

## Stop and reflect

As autumn arrives we may notice things in our community changing. We are blessed to have so many trees in Shortlands: they have already begun to drop their acorns and conkers, and leaves are changing colour. The weather is beginning to get colder. I'm even starting to think about getting my winter coat out of its hibernation. This time of year, it is traditionally harvest season. We are celebrating harvest at St Mary's on 4<sup>th</sup> October and it would be a delight if you could join us.

For farmers, harvest was a time to stop, reflect and take stock of how successful the year has been. Farmers would - and still do - anxiously check if the harvest would see them and those they cared for through winter. Harvest is also a time for generosity. To stop, reflect, take stock and then to give away and be generous with what we have been given. As Christians we believe that all things are gifts from God and so we should be generous with what we have.

As well as looking back on possessions, this time of year is traditionally the start of a season of remembrance in the Church of England. We stop and reflect on those who we have loved who have sadly died, both in this last year and those for whom we still grieve.

At St Mary's we will be doing this at our Service for Departed Loved Ones on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm. Here we will pray for those grieving and give thanks to God for the lives of our loved ones and the blessings they were on our lives. We will also pray for the strength to carry on. You are welcome to come to this reflective service as we remember together.

In this season of stopping to look back, reflecting on the year so far then moving into action, I wonder what your action will be? Are there things that have happened this year to give thanks for? Things which maybe you would like to do again? People or situations you are grateful for? How might you share the blessings you have this month? These are questions I will be asking myself.

*Rev Dave Edmondson*



Congratulations to Isaac Myers, St Mary's Chorister of the Year. Isaac received the award from the Friends of St Mary's in July (pictured L-R: Rev Dave, Julie Fox, Isaac, Canon Claire Tillotson, Robin Hogg).

### ***Special services and events***

**Sunday 5 October – Harvest Festival**

**10.30am Parade Service**

*followed by lunch (see page 2)*

**Saturday 11 October**

**10.15am Take Time** *(see page 3)*

**Sunday 12 October**

**4.00pm Tea Time Together**

**6.00pm Youth Club**

**Sunday 26 October**

**6.30pm Service for departed loved ones**

*Please see our website for details of our Christmas services*

## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:  
Theo Jefferys 7 Sept

We extend our sympathy to those  
who loved:

### At Rest

Ann Parks

22 Sept

### Interment of Ashes

Janet Whitlock

10 Sept



## Remembering

### Ann Parks

Ann was born in 1946 and grew up in Paddington. She did well at school, after which she was employed by the International Wool Secretariat (IWS) in Pall Mall where she worked as a PA for 25 years. It was a very sociable place to work and she made friendships which lasted many years.

In 1979 she moved to Bromley and later became part of St Mary's congregation, cheerfully participating in its many activities. She became a deputy Church Warden and then Church Warden. Always in church in more than good time, Ann was never without her little notebook and pen: things were to be done 'just so' and to be 'just right'. There was a very orderly mind behind that notebook.

After a long career at IWS, Ann decided to ditch the commuting and work locally. She joined the curtain department in Allders department store in Bromley (where Primark is now), where her people skills made her a gifted saleswoman and customers frequently sought her out to help them. When Allders closed she briefly worked at Primark, but it wasn't quite the right fit for her so she decided to leave the world of work behind her.

Ann embraced her retirement, which opened up new joys for her. She poured her energy into her garden and she travelled widely, enjoying long cruises where she was quick to make new friends. She also gave her time generously to support a friend with fundraising work for Bromley MIND. She had a gift for connecting with people, and as her beloved brother Anthony once said: 'Ann, people are your oxygen'.

Ann had a natural elegance and her Marilyn Monroe-like hair was often commented on. Kind, considerate, helpful and thoughtful, she also loved the finer things in life, often popping up to London for lunch or afternoon tea with friends. She was a very special person and we at St Mary's are grateful for her many years of service and friendship.

