



Giving thanks, sharing our gifts

John Keats' poem 'To Autumn', written in 1820, talks of a time of 'mellow fruitfulness'. Keats used the phrase to emphasise feelings of contentment, fulfilment and reward. October is a month when our minds turn to autumn and a 'gathering in' of the abundant harvest, shorter evenings, and of being at home in warmth and safety.

In the Christian life, the time of Harvest celebrates these. We thank God for all the riches He has given us – homes, water, good food, and the work and skill of those who help to provide these gifts for us. This summer's extreme weather has meant harvesting crops earlier than usual with lower yields, but we are very blessed with all that God has provided for us.

Harvest is also a culmination of the Christian season of 'Creationtide'. At St Mary's, we have considered different aspects of God's creation in a series of sermons. We have been thinking about sharing our resources with others, and of being good stewards of the resources we have so that others may benefit.

You may wonder what this looks like in practice. It means that St Mary's is open for everyone, whether it is to enjoy a church service, play or sit in the church grounds, coming to one of our weekly activities for all ages, using the temporary Shortlands library, popping in on a Wednesday for tea and cake at the Community Café, hiring the Church Hall for an event, or coming to sit quietly.

Our Harvest Festival at 10.30am on 4th October is a time to give God our thanks for all that we have and to support those in need. You are invited to bring donations of tinned goods and toiletries to the service, which will go to Bromley Foodbank. It would be good to welcome you and your family on this or any other Sunday.

Ann-Marie Jefferys LLM

HARVEST SERVICE & LUNCH

Sunday 4th October

10.30am All Age Parade Service

followed by lunch in Church Hall

All are welcome!

Lasagne, garlic bread, salad and
home made desserts

(we cater for all dietary needs)

Bar, activities and more

**Sign up in church, 020 8460 5682 or
vicar@stmaryshortlands.church**

Donations on the day towards costs
and Bromley Food Bank

Special services and events

Sunday 4 October – Harvest Festival

10.30am All age parade service

followed by Harvest Lunch

Sunday 11 October

4.00pm Tea Time Together

6.00pm Youth Club

Sunday 1 November

**6.30pm Service for departed loved
ones**



From the Registers



We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

At Rest: Simon Glenville 3 August

Interment of Ashes: Beryl and Charles Reed 17 September

Spotlight on...

The Community Café has recently celebrated its fifth birthday, marking five years of providing a welcoming space for people to meet, chat and reconnect. Born out of a clear need during the pandemic, the cafe began in the church grounds where people could gather safely and socially distanced. It then developed into the weekly cafe we have today.

The cafe is open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm, with many people attending the 10.00am service in the Chapel beforehand.

Run entirely by volunteers, the cafe depends on the dedication of more than 20 servers and bakers, most of whom are members of St Mary's congregation, alongside volunteers from the wider community. Thanks to their generosity, each volunteer typically commits to just one session a month. New volunteers are always welcome.

Visitors enjoy delicious home-baked cakes, Fairtrade tea and coffee and, above all, a warm and friendly welcome. Toys are available for our youngest visitors, and we frequently have well-behaved four-legged friends accompanying their owners. We are pleased to have many loyal regulars, and to welcome new people joining us. We try to acknowledge and celebrate significant birthdays with cake and a card.

Every effort is made to keep the cafe open throughout the year, all 52 weeks if possible. We thank the Shortlands Residents Association for generously funding our new promotional flag. You can also keep up to date with the cafe by following St Mary's on Instagram and Facebook.

A Fairtrade stall is available at the cafe once a month, offering a range of Fairtrade food and gift items. We also support the annual Big Brew each September, helping to promote the difference Fairtrade makes to producers around the world.

Whether you're a regular visitor or thinking of dropping in for the first time, you'll always find a warm welcome at the Community Café.

Fiona Bratt, Community Café Co-ordinator



St Mary's church choir was honoured to be invited to sing at St George's Chapel, Windsor, on 1st and 2nd August, and has been invited to sing again at the Chapel in future.

MISSION OF THE MONTH Bromley Borough Foodbank

Since opening in 2010, Bromley Borough Foodbank has provided more than 84,000 emergency food parcels to local people facing crisis, including over 34,000 children. Behind these remarkable figures lies a simple but powerful story of neighbours helping neighbours. During 2025, the foodbank distributed 8,400 emergency food parcels across the Borough, supporting 5,200 adults and 3,200 children. These statistics are a sobering reminder that, despite Bromley's relative affluence, 22% of children in our borough are living in poverty.

