

SHORTLANDS PARISH NEWS

St. Mary's, Shortlands
endeavours to bring the love
of God into the everyday lives
of the people of Shortlands.

the SPAN

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk August/September 2007. Year 27 Number 8

BEAVERS NEARLY CHANGE THE GUARD!

It was Midsummer Day, the last day of the Glastonbury Festival and the day before Wimbledon started. Should we have predicted the weather?! On Sunday 24th June 17 Beaver Scouts, three leaders and three helpers set off on the train from Shortlands to watch the Changing of the Guard from inside the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. This had been arranged for us by my nephew, who is a Captain in the Welsh Guards.

Arriving at the Main Gate as planned at 10.30, Kestrel received a text telling us to look out for our contact, 'Budge', who would have a

bowler hat and a furled umbrella (which is apparently what Guards officers wear when in the forecourt and not in uniform.)

The secret agent metaphor was very strong – they had a Budge but we had a Kestrel (who took the photograph below), a Raccoon and a Polar Bear - they had bearskins, but we had woggles. They had a Corporal of Horse, but we had a Penguin (and Tom Warren who didn't have a Colony name!). The boys soon spotted Budge, but he said that, due to the rain, which was sheeting down, there was a good chance that the

event would be cancelled. It seems that the officers' uniforms cost about £4,000, and do not appreciate getting wet! As we arrived in the Officers' Mess in Wellington Barracks, the band was just leaving in their coach, thus confirming the worst. We were given drinks while the boys were shown what the outside of a bearskin and the blunt side of a sword feel like. Some of them almost disappeared inside the bearskin!

As we watched a small detachment of soldiers march away in their grey capes, we realised that our day was basically over by 11.30 in

the morning! Thanking Budge (who was still wearing his bowler) profusely for looking after us, we left the Barracks and set off into the rainforest that was St James' Park. There, in a clearing, we spotted a large children's play area and four picnic benches still dry under the impenetrable London plane trees.

Cups of tea, swings, sandwiches and see-saws merged into one as the time shot past. We could see the rain drops in the lake, but stayed dry ourselves. Waving farewell to the ever watchful guardian of the children's conveniences, we set off down to Horse Guards Parade, admiring the pelicans on the way.

So much money and time were spent in the Gift Shop that we were each given a free post card. Then it was back into St James' Park where we stopped (rather too long) for an ice cream, a last photo at the Palace and a very frenetic walk back to Victoria where we missed our train by one minute!

Our day was completed by a journey in the first class section on the fast train to Bromley South (we did get permission first!). One of the mothers a few days later told me how much her son had enjoyed the day. It appears that he had not realized that anything had been cancelled, but had lived for the moment.

The moral of the story: don't expect too much (like the adults) and you won't be disappointed (like the children).

Polar Bear



Special services for August and September

Sunday, 5th August

10.30am: All Age Eucharist and the
Baptism of Matilda Rouse
- Canon Paul Miller

Sunday, 26th August

10.30am: Family Service to celebrate
Holiday Club week
- Reverend Alison Newman
Address: Mark Newman

Sunday, 9th Sept. - Patronal Festival

10.30am: Family Communion

Sunday, 16th September

6.30pm: Choral Evensong
- Canon Paul Miller
Address: Peter Stotesbury

Responses: Smith, Setting: Dyson in D,
Anthem: O thou, the central orb (Wood)

Sunday, 23rd September

6.30pm: Healing Service
Canon Paul Miller & Revd. Alison Newman

Sunday, 30th September

6.30pm: Songs of Praise
- Reverend Alison Newman

Sunday, 7th October

10.30am: Harvest Parade Service,
& welcoming of the newly baptised
followed by the Harvest Lunch in the
Church Hall

Sunday, 14th October

3.00pm: Pet Service
Bring your pets (or toy pets!) along!

Congratulations!

... to Mr. Fred Perkins of Queen Anne Avenue, on his being presented with a commendation award for his work for the environment of Bromley.

At a recently held civic reception the presentation was made to Fred of a cheque, an attractive plaque and a Certificate of Commendation. We at St. Mary's also have reason to be grateful to Fred, for his long service in delivering the **SPAN** magazine for us! Thank you Fred, and congratulations from all in the community of Shortlands.





