



St Mary's Shortlands

News Sheet for February 2022

Please take a copy of this News Sheet home with you

Sunday worship in church

Sunday 10.30am Family Communion with Junior Church
followed by refreshments

To note

Sunday 20th February

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 2nd March - Ash Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion
8.00pm Holy Communion with Ashing

Sunday 6th March

4pm-5.30pm Tea Time Together for children and families

Sunday 13th March

6.30pm Informal Worship led by the Music Group

Weekday services in the Millennium Chapel

Monday 5pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 10am Holy Communion (Said)

Services that are live-streamed only (*but not week of 14-19 February*)

Monday to Saturday, 9am Morning Prayer
Wednesday, 8.30pm Compline

Our Sunday services are streamed for those who are unable to attend in person. Please go to www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands or follow the link on our website www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk.

Lent

We are now fast approaching Lent, with Ash Wednesday on 2nd March. Lent is a period of self-reflection for Christians, often with a renewed commitment to prayer and study. Here at St Mary's we are planning to run a Lent course, with weekly meetings over the five weeks from w/c 7th March through to Palm Sunday. There will be daytime and evening sessions offered, with small groups meeting together either in church rooms or homes. Further details and sign-up sheets will be available soon. Please do join a group if you are able to.

Over the next few weeks we will be displaying a selection of books from our church library that might be of interest to borrow for Lent reading and study. Many of these consist of daily readings and reflections. We will also be ordering copies of this year's BRF Lent book: *Sally Walsh – Sharing the Easter Story*, perhaps at a small discount (cover price £8.99). Please sign the list in the church porch by Sunday 20th February.

Please come and join us on **Wednesday 23rd February**,

From 11am to 1pm at the Community Café

for a **BIG BREW**

to celebrate **Fairtrade Fortnight**

In addition to the usual lovely home-made cakes using Fairtrade ingredients, and Fairtrade tea and coffee, there will be a quiz to find out more about how Fairtrade works.

Delicious Divine chocolate tasting; Raffle for a hamper of Fairtrade goodies; and a chance to look and buy from our Fairtrade stall.

Looking forward to seeing you then - Cecilia

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 4th March. Services are held throughout the world using the same prayers and readings, so that there is a wave of prayer around the globe and across time zones. This year the theme is "I know the plans I have for you" and the material has been prepared by the National Committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. At the moment we have no further details about local or streamed services.

Douai Link

The 25th anniversary of our Jumelage/Twinning with the Parish of St Francis of Assisi in Douai, Northern France needs celebrating, albeit with a 2 year delay thanks to Covid! Our French friends were due to come to Shortlands for the anniversary in 2020, but sadly Brexit rules demanding a full passport prevent this. Most French people only have a Carte d'Identité/ID card which allows them to travel to many other countries.

So we are planning to visit them in Douai on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend 30th April to 1st May. They are offering home hospitality overnight, but there is also a local hotel as an alternative if anyone feels nervous of staying in someone's home. To participate, you need to have been fully vaccinated and to test negative just before the trip.

It would be lovely to take a good number of people on what, sadly, could end up being the last exchange visit with our French friends. Our 27 year link with a Catholic parish is a unique ecumenical achievement which needs celebrating! Please contact Gill Dawson if you would like to be part of this: email: gill@gill.dawson.name; Text or WhatsApp: 07767-365318

AV System

A big thank you to Adolph Williams and James Hollingdale for all they do to ensure our Sunday services can be live-streamed. We all benefit from their expertise, whether worshipping in church or at home, and appreciate the amount of time that they commit to this important job. Hopefully they don't feel too forgotten, hidden away in the side aisle.

We urgently need to expand the AV team as it is such a big commitment to cover Sunday services and also occasional weekday services. Do you know of anyone who might be interested to help, even on an occasional basis? It might suit a young person who wants to gain a useful skill, and full training would be given. For more information please speak to one of the operators or mention to one of the churchwardens.

Job opportunity

The Church building is now being used for more Church and community activities, which involves moving chairs and tables to prepare for events and services. We are looking for someone who could do this job for us on a paid basis. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please speak to the Treasurer, Tim Dawson or email treasurer@stmaryshortlands.church.

Calendar for St Mary's

Wed. 23rd February	11am to 1pm Fairtrade Big Brew
Wed. 2nd March	Ash Wednesday
Wed. 16th March	PCC Meeting
Sun. 27th March	Mothering Sunday
Fri. 15th April	Good Friday
Sun. 17th April	Easter Day
Sun. 8th May	Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Bromley Homeless Shelter

We are now collecting items for starter packs for homeless people in the Bromley area who have been found accommodation. During 2021 the scheme distributed 132 packs to individuals and families, so the need is substantial. Items needed include: **Bedding** - duvet cover, pillow case, fitted or flat sheets (single or double, not king size); **Bathroom** - bath and hand towels, face cloth, toothbrush & paste, soap, shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, toilet rolls, razor & shaving foam, other toiletries; **Kitchen** - crockery, saucepans, cutlery, utensils, other laundry and household items. **Financial contributions** would also be welcome.

There is a box for donations in the church porch or speak with Elizabeth Barnes (020 8658 7504). Please see the leaflet in the porch for more details or visit <https://bromleystarterpacks.weebly.com/>

Police Encounter Panels

South Area Police are looking for members of the public to form a panel in each of the boroughs, including Bromley. The panels are being created to give people the opportunity to provide feedback on policing encounters from their neighbourhoods by watching Body Worn video (BWV) footage and offering their views on what went well or what the Met can improve. If you are over 18 and live, work, or have strong links to the borough and would like to get involved, or simply find out more, please email PolicingEncounters.SouthArea@met.police.uk

Please send any items for inclusion in the news sheet to Kate Buchanan kateinww@btinternet.com. Thank you.