

SHORTLANDS GIRL OFF TO THE OLYMPICS!

The community of Shortlands is celebrating the selection of 16 year old Hannah Dempsey for a swimming team which will take part in the United Kingdom Special Olympics in Glasgow in July 2005.

Hannah, who attended the Glebe School in West Wickham and recently moved to the Sixth Form Marjorie McClure School, started swimming when she was two years old. She will be representing the Sharks Swimming Club, which exists for people with physical disabilities and special learning needs.

Hannah was also selected for the athletics squad, but was only allowed to take part in one sport, and chose swimming. She has over 30 medals for swimming, athletics and football, as well as some impressive sporting trophies.

Shortlands residents will have the opportunity to sponsor Hannah, and when details are known, they will be published in SPAN.



Special services

Sunday, 26th September

6.30pm Friends of St. Mary's
Annual Service of
Choral Evensong
Preacher: The Vicar
Prayers led by Paul
Baker
Responses: Sanders,
Setting: Sumsion in A,
Anthem: I saw a
maiden (traditional)
Musical direction: Ian
Brentnall

Sunday, 3rd October Harvest Festival

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family and Parade
Service, followed by
the Harvest Lunch and
entertainment in the
Church Hall.
*Tickets for the lunch will
be available at the
beginning of September
from the Parish Office or
after Sunday Services.*
Adults: £6, children: £3,
Family ticket: £15.
6.30pm Evening Service
(Common Worship)

BACK FROM IRAQ

Scott Roughley, who recently returned from serving in the Army in Baghdad, came to St. Mary's, Shortlands in mid June with his wife Vicky for a Service of Prayer and Dedication for their marriage.

Scott and Vicky had planned to marry in June, but as Scott was called up, the Vicar, Canon Paul Miller, hastily arranged at their request a private marriage ceremony in early January, in order that they could be married before Scott faced the dangers of Iraq.

In order to allow family and friends to be part of their happy occasion, a service was arranged in which Scott and Vicky renewed their marriage vows and sang the hymns they had wanted to include in the

service when first making their wedding plans.

"I have known Vicky for some time," Canon Miller told Span, "and it was a tough time for her whilst Scott served in Iraq. There was the fear for Scott's safety at the beginning of their marriage, when, like any newly married couple, they wanted to be together.

We owe people like Scott our gratitude, especially as there were huge doubts amongst many of us about the moral case for the war in the first place."

Scott and Vicky will soon be moving to a new posting at Catterick Garrison in Yorkshire, and take with them the good wishes of their friends in Shortlands.





People of the Parish

Robert Barnes

Although born in Tavistock, Devon, Robert's roots are very much in Bromley, and it is here that he has lived for much of his life. Formal education



started at Raglan Road Primary School, and then at Bromley Grammar School, where an interest in design and construction developed. This was to become Robert's 'field' for his working life.

After gaining his degree in Chemical Engineering, initial experience with Courtaulds was followed by a move to petrochemical plant contractors. This led to work in East Germany and Romania during the Communist era. "Living there was hard," said Robert, "but a great experience."

Back in Bromley, whilst playing tennis, Robert met Elizabeth; they married in 1974 and had two children, Helen and Clare. Following a two year spell working in West Germany the family returned to Beckenham, and Robert joined Shell to work on the design and construction of oil and gas platforms. This involved frequent offshore visits, which required passing a survival course, including escape from a submerged helicopter body and the use of breathing apparatus to get out of a smoke filled tunnel - Robert survived!!

In retirement Robert has been kept busy, taking up sailing and now owning his own boat 'Tarka'. He also joined the Beckenham Rotary Club, and has become a member of the Premises Committee of St. Mary's Church. Like many others, Robert now wonders how he ever found time to go to work!

CONFIRMATION

There will be a Confirmation Service at St. Mary's on Sunday, January 16th at 10.30am. If you would like to be confirmed, or hear more about confirmation, please speak to the Vicar or Nick Cryan, the Youth Minister.

Herber Plants

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'STAN THE MAN'!

Stan Clark is a familiar face at St. Mary's, Shortlands, seen by many when he is on Sidesman's duty during Sunday Services.

