

Welcome to St. Mary's, the Parish Church of Shortlands

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

We have a hearing loop system in the Church: members of the congregation with hearing aids should switch to 'T' for better reception



10 January Baptism of Christ

Services Today

10.30am	Holy Communion - online only - Reverend Gary Best Address: Reverend Gary Best The New Testament reading will be: Acts 19:1-7 read by Reverend Gary Best Intercessions: Reverend Gary Best Gospel: Reverend Gary Best
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Services and Events this week

Mon 11 Jan	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Tue 12 Jan	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Wed 13 Jan	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Thu 14 Jan	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only
Fri 15 Jan	9.00am	Morning Prayer - live streamed only

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 17 January	10.30am	Holy Communion - online only - Reverend Gary Best
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

With immediate effect, there is a temporary suspension of communal church services at St. Mary's. This decision has not been taken lightly, but with the serious increase of national and local covid cases, we believe it is the right decision in consideration of the health, safety and welfare of everyone who might attend church services.

This decision will be reviewed on a regular basis.

The church will remain open for private prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 10am-3pm.

All church services will be streamed online, with a Holy Communion Service on Sundays at 10.30am, available through our website or our Facebook page.

Baptism of Christ

Gospel

Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the
Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your
adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

New Testament Reading

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as
Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastoral, Practical and Spiritual Support

At this time of heightened anxiety over the local and national covid situation, St. Mary's Church is here to help in whatever way we can, offering pastoral, practical or spiritual support to anyone who might be in need.

We can arrange for regular telephone calls to be made to individuals, along with assistance with essential shopping. It may

be that you would like the church to be praying for you or for friends and family, please let us know.

Whatever support can be provided, the team at St. Mary's will do our very best to help during these challenging times.

Please contact Revd Gary Best -
07493 072 695 - or visit:
www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Church ...

Tonbridge Archdeaconry. The Venerable Julie Conalty, Archdeacon.
Crockham Hill, Holy Trinity. Vicar: The Rev Sue Diggor.
Edenbridge, St Peter and St Paul. Vicar: The Rev Dr Stephen Mitchell.
Hever, St Peter, Four Elms, St Paul, and Mark Beech, Holy Trinity. Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Simon Braid.
Hildenborough, St John the Evangelist. Vicar: The Rev Tim Saiset.
Leigh, St Mary. Vicar: The Rev Lionel Kevis.
Penshurst, St John the Baptist and Fordcombe, St Peter.

The World ...

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Our Mission of the Month for January is:

The Leprosy Mission

There is a display at the back of the Church.
Five per cent of our giving will support the work of this mission, and additional gifts may be given through the plate by the display.

The Community ...

For the Missionary Societies of the Church, especially those supported by St. Mary's, and our Mission of the Month.
For the care of our Church and hall. Cleaners, gardeners and flower arrangers. That all may be done to the glory of God.
For St. Mary's Pre-School; for Christine Hall, its Leader, Erin Hayes Deputy Leader, the staff and the children.
For those to be baptised, confirmed and married this year.
For Schools in the Parish; Highfield Infants' and Junior School and Head Teacher Alison Morris; Bishop Challoner and Head Teacher Paula Anderson; Harris Primary Academy and Principal Hannah Tryl, for School Governors & Staff.
For our Link Parish in Douai, and the people of St. Francis of Assisi.
For Sunday worship at St. Mary's. For the discernment of vocation in our church family.

The Sick ...

For all who are unwell, including Jean Osbourne; Ann Swatton: Sally Aldred; Melanie Jones; Joan Austen; Paul Corben; Ann Gramlich.
For all those who bring their prayers to our Church.

The Departed ...

For those who have recently died including Barbara Skinner; Roland Dannan; and all who mourn.
We also remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week at this time: Reginald Clarke; Starkey Sme; Freddie Portwine; Linda Mills; John Knight; David Watson; Dorothy & Arthur Clift; Norman Parr; Marjorie Johnson; Roy Dalton; Bob German; Connie Barter.

NOTICES

Church will be open for private prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10am - 3pm.

- ◆ **Morning Prayer** – If you would like to participate in leading Morning Prayer on a one-off or regular basis, please contact Revd Gary to discuss further.
- ◆ **To raise funds for the Future Generation's project** - 2021 St Mary's calendars and a St Mary's congregation recipe book have been developed. They will be for sale after the 10.30 service at a cost of £6 each and 2 for £10. If you cannot be present please email rachael.bratt@gmail.com to order one and we will arrange to get it to you.
- ◆ **Mission beyond the Parish** – letters for charity reps are now ready for collection from the letter rack at the back of church.
- ◆ **Traidcraft** - If you wish to make an order from Traidcraft please contact Cecilia on 0208 313 0246 or (07511) 885 941. She can deliver you a catalogue, or you can visit the Traidcraft website, and then give her your order. Traidcraft is carrying on its vital work supporting some of the most vulnerable producers around the world. Some catalogues shall also be left in church.
- ◆ **Calligrapher** - we are looking to find a talented calligrapher who would be able to enter names into our Book of Remembrance and onto various record boards that we have in church, as and when required. (There is a small remuneration for entries into the Book of Remembrance). If you think that you can help us find someone for this task then please do



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



Thank you to all of our donors
for your amazing support,
especially in this current
Situation.



The following items are in particular need at
present:

**TINNED VEGETABLES (particularly
CARROTS); LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
(URGENT); UHT MILK (URGENT); DESSERTS;
COLD MEAT; SHAVING GEL/RAZORS**

A reminder that we cannot receive fresh or chilled
goods - **ONLY LONG LIFE FOOD.**

For information please contact Vici Nightingale.



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'.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Parish Office

CLOSED

office@stmarysshortlands.church

Tel: Please call the Vicarage office

Revd. Gary Best (*day off MONDAY*)

vicar@stmarysshortlands.church

Vicarage office tel: 020 8460 0262

Curate - Revd. Beverley Ejimofe

(*Working days Tue, Wed and Sun*)

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