



## St Mary's Shortlands

### News Sheet

From 8th November, 2020

During the current lockdown, starting on Thursday 5th November, there will be no public worship at churches in England for the coming month. However, we are still able to join together in prayer and worship online with a celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays and Morning Prayer said daily through the rest of the week.

The services are streamed live through Facebook but can be watched at a later date/time. Please go to [www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands) or follow the link on the St Mary's website [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk). The relevant orders of service are available by clicking the link that can also be found on the home page of the website.

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Monday to Saturday, 9am Morning Prayer

#### Special services this month

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am – Remembrance Sunday: Communion service with Act of Remembrance

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm – Choral Evensong

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm – Service for Advent Sunday

The Church continues to be open for **private prayer and reflection** from 10am to 3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

#### Pastoral and practical support

A reminder that St Mary's has a team of people available to provide both pastoral and practical support to any members of the congregation and the wider community who may be in self-isolation, unwell or feeling alone at the moment. If we can help in any way, please email Revd Gary, [vicar@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:vicar@stmaryshortlands.church) (020 846 0262)

## Future Generations Fundraising

### Join the Treasure Hunt!

We are holding a virtual Treasure Hunt on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November** at 4.00pm via Zoom. Everyone welcome, including families. We will be scouring our homes for interesting items, and having fun whilst raising much needed funds for our Project. No tickets but a donation per screen to the Fund. All details will be sent to you in advance. To join in please contact Ann-Marie Jefferys (02084606030) or Stephanie Maurel (07564841579).



### And Coming Soon...

From December the Future Generations Fundraising Group will be selling both a St Mary's Recipe Book and Calendar. The **Recipe Book** is full of delicious recipes submitted by members of the congregation both past and present. Perfect for changing up your lockdown weekly menu. The **2021 Calendar** will be full of beautiful photos of the church and reminders of important services, whether in person or live-streamed. Keep your eyes peeled for sale details, coming soon!

### Plans for Advent

An encouraging number of people expressed interest in having discussion groups in response to a recent short survey at church. To build on this, we are planning to organise discussion groups during Advent, linked in with a sermon series based on characters involved in the Nativity. The sermons will be across five Sundays, from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> December, with groups meeting in the week following each sermon. Initially the group meetings will be via Zoom and more details will follow.



### Congratulations

We send our congratulations to Elizabeth Bingham (daughter of Adrian and Catherine) and Saif Bham who were married on 22nd October in Oxford. They are currently living locally in Shortlands.

## The Organ

You may have noticed that we have had some problems with our church organ, including one recent Sunday when the power supply didn't work so it couldn't be played at all. The condition of the organ has been a concern for some time and back in June 2018 our usual organ tuner recommended further work to repair and refurbish it. We now have quotes from two companies who suggest three stages of work which could be spread over a number of years. The PCC has agreed to go ahead with the first stage of the work at a cost of £35,000 using money from the existing repair fund. This includes refurbishing the console, pistons and soundboard and renewing the cabling, and this work will solve the current critical problems. The later stages, which would cost a similar amount, involve restoration of the pedal pipe, manual keyboard and all of the pipes. The timing of these stages and the method of funding will be considered in due course.

## Climbing the O2

Well done to Annabelle and Joseph Leonard who climbed the outside of the O2 Arena Greenwich during the half term holiday, reaching an impressive height of 52m above ground level. They have so far raised almost £850 (£1000 with Gift Aid!) for the Organ Repair Fund, and it is still possible to donate. Congratulations to them – and many thanks to everyone who has donated to the fund.



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Annabelle-Joseph>

## Charity walk/run

Ann-Marie and David Jefferys have been taking part in The Virtual Frontline Walk 2020 which has involved walking or running 100km (or more) since the start of October in memory those who fought in World War I or II, raising money to support the soldiers and veterans of today. Ann-Marie has completed her 100km walk and David aims to complete his 300km run by the 11<sup>th</sup> November, raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund (with matched funding for the Future Generations Project. If you want to support them the donation link is

<https://virtual-frontline-walk-2020.everydayhero.com/uk/david-3>

## APCM

The 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 4th October, having been delayed from March. The Annual Report for 2019 set out many highlights from the year and gave a summary of St Mary's financial position. At the meeting Adolph Williams and Sarah Leonard were re-elected as churchwardens; Keith Mills, Kate Buchanan, Pat Chase and Sue Slaney were elected to the PCC, and Ann-Marie Jefferys, Jan Boam and Glo Sherman to Deanery Synod. The reports can be found at [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk/span/annual-parochial-church-meeting](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk/span/annual-parochial-church-meeting)

## Safeguarding

In recent weeks you may have heard or read about the report on the Anglican Church in relation to child sexual abuse, with the Church found to be negligent in its response to many cases of abuse which took place over many years. Whilst it would be easy to shrug this off as 'historical', the report reminds us that this is not the case and we must all be vigilant in being aware of any form of abuse within the church and within our community. If any of what you have heard or read this week has caused you any anxiety or upset, please contact Kay Coleman, our Safeguarding Officer, who will be able to provide practical and pastoral support. Kay can be contacted on 07879 337567.

## JusB

Some of us may recall the moving talk at St Mary's a few years ago by Ned McWhirter about the vital work of small local youth charity JusB. Their mission is to inspire and enable young people to develop, be confident and value themselves. One of the key aspects of JusB is its building: young people feel safe there, can relax and often call it their second home. They can feel comfortable sharing the key issues in their lives, and can be assured of support and a hot evening meal.

Due to the pandemic the JusB building was closed for five months, though some outdoor activities were organised over the warmer summer months. From the beginning of September JusB opened its doors again for restricted numbers of young people to be helped with their return to school. The centre gives them access to computers, printers and other materials for their studies and also the space to talk to youth workers. Additional information may be found on [www.jusb.co.uk](http://www.jusb.co.uk)

*Susie Shelton*