## BRING AND SHARE HARVEST LUNCH Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

After 10.30am All Age Parade Service

Bring a dish to share.  
Please sign up at the Parish Office  
or via the QR Code



All are welcome: there will be a donation bar,  
activities and more.

Suggested donation of £5 to the Diocese of Rochester  
Poverty and Hope Appeal

## Our new Deputy Mayor

*We were delighted to hear that Cllr Gemma Turrell, one of the councillors for Shortlands and Park Langley, was chosen as Deputy Mayor for the year 2025/6 by Bromley's Mayor, Cllr Jonathan Andrews. Cllr Turrell kindly shared her thoughts and hopes for her time in the role.*

It's such an honour to have been asked to fulfil this role! My role as Deputy Mayor involves supporting the Mayor with his charitable endeavours, meeting community and voluntary groups and representing the Borough at civic celebrations. As the first citizen of the borough the Mayor is the King's representative in Bromley so as his deputy, this role can sometimes fall to me!

I hope to help to raise funds for the Mayor's chosen charities which are CASPA - a charity providing local support which aims to build a society in which autistic individuals feel understood and empowered - and The Maypole Project - a charity which offers psychological and social support to children and their families with complex medical needs. In my speech when I became Deputy Mayor I said: 'Community makes Bromley special.' This is something I firmly believe and has been proven time and again at every event I have been to.

I really enjoy meeting people and chatting to them. We have so many hardworking residents in Bromley that really want the best for our Borough, so it is a delight to chat and learn from them and most importantly to thank them for the hard work they do to make Bromley so special!

As one of the Councillors for Shortlands and Park Langley I know just how many community events there are in our neck of the woods! Please do feel free to invite the Mayor or myself to an event. You can contact the Mayor's office at [mayorsoffice@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:mayorsoffice@bromley.gov.uk).

**Cllr Gemma Turrell**

### Can you help?

Our Scout Troup which meets on Friday evenings urgently needs adult help for a period of about six months. If you can help please contact Charles Wood (07824 805685) or Rob Howe (07952 123462)

### SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Fair 2 pm – 4pm

Saturday 22 November

In church and church grounds

Fun for all the family!

### Christmas card competition

This year we are looking to have some Christmas cards for sale, designed by our local community. If you would like to submit a design to the competition, please contact the Parish Office (open 10am-12noon weekdays, [office@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:office@stmaryshortlands.church) or 020 8460 5682). The deadline is Monday 13 October: entries are welcome from all ages and abilities.





## Things to look out for in autumn



Autumn is by tradition a season of plenty for humans and wildlife, the hedgerows and woods bursting with berries and seeds of all kinds. However, we have had such a strange summer with serious drought and high temperatures: autumn has started early, leaves are yellowing and falling and ripe berries are on some of the bushes. Others have failed to produce their usual abundance: blackberries have shrivelled for lack of water, and early apples are small and hard.

This will have a knock-on effect on the wildlife that depends on them to provide full bellies before the cold comes and winter comforts when it does. What ripe berries there are will be eaten early and when our winter visitors, the redwings and the fieldfares, come they may find little has been left for them.

Some things don't change: rain, when it comes in quantity, will bring the fungi to our woods in all their bizarre glory. Ivy flowers will provide late nectar for bees, wasps and late butterflies, and ivy berries after Christmas, to the delight of the birds.

If you take a walk in South Hill Wood, or further afield, look for fungi: quite a few different sorts pop up there. Redwings will appear in October and stay for a while if there are the holly berries that they love. The wood doesn't ever fall silent, unless, maybe, it snows.

Autumn and winter bird songs are different. The robin takes centre stage, with a distinctive seasonal song: he also makes that strange ticking call a lot. These are territorial sounds, warning strangers that there is a resident robin and he will defend his space. In autumn large numbers of robins, blackbirds and song thrushes arrive from Scandinavia and Northern Europe, in search of a warmer winter. Our resident birds must work hard to defend their local patch with songs and sharp calls.