Founded by local churches and community groups, Bromley Borough Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust network and operates centres in Bromley, Penge, Orpington and St Mary Cray. Alongside providing at least three days' worth of nutritionally balanced food, the foodbank works with GPs, schools, social workers and other agencies to connect people with wider support that can address the causes of financial hardship. At the heart of this work are more than 180 volunteers, supported by churches, schools, businesses and local residents. Their commitment reflects Christian values of dignity, compassion, community and justice.

If you need help, or would like to donate food, volunteer or make a donation, see the displays in church or visit www.bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk. Together we can ensure that nobody in our community faces hardship alone while working towards a future where foodbanks are no longer needed.



St Mary's Parochial Church Council welcomed Bob Friday as a new member and David Jefferys and Debbie Speller as returning members earlier this year.

THANK YOU

Leaders from St Mary's Guides units gathered at the Shortlands Tavern in July to say thanks to Nicola Blake who is retiring after many years as District Commissioner, and to welcome Natalie Yapp, who is taking over the role.

Nicola also received a very special "Girlguiding Hero" award signed by the Chief Guide, Region Chief Commissioner and County Commissioner, thanking her for her dedicated service. She has agreed to stay on as District Administrator, which will be a big help to Natalie.



A special guest



It is not every day that you can say the Governor of the Bank of England came to dinner. Yet that is exactly what happened in July when Andrew Bailey (pictured with Joel and Jay Sharma, St Mary's fundraiser) was the chief guest at a special fund-raising dinner at St Mary's to support the Future Generations project.

On a balmy evening, the freely flowing bubbles were the perfect welcome for the beautifully turned-out guests at the reception outside church. Quite a few selfies were seen to be taken before dinner.

The Future Generations project aims to make St Mary's church more accessible and a space fit for all. It was thus fitting that dinner was held in the hall with the severe cracks visible: its rebuilding will take the lion's share of the funds raised. Rev. Dave Edmondson said the new facility, "will help build community when people are becoming more isolated behind technology. It is currently the only community space within the parish of Shortlands."

In wide ranging remarks, the Governor highlighted some of the challenges that the UK and global economies continue to face, including the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis; the COVID pandemic; a falling birth rate and ageing population; low productivity and slow economic growth; and climate change. He saw Artificial Intelligence and robotics as being significant developments that could help address several of the economic difficulties.

Many and varied questions followed Mr Bailey's address. With the Governor staying on after the formal close, not only did quite a few people still manage to get their last-minute burning questions answered, but those still seeking that magical picture with the governor were also indulged. More than £6,000 was raised at a most delightful evening.



Guides from both St Mary's units enjoyed their summer camp at Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre amid scorching temperatures. They did a wide range of activities including crate stacking, zipwire, leap of faith, and mega SUP (stand up paddleboarding) on the nearby reservoir. The latter was very popular as they could jump off into the water to cool off!

**Coming soon!**
St Mary's
Thursday Club

Starting
5th NOV

For Primary School children and all the family
(parents/ carers to stay with children)
EVERY THURSDAY IN TERM TIME
Doors open 3.30pm
Finishes 4.45pm
Suggested donation: £1
For info: vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Memorial service

A gentle service of remembrance for departed loved ones at 6.30pm on Sunday 1 November with prayers, hymns, readings, the reading of loved ones' names, and the opportunity to light a candle in memory of those we love and miss. If you would like your loved one's name read out please contact the Parish Office.



Library news

Shortlands Library's temporary base at St Mary's is to be extended for another six months until February 2027, while options are appraised for its future long term location.

With the present building in Shortlands Road having been closed since January this year due to structural problems, St Mary's Friends Meeting Room is now hosting the Library on Mondays and Saturdays. The Council is working with St Mary's to create a better temporary library space there for the short term, and consideration is now being given to increasing opening hours beyond just two days a week. We shall keep you posted on future developments or visit

www.bromley.gov.uk/libraries/shortlands-library-service.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**
SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER
2:00-4:00PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH AND GROUNDS



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		
Churchwarden	Mrs G. Sherman	07500751265
Churchwarden	Mr R. Hogg	
robinwarden@stmarysshortlands.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
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082

Parish Administrator	Mrs. E. Woollven	8460 5682
----------------------	------------------	-----------

Safeguarding	Mrs C. Cooke	07810866896
--------------	--------------	-------------

Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
-----------	---------------	-----------

Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
---------------	--------------------	-------------

PCC Secretary	Ms. H. Bird	
secretary@stmarysshortlands.church		

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 07716 399912
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

Cltr. G Turrell	Gemma.Turrell@bromley.gov.uk
Cltr. A. Grant	Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk
Cltr. S. Gupta	Serena.Gupta@bromley.gov.uk
Residents Association	8460 0395
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Editorial Parish Office

Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 07821 691567

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those supported by the publishers and no responsibility can be accepted for accuracy. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for work carried out by our advertisers.

