

St Mary's Shortlands

News Sheet for July / August 2022

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Sunday worship

Sunday 10.30am Family Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 17th July

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 24th July

10.30pm Family Communion, with focus on Mission and the Future Generations Project

During July there is a sermon series on
St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

The last Junior Church session of this term is on Sunday 17th July.
Next term starts on Sunday 11th September.

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.

Weekday services

Monday to Thursday, 9am Morning Prayer

Monday 5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion (*in the Chapel*)

Choir News

The Choir will be singing in Peterborough Cathedral over the weekend of 30/31 July. This includes Evensong at 5.30pm on Saturday 30th and then three services on Sunday 31st - 9.15am Matins, 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist and 3.30pm Evensong. We look forward to hearing some of the music at our services here.

Welcome to Rev Jane

Back in June we officially welcomed Rev. Jane Kustner as Priest-in-Charge at St Mary's at her licensing by the Ven. Katrina Barnes, the Interim Archdeacon. We are delighted that Jane has accepted this post and can continue to be with us for the next 18 months or so.

As Priest-in-Charge Jane has the same duties and responsibilities as any incumbent here, albeit for a limited period. As well as being responsible for services, including occasional services such as Baptisms and Funerals, she is responsible for pastoral and spiritual care of parishioners and the instruction of children, and is chair of the Parochial Church Council. In undertaking this role, Jane is committed to working closely with the Ministry and Pastoral Teams and other officers of the Church.

During Jane's ministry here, the PCC will also be following the usual process to find our next Vicar. This process starts with compiling a Parish profile, which is a review of where we are now as a Church within the community of Shortlands and also of our vision and hopes for the next few years. The PCC has appointed a small team to oversee this work and they will take time to engage with various groups within the church and community in drawing this document together. Further details will follow in the autumn.

Study Groups

Over the last few months, two new daytime Bible Study groups have started at St Mary's, building on the groups that came together for the Lent Course. The Wednesday group meets from 11.15 to 12.30 and is studying the Gospel of Mark, led by Rev Jane K. The Thursday group meets from 2 to 3.30pm and is studying the Acts of the Apostles, led by Stuart Buchanan. Both groups meet in Church House and are open to new members.

Spotlight on the Mobility Class

The Mobility Class at St Mary's recently featured in a video prepared by Rochester Diocese for Sport Sunday, giving examples of how churches can encourage exercise as an aid to health and well-being. The class is run by Jan Boam and meets on Tuesday afternoons. Do contact Jan for more details. An article about the group and a short video can be found at <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/news/mobility-classes-at-st-mary-shortlands.php>

Future Generations Project - Update

The recent seating survey provided an indicator of preferences for the type of chairs in the church and, together with the extra comments that were written, gives the PCC vital information about the views of the congregation. These views are being considered very seriously.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), which oversees reordering projects in church buildings, will be visiting St Mary's on Monday 18 July. Rev Jane, Tim and Marion will be part of the team meeting with them. The DAC will take a broad look at the church and our vision for the future as well as the detail of the reordering project; they will also take the opportunity to review the general condition of the buildings and offer advice on their maintenance and development. We are moving into the next phase of the project and it is our fervent desire to bring our congregation and parish along with us on the journey

Children's Work

Junior Church continues to meet on Sunday mornings, with a small core group of children who enjoy exploring Bible teaching in creative ways. In addition, Tea Time Together continues to attract a number of families with young children to St Mary's, once a month on a Sunday afternoon. The sessions focus on a Bible story, often told with puppets, and build on the chosen theme through music and dance, creative activities and games. The activities and the drinks and cakes are always much enjoyed. Meanwhile Rachel and Lynsey, with a small group of helpers, have started a monthly Youth Club based at St Mary's. The club is proving to be very popular, with 15 or more youngsters coming to each of the first three sessions.

With so many activities going on, Rachel would be grateful for any offers of help with either Junior Church (Sunday mornings) or Youth Club (6 to 7.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month). Helping with Junior Church would involve two Sunday mornings per term (6 a year) and youth club would be once every 3 months, depending how many people volunteer. Further details from Rachel: racheltilotson3@gmail.com

Diocesan News

The new Bishop of Rochester is to be the Rt. Rev Dr Jonathan Gibbs, currently Bishop of Huddersfield in the Diocese of Leeds. He will be the 108th Bishop of Rochester, entering into a history that goes back to the 7th Century. There will be a service at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 24 September to mark the beginning of Bishop Jonathan's ministry here. We are asked to hold the Bishop and his family in our prayers.

Family News

An arrival. Congratulations to Christina and Tom Braithwaite on the birth of Daisy Amelia, born on 27 April, a sister for Sam.

A farewell. On Sunday 10 July we said and sang farewell to Hazel and Graham Leech who will soon be moving to Bath. Both have contributed in many ways to our fellowship at St Mary's, not least through Graham's role as leader of the Music Group. We wish them well in this next phase of their lives.

Congratulations to Stephanie Maurel, who recently completed the two year course for the Bishop's Certificate in Christian Ministry from the Diocese of Rochester, and is now licensed to preach at St Mary's.

Food Banks

At St Mary's we regularly support the Bromley Foodbank run by the Trussell Trust, and donations of non-perishable food and also toiletries can be left in the boxes in the south porch. We have recently been notified of a match-funding appeal for monetary donations to the Living Well, a community hub and foodbank at Holy Trinity Penge, which is a church in our Deanery. Individual donations made by 5 August will be matched by a similar donation from the National Emergencies Trust. Further details at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/cost-of-living>

Calendar for St Mary's

- Sun. 11th September 4pm-5.30pm Tea Time Together
6pm-7.30pm Youth Club
- Sat. 24th September 1pm Concert by Accerfella Barbershop Choir
- Sun. 9th October Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch
4pm-5.30pm Tea Time Together
6pm-7.30pm Youth Club
- Sun. 13th November Remembrance Sunday

Now that we are in a more stable period at St Mary's we intend to return to having a monthly News Sheet. Please send any news or diary dates to kateinww@btinternet.com.

Items for the September News Sheet are needed by
Wednesday 24 August. Thank you.