*David Linstead*

## RACE NIGHT

**Saturday 11th October**  
**7.00pm for 7.30**  
St Marys Church Hall



Fish and chip supper included  
Drinks available

**Tickets £12.50 each**  
**Available after Sunday services, from the**  
**Community Café or from the Church Office**

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### The McCabe Educational Trust

The McCabe Educational Trust (MET) was set up in 1991 to give structure to support for the Christian communities that travellers meet on pilgrimages with McCabe Travel. Many pilgrims have responded generously and to date the MET has distributed more than £4million in grants.

In the Holy Land, the Trust supports the Jeel al Amal Boys Home in Bethany and the Al Shurooq Blind School in Bethlehem with regular, sustainable grants. Further afield, its partner projects are Dr Graham's Homes in India and Dadhuwa school in Nepal.

Because of the current war, McCabe Travel is not leading pilgrimages to the Holy Land, but it is continuing to support the projects there. St Mary's long support of the Trust is appreciated and they are grateful that it continues in this way.

For more information, visit  
[www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/mccabe-educational-trust](http://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/mccabe-educational-trust) or see the display at the back of church.

### Take time

Christian meditation from 10.15-11.00am on the second Saturday of the month. No knowledge of the Bible or of meditation required - simply a time to be at rest and find peace. Dates for the rest of this year: 11th October, 8th November, 13th December. Please do come, you'd be very welcome.

### Do you love to sing?



Are you interested in meeting new people? Would you like to be part of a successful choir?

If so, St Mary's Choir Shortlands is the choir for you to join. We are a friendly bunch from different backgrounds and have one thing in common: we love to sing.

We have a junior choir which starts from 6 years old, and a thriving adult choir. We meet every Thursday during term time to rehearse from 7-8pm for the juniors and 7.30- 8.30pm for the adults.

We lead the singing for worship every Sunday morning at 10.30am and also have Choral Evensong on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. We also sing at cathedrals around the country and in August 2026 we will be singing at St George's Chapel Windsor.

We get invited to sing at many livery company events in the City of London and provide the music for a charity carol service at St George's Bloomsbury every December. You do not need to be able to read music, just have a passion for singing and for having a laugh! If you feel that this is the choir for you then please contact our director of music, Claire Tillotson at [claire.tillotson@ntlworld.com](mailto:claire.tillotson@ntlworld.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

## The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

Link Parish  
St Francis of  
Assisi, Douai, France



### WORSHIP

**Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion in the church and online at**

[www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands)

**Wednesday Worship 10.00am in the Chapel**

**For more information contact the Parish Office or visit**

[www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

### PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. Dave	07592136421
vicar@stmarysshortlands.church		
Church warden	Mrs G. Sherman	07500751265
Churchwarden	Mr R. Hogg	
robinwarden@stmarysshortlands.church		
Licensed Lay	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Ministers	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. Woolven	8460 5682
Safeguarding	Mrs P. Lambourne	8658 0470
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	
PCC Secretary	Ms. H. Bird	
secretary@stmarysshortlands.church		
Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	

### PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 020 8460 5682

Email: [office@stmarysshortlands.church](mailto: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](mailto:7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com)

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mr O. Swinfin	07758458077
Cubs (Tue)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954437658
Beavers	Mr. T. Nickalls	
	<a href="mailto:thomasnickalls@gmail.com">thomasnickalls@gmail.com</a>	

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Guides (Tue)	Ms. E. Thompson	07910340908
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	<a href="mailto:fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com">fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com</a>	
Rainbows	<a href="mailto:2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com">2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com</a>	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
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	<a href="mailto:Gemma.Turrell@bromley.gov.uk">Gemma.Turrell@bromley.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. F. Bainbridge	<a href="mailto:Felicity.Bainbridge@bromley.gov.uk">Felicity.Bainbridge@bromley.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. A. Grant	<a href="mailto:Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk">Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk</a>
Residents Association	8460 0395
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

### SPAN INFORMATION

Website [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

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