He is even more often seen, however, at the top of a very tall ladder, at the bottom of a (possibly very smelly!) drain or somewhere in between the two as he goes about his various jobs in and around the church buildings, fixing and maintaining everything from wobbly window frames to blown light bulbs. He is often greeted with a slight frown, accompanied by the words "there seems to be a problem with", "could you see if you can fix ..." or "have you any idea how to ..."

Stan's association with St. Mary's began almost 50 years ago, and his

late wife Margaret was Assistant Organist with St. Mary's for over 40 years. The choir library contains some of her compositions.

Margaret died in 1992, but Stan's efforts on behalf of the church continue as strongly as ever. Stan was a founder member of the Premises Committee, and visits the church almost daily to check that things are in good working order, and to fix them if they aren't! Known as 'Stan the Man', his name is the one that comes immediately to mind when any little adjustment or odd-job becomes necessary - one of the unsung heroes who generously gives his time to help keep St. Mary's in good working order.

Thank you Stan.



Major Refurbishments at St. Mary's

Major refurbishment work is to begin on July 19th in the halls, toilets and kitchen of St. Mary's Church Hall.

Due to a very generous legacy from the late Phyllis Smith, the Parochial Church Council has committed itself to completely renewing the existing kitchen, refurbishing the existing toilets and installing for the disabled a toilet and lift ramp which will comply with the Disability Act.

The hall, which has massive use

within the community, is long overdue for an update in these key areas, and the inclusion of an industrial dish-washer and oven will provide an attractive facility for existing groups using the hall and those wishing to hire it in the future. Major electrical update work is also being carried out.

The works are due for completion by the end of August. Any enquiries about hiring the hall should be made to the Parish Office.



Dear SPAN

Kingswood Avenue

Dear All,

It is almost two years since you last received a written report on the progress of Matthew. However, quite a number of you have seen him at the monthly Family Services and have noticed how he has progressed and developed into the lovely little boy that he is. He will be two years old on 27th July.

I should like to take this opportunity of bringing you all up to

date, and advising you of what he is to undergo in the next two months.

He recently had an MRI scan for the consultants to consider what the next stages should be, and he is due to go into Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in mid-July for pre-surgery assessment following which, in mid-August, he will undergo major surgery for reconstruction of the pulmonary arteries.

We will keep you advised of his progress, and we very much appreciate your continued prayers and support for Matthew. Thank you again. With love to you all.
The Swatton Family.

THANK YOU!

We acknowledge with gratitude recent generous donations to enable us to purchase a new Banner in memory of Bram Waring given by Grace Waring, a new Paten for Holy Communion in memory of Win Vickers given by Brenda Vickers, an additional Home Communion Set and an electronic keyboard, both given anonymously.

We are grateful to receive these gifts to enrich the life and worship of the Church, and we commend the givers' example to all.

There will be a special preview of **Children of a Lesser God** by Mark Medoff

at the Bromley Little Theatre at 7.45pm, Thursday, Sept. 9th, All proceeds to Demelza House.

Tickets at £6 available from Tricia White on 8460 9357 or Shirley Broughton on 8460 1053.

HEAR HEAR!

There is a need to upgrade the amplifier in St. Mary's Church to improve the performance of the induction loop for the hard of hearing.

St. Mary's is a large church, and there are many occasions when those with hearing difficulties benefit from an efficient loop system.

As the church has not budgeted for this, we are unable to effect this improvement this year. We shall ask for it to be included in next year's budget, but if anyone would like to make a contribution which will help us to put this necessary improvement in hand more immediately, then please contact the Parish Office directly. Thank you.

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Congratulations Paul ...



Paul Chase, a server at St. Mary's since 1995 and head server between 1999 and 2001, has recently graduated with a BA, First Class in

Geography from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

During his time there he also served at Holy Trinity, Aberystwyth, a church in particular need of servers, having lost theirs to universities elsewhere! In September, Paul will commence a one year MSc. in Transport Planning at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Transport Planning is a diverse subject area requiring knowledge of transport economics, engineering and policy. Paul hopes that this course will provide the necessary training for a career in this field, in which there is a recognised national skills shortage.

Congratulations Paul, and very good wishes for the future from all at St. Mary's.

ATHENS COMES TO CUDHAM!



The Olympics started early when over 80 Brownies, Rainbows and leaders descended on Cudham bearing flags from Hawaii, Holland, Australia, France, New Zealand and the USA.

