

## 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



## 21 February First Sunday of Lent

Services Today		
10.30am		<b>Service of the Word - online only</b> - David and Ann-Marie Jefferys <b>The New Testament reading will be:</b> 1 Peter 3:18-22 read by David and Ann-Marie Jefferys <b>Intercessions:</b> David and Ann-Marie Jefferys
6.30pm		<b>Songs of Praise - online only</b>
Services and Events this week		
Mon 22 Feb	9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only
Tue 23 Feb	9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only
Wed 24 Feb	9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only
	8.30pm	<b>Compline</b> - live streamed only
Thu 25 Feb	9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only
Fri 26 Feb	9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only
Sat 27 Feb	9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> - live streamed only
Second Sunday of Lent		
Sunday 28 February	10.30am	<b>Holy Communion - online only</b> - Reverend Gary Best

### 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.

## First Sunday of Lent

### Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty  
days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without  
sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in  
obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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

#### 1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for  
all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in  
order to bring you to God. He was put to  
death in the flesh, but made alive in the  
spirit, in which also he went and made a  
proclamation to the spirits in prison, who  
in former times did not obey, when God  
waited patiently in the days of Noah,  
during the building of the ark, in which a  
few, that is, eight persons, were saved  
through water. And baptism, which this  
prefigured, now saves you—not as a  
removal of dirt from the body, but as an  
appeal to God for a good conscience,  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
who has gone into heaven and is at the  
right hand of God, with angels,  
authorities, and powers made subject to  
him.

### Gospel

#### Mark 1:9-15

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."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out  
into the wilderness. He was in the  
wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan;  
and he was with the wild beasts; and the  
angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus  
came to Galilee, proclaiming the good  
news of God, and saying, "The time is  
fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has  
come near; repent, and believe in the  
good news."

### Post Communion

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living  
bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is  
the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



### 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.

***Please remember in your prayers this week...***

**The Church ...**

**Poverty Sunday**

For all the food banks and shelter projects across the diocese, and for those working to end economic injustices

**Bromley Common, St Augustine with St Luke**

Vicar: The Rev Steve Spencer

**Bromley, St Andrew**

Vicar: The Rev Julie Bowen

**Bromley, St John the Evangelist**

Vicar: The Rev Andrew McClellan

**Bromley, St Mary**

Vicar: The Rev Alan Keeler

**Bromley, St Mark**

Vicar: The Rev Canon Victoria Pask

**Bromley, St Peter and St Paul**

Vicar: The Rev James Harratt

**The Community ...**

**For** Reverend Jane Peters; Catherine Bingham, Sally Aldred, Ann-Marie Jefferys and David Jefferys, our Licensed Lay Ministers; Peter Stotesbury and Stuart Buchanan our Readers. Sue Harrison, Marion Westropp and Debbie Speller our Pastoral Assistants.

**For** The Friends of St. Mary's and the 2WWs Group.

**For** peace in the Holy Land, Syria and other troubled areas of the world.

**For** Welcare in Bromley

**For** the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

**For** Bromley Churches' Housing Association, and for all homeless people and asylum seekers.

**For** family life, those facing stress, unemployment and retirement. For single parents and the bereaved.

**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.

**The Sick ...**

**For** all who are unwell, including Sally Aldred; Melanie Jones; Joan Austen; Paul Corben; Ann Gramlich; Gill Humar; Ron Nowell; Gwilym Davies.

**For** all those who bring their prayers to our Church.

**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](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands)

**The Departed ...**

**For** those who have recently died including Mike Ring; Eilidh Ramsden and all who mourn.

**We** also remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week at this time: Joan Matheson; Toby Heayberd; Linda Agar; Cecil Arnold; Leonard Lyle; Percy Simes; Tom Fox; Hannah Fearnside-Speed; Gordon Forsyth; Stanley Dodman.

Our Mission of the Month for February is:

**Demelza Hospice Care  
for Children**

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.

## NOTICES

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

- ◆ **Revd Gary will be on annual leave**, 15th February—22nd February inclusive, returning to duties on 23rd February. For all urgent matters, please contact the Churchwardens—Adolph Williams on 07914 343 495; Sarah Leonard on 07725 313 432.
- ◆ **Songs of Praise** will take place on Sunday 21st February at 6.30pm. The service will be live-streamed through Facebook.
- ◆ **Traidcraft** - If you wish to make an order from Traidcraft please contact Cecilia on 020 8313 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.
- ◆ **Lent Lending Library** - if you are looking for some reading for Lent, a lending library has been set up at the back of the church, offering a range of books for Lent. These can be accessed when the church is open for private prayer and reflection.

**AMAZON SMILE**—If you are shopping on Amazon you can now donate to St Mary's by using Amazon Smile. Go into Amazon on [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and search for "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Shortlands". The church will receive 0.5% on eligible purchases at no extra cost to you. The direct link is <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1130802-0>

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:

**TOILET PAPER; UHT MILK; TINNED POTATOES; TINNED FRUIT.**

**All donations gratefully received**

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

For information please contact Vici Nightingale.



### **Lent Course 2021**

#### **'Opening the Scriptures: Setting our Hearts of Fire'**

The course begins on  
Tuesday February 23rd at 8pm;  
Wednesday February 24th at 2pm,  
continuing for five weeks.

The course will be held via Zoom,  
so please contact the parish office for a  
Zoom link and for further information.

[office@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:office@stmaryshortlands.church)



#### **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.stmaryshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk)

#### **Parish Office**

CLOSED

[office@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:office@stmaryshortlands.church)

Tel: Please call the Vicarage office

#### **Revd. Gary Best (day off MONDAY)**

[vicar@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:vicar@stmaryshortlands.church)

Vicarage office tel: 020 8460 0262

#### **Curate - Revd. Beverley Ejimofe**

(Working days Tue, Wed and Sun)

[curate@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:curate@stmaryshortlands.church)

Tel: 0772 621 7571