From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
15 July Olivia Calladine-Smith
15 July Christie Baldwin Watson

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:
30 June Nigel Marcoolyn and
Kathryn Holmes

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
11 June Connor McKinnon, aged 9
11 July Marjorie Sisman, aged 96



Remembering

Connor McKinnon

On 11th June a congregation of over 500 gathered at St. Mary's to give thanks for the life of Connor McKinnon. Connor was a greatly loved little boy, and the service reflected many aspects of his short life. A pupil at Clare House School, Connor was diagnosed with a brain tumour 16 months previously and underwent long treatment with a stoicism and maturity which far exceeded his years.

Many of his school friends were at the service, after which balloons were released from the church grounds by them, and fairy cakes - heavily decorated by the children - were enthusiastically consumed! The service, led by the Reverend Alison Newman, reflected Connor's popularity, his many hobbies, his passion for Harry Potter and his love of life and for his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him; especially, of course, by his parents, Ian and Mandy, and his brother Tom.

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Marjorie Sisman

Marjorie died on June 26th, aged 96. She was born, brought up and went to school in East Dulwich, and worked at Harrods until marrying Ken in 1936, at St. John's, East Dulwich. Their home for all their married life was in Kingswood Avenue, and being faithful Christians, they were closely involved with St. Mary's Church, particularly at the time of rebuilding after the war.

Marjorie was agile when young, and enjoyed playing tennis, table tennis and badminton. She was also artistic, and enjoyed flower arranging and needlework. Ken died four years ago, since when there has been a void in her life, but happily she has been able to continue living in the family home.

Marjorie's two daughters, Jenny and Diana, and her grandchildren and great grandchildren attended a Service of Thanksgiving for her life at St. Mary's Church, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, who was assisted by Reverend Alison Newman. Peter Stotesbury gave the address. A Service of Committal followed at Beckenham Crematorium.

Samaritans

Founded in 1953, Samaritans has been working for over 50 years to provide free telephone, email, letter and face-to-face help to anyone who needs it, via a network of 202 branches. To support this nationally, £20,000 is needed every day.

The Orpington branch of Samaritans has over 90 trained volunteers. They operate 24/7, and will discuss anything that is causing concern - about 17% of its callers is suicidal. Last year it had 29,406 contacts, and there is a growing number of young men using its service, often via e-mail.

St. Mary's will be supporting Samaritans as Mission for the Month of August.

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for donations during the month of July of £21.

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Gift Day and Harvest Festival

There will be a Gift Day on Sunday, October 7th, which is Harvest Festival. Gift Day envelopes will be placed in the church pews and in the church porch. A Gift Day will enable all who wish to give a 'one off' annual gift to God through the Church. There are several reasons why Christians should do this:



1. To be thankful to God for all we have.
2. To give back to God a small measure of what he has given us.
3. At Harvest time, we thank God for food, shelter and all that is readily available to us. It has always been a time when we respond by 'giving', and also being aware, through our giving, of those in need. That is why we shall be supporting the Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal by applying 10% of our gifts to this worthy cause.

Tickets for the Harvest Lunch will be available from the Parish Office and Churchwardens after Sunday services from 2nd September.

Adults £8, children £4, family ticket (2 + 2) £22.

Applications are invited for the post of

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Due to the present postholder moving to New Zealand in October, the Vicar and the Parochial Church Council wish to appoint a Parish Administrator to manage and co-ordinate the administrative life of St. Mary's Church.

**24 hours per week,
£10,500 p.a.**

For further details please contact the Parish Office on 8460 5682.

Applications to be received by 2nd Sept.,
interviews on 7th Sept.

Station clean up begins ...

A group of committed local volunteers has recently started work to brighten up Shortlands Station.

Local man Saad Farooqi had noticed how shabby Shortlands Station had become and decided to do something positive about it. He designed posters and leaflets, and sought support for his project. At a meeting of interested parties (held on Platform 2!) plans were formulated to start by patching up the entrance hall, jet-washing the tunnel, clearing overgrowth and planting hanging baskets and planters.

