still managed to continue with the voluntary work. Mike's health deteriorated over three years and he required more care; however, we managed to celebrate our diamond wedding anniversary in September 2020 before he sadly died in January this year.

Since then, I have been picking up the pieces and taking a more active role in church life. I'm very excited about the Future Generations project and the opportunities it offers for people to be involved from the beginning of the new chapter in life at St Mary's.

I'm now in the Community Café barista team, and a member of the church flowers team, using skills learned at the Hayes Flower Club over many years. I am also involved with the Mobility group as a participant and the informal, resident physio!

As a dear friend once said and as I have definitely experienced: 'the more you do, the more you feel part of the St Mary's family'.

Marjorie Ring

St Mary's Church Christmas Fair

**Saturday 27th November
from 2-4pm**

in the Church and Grounds

with Bouncy Castle for children

Gifts * Crafts & Cakes

Fairtrade Stall * Christmas Cards

Bottle Tombola * Raffle

Mulled Wine & Chestnuts

Community Café



Christmas Carols in Church

Come and share in the fun!



Stay in touch!

To keep up with the latest news from St Mary's, you can 'like' our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter - search for **'St Mary's Shortlands'**.



If you're not sure how to do it, ask in the office and they'll put you in touch with someone who can give you an introduction to 'social media'.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Home for Good

Home for Good, a Christian charity that began life in 2014, has a vision to ensure that every child who needs a home, has a home.

Home For Good wants every child to have a stable, loving home where they can thrive. However, it knows that, for children in care, it's crucial to find the right placement at the right time - whether that's a short-term foster placement in an emergency, a long-term foster placement or a new adoptive family.

Currently, this isn't always possible. In the UK there is an urgent need for more than 9,000 more foster families and there are not enough people coming forward to adopt children who wait the longest for adoption: children over the age of four, with additional needs, from black and minority ethnic communities and those who are part of a sibling group. Home for Good believes the Church is well-placed to ensure that every child has the home they need, and that families that foster or adopt receive the support that they need.

To make the work of the charity a reality, Home for Good has a vision for all UK churches to understand their mandate to care for vulnerable children, to have a deeper understanding of the theology of adoption, hospitality and caring for the vulnerable, and to take action.

This month at St. Mary's, we will have a guest speaker from Home for Good, Billy-Jo O'Leary, who is the Regional Lead, London and South East, and a familiar face for Home for Good in the Diocese of Rochester. Billy-Jo will be preaching at the 10.30am service on 7th November.

If you are able, please join us to hear about Billy-Jo's own struggles and challenges, along with an overview of the wonderful work undertaken by Home for Good. For more information, see the display in church or visit www.homeforgood.org.uk.

Taizé Service

Taizé is a contemplative form of worship that incorporates periods of silence, informal prayer, readings, and songs with simple phrases sung repetitively, almost chant-like. The sanctuary will be candle-lit, and primarily the guitar and flute will accompany our singing.

In addition to being a time of joy the Christmas season can be filled with rushing, noise, pressure and hyped expectation. This is an opportunity to settle into another way of looking at the season, feeling the presence of God in and around you and those you love.

We welcome you all to our service at 4.00pm on Sunday 5 December.

**St Mary's Junior Church
invites you to**

Tea Time Together

Sunday 7 November

4 – 5.30pm

**The theme will be Peace and we will be preparing
for the Remembrance Day Service with music,
games and arts & crafts, taking place on
Sunday 14 November, 10.00am.**

**Free refreshments will be provided for adults at the
Community Cafe whilst the children have fun!**

**Please contact Rachel Tillotson – 07503 680 612
or Revd Gary – 07493 072 695 for further information**

All welcome!

St Mary's church doors were opened wide on Saturday 9 October for the Community Open Day.

Stalls representing the wide range of activities run by the church and local community shared information about the many opportunities to get involved.

Those attending were also able to find out more about plans to create more space for community events and activities in the church building, as part of our long-term aim for St Mary's to be a community hub for Shortlands.

The Church Council will meet in November to decide the next steps for the Future Generations Project.



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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.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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(day off Friday)	Vicar@stmarysshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
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PARISH OFFICE 020 8460 5682
office@stmarysshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

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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. M Chambers	07975944572
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. Critten	07767242920
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	Mrs S. Tight	8460 8122
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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LOCAL CONTACTS

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(E: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
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