Waiting to greet them were Greeks wearing togas (Tuesday Guides) and Japanese, some in kimonos and all waving flags (Friday Guides)!

The Guides were camping for the weekend, and once the other Olympic

visitors had all arrived the grand Opening Ceremony began. Canon Paul Miller joined the ceremony and did a couple of laps with the Olympic flag! A wide range of activities was enjoyed during the afternoon, followed by a special double birthday cake to commemorate 90 years of Brownie Guiding.

Photographed above are the "Olympic participants" trying out the team skis.

CHYPS News

from Nick Cryan

Firstly, I hope you're all enjoying a nice summer!

Secondly, I want to tell you about some things that are happening during the summer holidays, and some plans for the autumn term.



Children's Church

During the summer holidays at the main 10.30am Sunday morning services there will be a group for the children. We will meet in the Friends' Room from the beginning of the service and return just before the Communion as normal. This is something new for this summer.

Autumn plans include the following:

- The Youth Group will be starting again on Sunday, September 12th at 7.45pm in the hall.
- A Saturday Club for 10-14s starting on Saturday, 18th September at 4-6pm in Church House. A Saturday morning 'Kidz Klub' - details will be in Church from September.
- A trip to Thorpe Park on Saturday, 9th October 2004.
- A week long holiday club during the October half term.

Please have a word with me for more info on the above.

Advance Notice: There will be a Confirmation Service on 16th January 2005. Are you interested in being confirmed? Would you like to know more about what it involves? There will be a Confirmation course for young people starting later in the autumn term, so please have a word with me if you would like more information. **Nick**



From the Registers

Interment of Ashes:

19th July Doris Sterry

SPAN thanks

We record our thanks this month for donations totalling £3.10

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- 08.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Communion, except the first Sunday in the month in term time. During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 4-14.
- 10.30 All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time).
- 18.30 Evening Service

Every Monday

- 17.00 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 Holy Communion

Every Friday

- 20.00 Night Prayers

For information on any service, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

STAFF			
Vicar	Canon P. Miller	8460 4989	
Children & Youth Minister	Mr. N. Cryan	8290 0375	
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494	
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259	
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. J. Jackson	8325 1972	
	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989	
	Mrs M. Westropp	8650 5178	
Parish Administrator	Mrs. S. Evans	8460 5682	
Administrative Support	Mrs. J. Peters	8460 5682	
Churchwardens	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184	
	Mr. D. Weekes	8650 2950	
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188	
	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157	
PCC Secretary	Miss. J. Rambridge	8650 0947	
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884	
Assistant Treasurer	Mr D. Weekes	8650 2950	
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr. I. Brentnall	8290 6594	
Electoral Roll	Mrs. G. Poulter	8460 0138	

PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

Open 9.00 am - 12.30 weekdays. Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Mothers & Toddlers	Mrs. M. Parr	8460 3871
Mothers' Union	Mrs. G. Carpenter	8650 0358
Friends of St. Mary's	Miss. J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Children's Church	Mr. N. Cryan	8290 0375
Youth Club	Mr. N. Cryan	8290 0375
Scouts GSL	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
Scouts (Fri.)	Refer to C. Wood	8658 1825
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. S. Baldwin	8658 5629
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. R. Hogg	8464 3129
Beavers & admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Mrs. S. de Matos	8402 5669
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Mrs. C. Hardy	8460 9509
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. J. Adam	8289 5252
Admissions	Mrs. S. Neary	01689 856952
Rainbows	Mrs. J. Dalton	8650 0787
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The TWO "W's"	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
OTHER NUMBERS		
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8460 3871
Mission Chairman	Ms. M. Chambers	8650 2805
Douai Link	Mr. R. Hogg	8464 3129

LOCAL COUNCILLORS (L.B.B.)

Cllr. E. Noad	8462 3295
Cllr. G. Taylor	8402 1772

LOCAL NUMBERS

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United Reformed Church	8658 9983
Methodist Church	8658 6484
Salvation Army	8402 4669
Baptist Church	8650 2130
Residents' Association	8464 7467
Bromley Welfare	8466 0399

SPAN

Website	www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
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Distribution	Mr. A. Jones 8460 5437 Mrs. J. Kelsey 8466 1093

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those supported by the publishers, and no responsibility can be accepted for accuracy. Neither can the publishers accept responsibility for work carried out by advertisers.

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