Mark Dempsey, Chairman of the SRA, said "I'm very happy to be involved: the state of the station is one of the issues that we have been pursuing with local representatives and Safer Neighbourhood teams." Daily commuter, Steve Osborn, commented, "The shabby state of the station hardly creates the right impression: for many it is the gateway to Shortlands, which is a lovely neighbourhood." For information, or to offer help, contact Saad Farooqi at brighter.shortlands@gmail.com.

Wine Tasting / Quiz Evening

run by the Friends of St. Mary's

**Friday, 26th October,
7.30pm in the Church Hall**

a blind tasting of up to 8 different wines (4 white, 4 red) with quiz questions related to the wines.

£7.50 per ticket (over 18s only)
Quiz masters will take orders at the end of the evening.

St. Mary's, Shortlands Advent Dinner and Dance

**Friday, 23rd November, 7.30pm for 7.45pm
in the Garden Suite of the Bromley Court Hotel**

Black Tie or Lounge Suit

Tickets £26, inclusive of three course dinner with coffee and all age Dance/Disco, available from 1st Sept. from the Parish Office (8460 5682) or from Churchwardens.

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Oyster Exhibition celebrates God's World!

A major exhibition, in which the five continents of God's world were depicted in stunning displays of artefacts, costumes and culture, took place at St. Mary's, Shortlands over the middle weekend in July. Children from Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools visited, filling funsheets with information learned at the exhibition and drawings of their favourite exhibits. Many people from the wider community took part and illustrated



what a diverse, richly talented, multicultural, multinational and caring community we enjoy in Shortlands.

There was also a fine photographic display, live music, a craft fair in the Church Hall, and representatives from local and international groups mounted displays in the church grounds.

Pictured (left) are James Bunting with his daughter, Sarah, and (below) visitors to their Asia display.



A very popular item on the Australasia stand was the didgeridoo, photographed (below) being played by Tony Chase, who helped many of the visiting children to 'have a go'. The Australasia stand was probably the noisiest one ...!



Jorge Luis Silva (top left), from Brazil and Michael Doa (top right) from Colombia joined Susie Shelton (above) in sporting traditional headwear from various parts of the Americas, and Reverend Alison Newman (left) was dressed in a stunning cerise sari (as well as her clerical collar!)

Newcomers welcomed!



The Annual Newcomers' Party was recently held in the Vicarage garden, at which twenty newcomers to St. Mary's Church were welcomed with drinks by members of the Parochial Church Council. We were delighted

that the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley also popped in.

Photographed above are (left to right) Bob German, Tim Dawson (P.C.C. member), David and Anne-Marie Jefferies and Tim Aldred.

**The Parish Church
of St. Mary,
Shortlands**



Link Parish
St. Francis of
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WORSHIP

Every Sunday

- 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

Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

STAFF

Vicar	Canon P. Miller	8460 4989
Associate Vicar	Rev. A. Newman	8658 7784
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
	Mrs. J. Peters	8650 5986
Reader & Evangelist	Mr. M. Newman	8658 7784
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. J. Jackson	8325 1972
	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989
	Mrs M. Westropp	8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Mrs. S. Evans	8460 5682
Admin. Support	Mrs. J. Peters	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157
Deputies	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Mr. C. Stokes	8460 0661
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
PCC Secretary	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
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Assistant Treasurer	Mr. D. Weekes	8650 2950
Organist & Director of Music	Mr. F. Roddy (from Sept 1st)	
Assistant Organist	Mrs. C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Electoral Roll	Mr. N. Stoffel	8460 0063
Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178

PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
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. P. White	8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Scouts GSL	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
Scouts (Fri.)	Mr. T. Watson	8650 0184
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. L. Swatton	8650 0397
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. D. Hope	8466 5545
Beavers & admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Miss G. Dawson	8460 5884
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. A. Bailey	8313 3745
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. J. Adam	8289 5252
Admissions	Mrs. S. Neary	01689 856952
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Cllr. G. Taylor	8289 7893

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Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060

SPAN

Website	www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
Editorial	Parish Office 8460 5682
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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