ADVERTISING:

For details email the office.

Copy to be submitted by the 5th of each month.

Local, friendly and professional building company for your larger projects.

Extensions, Conversions, Refurbishment and Electrical. Excellent references available. No job too large.

E: steve@rutlandbuilding.co.uk

T: 020 8249 8769 M: 07949 593294



Elliott's Heating

Shortlands Based - Established 1987

All domestic Heating, Plumbing, Gas & Renewables



Call 07956 241 582



ROOFING

ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN
GENERAL BUILDING * LOFT EXTENSIONS * FENCING
GUTTERING * SKYLIGHT WINDOWS
SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFING * NEW SHED ROOFS
PATIO & DRIVES PRESSURE WASHED

HARRY ALLEN 07801 755199

DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION AND CREATIVITY

Wednesdays at St Mary's Hall

Fun and friendly drama classes to boost confidence, creativity, communication, resilience and wellbeing.

BOOK A 2 WEEK TRIAL: 01689 812336

BROMLEY@DRAMAKIDS.CO.UK

For 3 - 18 yrs in 4 age groups. www.dramakids.co.uk

HOLT MAINTENANCE

Garden Maintenance, Landscape Gardening,
Window Cleaning,
Domestic and Commercial Cleaning
Accredited Safe Contractor

Tel: 07956 172979

QUALIFIED PLUMBER

P. J. EDWARDS

Tel: 07831 54 59 51

Bathrooms, kitchens and all domestic work undertaken

Advertising in SPAN for over 15 years

Beckenham based Funeral Caterer



Established for over 30 years and able to provide catering in your own home or a venue of your choice. Waitress service or contact free delivery

available. To see our suggested menus please go to www.careysfuneralcaterers.co.uk or tel: 020 8658 5008

NC Bathroom Transformations

Fully Insured – No Job Too Small
Repairs – Refits – Installations
Friendly Reliable Service
Nigel - 07793 121500

CWA TAX

Friendly local advice for all your
Accountancy and Taxation requirements
WWW.CWATAX.COM
Telephone: 020 8460 9340



The Family Law Specialists

Family and relationship breakdown is a very difficult Time for anyone. Please contact Kumari Dawood in confidence for advice. Tel 020 8249 6047 or email

confidential@dawoods-solicitors.co.uk

Now based at 344 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4EX

www.dawoods-solicitors.co.uk



Independent estate agents
based in Shortlands village

020 8464 9952

office@maguirebaylis.com

104 Beckenham Lane, Shortlands BR2 0DW

Touch of Colors - painting and decorating

Offering friendly and reliable services
decorating, tiling, floor laying and more.
Please contact Kamil for more information and enquiries about any other works around the house.
07873217670 - kamil.franz@gmail.com

Heron Carpentry Ltd

All carpentry aspects covered
Specialist kitchen and bathroom fitting
All public liability insurances
Call Gerry 07947275631



Local Electrician Part P Registered

Fully Insured



07847 395 437



Buckingham Design
Bespoke joinery

• Alcove units • Panelling • Banquette seating
• Floating shelves • Cabinets • Fitted wardrobes
• Under stairs storage • Media units • Storage solutions

Call Lee 07872 118150



07963064284

**SHORTLANDS
WEDDING & EVENTS
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Bookings available for 2026 weddings
Local photographer, references and portfolio

Offering

- * Outstanding Care
- * Choice
- * Dignity
- * Creating Independence



Contact us on
02087773840

Providing
Fully trained and experienced
Care workers

Email bromley@careoutlook.co.uk
Or visit our office at
128 High Street, West Wickham BR4 0LZ



20 Bromley Gardens,

Bromley, Kent BR2 0ET

Mob: 07721 454716

Email: gmminstallationsltd@gmail.com

J.I.B. Approved Electrician

NAPIT Part P 40 years experience