



St Mary's Shortlands

News Sheet for November 2021

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Sunday worship in church

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion *with Junior Church*
followed by refreshments at the back of church

This month

Sunday 7th November

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

Sunday 14th November – Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Family Communion and Parade Service *with*
Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial from 10.45

Sunday 28th November

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 5th December

4.00pm Taizé Service

Weekday services in the Millennium Chapel

Monday 5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion

Services that are live-streamed only

Monday to Saturday, 9am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, 8.30pm Compline

The Church is open every day for private prayer and reflection.

10am-2pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday (Chapel),

Friday & Saturday; 10am-12noon on Tuesday.

Future Generations Project

The proposal to replace the heating system in church and to allow more flexible use of the space was presented to the congregation on Sunday 17th October. The plans are summarised in a booklet available in church, with further information and illustrations on the display board. The proposal will be discussed at the PCC meeting on 24th November and, if approved, the Project Group can then move forward to more detailed planning, including discussion of the flooring material and seating. If you have any comments or queries about the plan, please speak to Revd Gary, one of the churchwardens or a member of the project team (listed in the booklet).

Choir News

The choir is going from strength to strength. We have now been joined by the Myers family, with Isaac and Freya in the junior choir, mum Cathy singing soprano and dad Craig singing Tenor. We admitted Anna and Stas into the choir in October giving us 8 juniors. We are so blessed! There is lots to look forward to. We have Advent carols on 28th November, Taizé service joint with the music group on 5th December, the ABCD Carol concert at St George's Bloomsbury on 10th December and then Nine Lessons and Carols before Christmas. Thank you to everyone at St Mary's for all your support. *Claire*

Bible Reading Fellowship Centenary

Many will be familiar with BRF through their daily Bible reading notes and Christian books. In 2022, BRF is celebrating its centenary with a 400 page hardback book with 365 reflections; one for each day of the year written by 'BRF authors, supporters and well-wishers'. The reflections cover the breadth of both the Old and New Testaments, Advent and Lent material and the Five Marks of Mission. It would make a nice resource or Christmas present. It retails for £14.99, but I can get discounted copies for £11.25. If you want to take advantage of the discount, please let me know by the end of November at stuartinww@btinternet.com *Stuart Buchanan*

Gardening and Clearing

Advance notice that there will be a gardening morning and leaf clearing in the grounds on Saturday 11th December from 9am, to make things tidy for the Christmas period. All are welcome

Taizé

On Sunday 5th December at 4pm there will be a Taizé service at St Mary's. Taizé worship is best known for its songs with simple phrases sung repetitively, together with readings, informal prayer and periods of silence. The sanctuary will be candle-lit and the singing will be accompanied mainly by guitar and flute. This is an opportunity for peaceful reflection as we move into the busy Christmas season.

Eco-Church

This month, as the United Nations COP26 climate change conference takes place in Glasgow, it seems an appropriate time for St Mary's to look again at how we could reduce our carbon footprint. Before the Covid pandemic a small group of people started to explore what was needed to embark on the Eco-Church scheme. The vision of the scheme is to support churches to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. There are different stages of Eco-Church accreditation, and many churches have taken up the challenge to gain the first level Bronze award. If you would like to be involved in a group to work on this at St Mary's, please contact Rachael Bratt: rachael.bratt@gmail.com

Harvest

It was wonderful to see the church so beautifully decorated and to welcome so many people to our Harvest all-age parade service on 10th October. The children helped Revd. Gary to explore where different foods came from and also led us in singing the Harvest Samba. The gifts of food brought to the service were donated to the Bromley Foodbank. Afterwards, about 80 people sat down to a bring-and-share lunch in the café area at the back of church. They enjoyed a selection of delicious foods and the chance to spend time together. and the event also raised £330 for the Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal. A big thank-you to Gill Dawson for organising the meal.

Christmas Fair

Do come along and join the fun at our Christmas Fair on Saturday 27th November, 2pm to 4pm in the Church and grounds.. Community café and carol singing in the church. Stall holders would welcome donations of gifts and toiletries, cakes and produce, full bottles (for the bottle tombola) and raffle prizes, which can be left in the Parish Office on weekday mornings or at church on Sunday mornings.

Family news

We are delighted to welcome two new babies to the St Mary's family. Congratulations to Mahshid and Amin on the birth of their son Nutrika on 31st August, and also to Natalie and Christopher (son of Suzie and Stephen Evans) on the birth of Arthur William on 12th October.

It was lovely to see Thomas and Christina Braithwaite with Samuel (now aged 2) at the harvest service at St Mary's, while on a visit from the United States to see all four grandparents here in Shortlands.

People

I recently met up with Revd John Ilson who is a long time friend of St Mary's, having officiated here many times over the years. He and his wife Joyce now live in Malvern, but were in the Bromley area to attend the AGM of the Bromley and District Talking News. John was a BDTN volunteer for more than 13 years, and was made a life member and presented with a certificate by the Mayor of Bromley. John sent his and Joyce's greetings to all those who remember him at St Mary's.

Susie Shelton

Help needed

Do you have a couple of hours a week spare to help a charity? The Bromley and District Talking News (BDTN), which has been running for more than 30 years, provides a digest of news and interesting articles for the visually impaired in our area. On Fridays a team meets at around 8am to pack the USB memory sticks that have been loaded with the week's news into special wallets. On Wednesdays a team meets around 9am to unload the wallets from Royal Mail sacks and empty them of the USB sticks. There are also some other duties. Please contact Susie Shelton on 020 8402 3299 for further details.

Diary Dates

Wed 24 th November	PCC Meeting
Sat 27 th November, 2-4pm	St Mary's Christmas Fair, in the Church and Grounds
Sun 12 th December, 4.00pm	Christingle Service
Sun 19 th December, 6.30pm	Carol Service

Please send any items for the next news sheet to Kate Buchanan kateinww@btinternet.com by Sunday 28th November. Thank you.