

Remember ...

by Canon Paul Miller

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach and you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them'... and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it" Ecclesiastes Chapter 12:1,7 (New International Version).

As the green leaves of summer turn bronze and flaming red, when there hangs in the air that jabbing bite of approaching frost, and the ground

hardens in the grip of winter, our thoughts turn to the dead of two World Wars.

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the guns fell silent in the war to end all wars.

We gather around the Cenotaph in London, as well as our War Memorial in Shortlands, as countless cities around the world pay tribute to the millions who gave of their 'todays' that we might have a brighter 'tomorrow'.

This is the season of

Remembrance.

The Annual Service of Remembrance for Shortlands will take place on Sunday November 11th at 10:15am at St Mary's Church. This Service will begin in Church before moving to the War Memorial for The Two Minutes' Silence and the Act of Remembrance. Representatives of our Borough and Community will be present, together with members of St. Mary's youth organisations, to lay wreaths.

All will be very welcome.



Harvest Celebrations

Almost 400 people packed into St. Mary's for the Annual Service of Thanksgiving for Harvest. Photographed below are Sophia Pearson and Rachel Bratt holding two of the many baskets of gifts that were brought for the work of Bromley Welcare.



St. Mary's Annual Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 1st December, 2-4pm

Stalls, fun, games, prizes, refreshments, raffle etc., and Santa Claus!
Proceeds will benefit Bromley Welcare and St. Mary's, Shortlands.
Any goods for stalls can be left in the Parish Office.

All Welcome!

Special services for the weeks to come

Sunday, 4th November

3.30pm: Service to Remember Departed Loved Ones
and the Dedication and Blessing of six new banners and piano
- Canon Paul Miller & Reverend Alison Newman
Anthem: *The Lord bless you and keep you* (John Rutter)
A book will be placed in the church porch for you to enter the names of those you would like to be especially remembered at this service. Candles will be lit during the service in memory of our departed loved ones.

Sunday, 11th November - Remembrance Sunday

10.15am: Family and Parade Service
to include the traditional Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes' Silence and the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial.

Sunday, 18th November

6.30pm: Choral Evensong - Canon Paul Miller
Responses: Sanders
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis - Stanford in B flat
Anthem: *O for a closer walk with God* - Stanford

Sunday, 25th November

6.30pm: Service of Wholeness & Healing - Revd. Alison Newman

Sunday, 2nd December

10.30am: Toy Service - Canon Paul Miller
6.30pm: Advent Carol Service - Canon Paul Miller
Readings, Anthems and Congregational Hymns,
including music by Gibbons, Carter and Redford



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
30th Sept Harriet Street
Owen Hewitt
Millicent German

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate
6th Oct Ruvimbo Sithole and
Kelvin Chamunora

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

24th Sept Nigel Schofield, aged 42
8th Oct Violet Kemble, aged 85
10th Oct Sally Harwood, aged 48
12th Oct Daphne Levett, aged 85



Remembering

Nigel Schofield

Nigel was born in Pudsey, Yorkshire. He was educated at Kings School, Chester and studied Economics at York University. He was a Tax Consultant at European Financial Products. He was married to Sue and had two children, Lucy and Daniel, living the last seven years in St. Mary's Avenue.

He had many interests. He had run this year's London Marathon, played golf, was learning to fly and enjoyed motor racing.

His sudden and unexpected death at the age of 42 was a shock to all, especially his family.

Due to the building works at St. Mary's, a Service of Thanksgiving was held at St. Mark's Church, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, where a packed church paid tribute to a much loved husband, father, son, brother and

friend. A private burial at Beckenham Cemetery followed.

Violet Kemble

Vi came from Lichfield in Staffordshire. She met her husband Charles during the war when he was in the RAF, after which they were married and moved to this area.

Charles and Vi had a very happy marriage, and Vi loved her home and garden. After Charles' death she was able to remain independent and in good health until the last few weeks.

The Kemble family is not large but Vi is going to be greatly missed by her son, Michael, daughter-in-law, Maggie and her niece, June who has always been close to her. The funeral, conducted by Reverend Alison Newman at Beckenham Crematorium, was attended by her family and close friends.

Sally Harwood

Sally was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire. She graduated in History and English Literature at Essex University where she met her husband-to-be, Les, and they married in 1985.

Sally taught at the Italia Conti Stage School prior to the birth of her daughters, Emily and Alice. For some time she was Shortlands organiser for the National Childbirth Trust. She started worshipping at St. Mary's in 1983, served on the Parochial Church Council and the twinning committee of our link parish in Douai, France. She assisted at St. Mark's School, helped with maths and numeracy skills at St. Mary's Pre-School and led the Children's Church. Since 2000 she taught at Bromley High School for Girls. With her family she loved visiting National Trust and English Heritage properties. Sally was 48.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller and the Reverend Alison Newman, took place at St. Mary's Shortlands where a

packed church, including the Bromley High School Chamber Choir, paid tribute to a much loved wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend, prior to a private cremation at Beckenham Crematorium.

Daphne Levett

Daphne was born in Stockwell. She was educated at Beckenham Girls' Grammar School. During the war she served in the Air Ministry. She was married to Joe in 1948 at St. Barnabas, Beckenham. Although living out of the Parish she worshipped at St. Mary's for the past twenty years.

She had attended every Eastbourne Parish Weekend since they began and had toured the Holy Land on the last Parish Pilgrimage. In her younger years she enjoyed fly fishing, swimming and surfing, eating out and riding motorbikes. She was a member of the Red Cross and the music group of the Beckenham Townswomen's Guild.

A large congregation supported her daughter Linda and grandsons Robert and Jonathan at a Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller and the Reverend Alison Newman, at St. Mary's Shortlands prior to a private cremation at Beckenham Crematorium. Her husband Joe continues to be cared for in a nursing home.

Dennis Dowling

Dennis was born in 1928. It was while an evacuee in Yeovil that he discovered a love of nature which was to remain with him his whole life.

Later Dennis trained as a draughtsman going to night school. He won a silver medal for his handrail design, a great honour as these medals were rarely given, and which showed something of Dennis' natural artistic talent. He arrived in Shortlands in the late 1950s when he moved with his parents into Queen Anne Avenue. Dennis married Sheila in 1969, and they settled in St Mary's Ave.

After being made redundant Dennis retrained as a teacher.

For much of his life Dennis suffered from ill health. In 1995 he was not expected to live but Sheila has nursed him devotedly for the past 12 years.

Dennis enjoyed painting, especially landscapes and birds. His love of nature led him to support various ecological and conservation projects and societies, which is why it's so appropriate for Dennis to be buried in a Natural Burial Ground in Wrabness.

His funeral was conducted by Revd Elizabeth Shearcroft and Revd Alison Newman at Ramsey Church on 28th September 2007, followed by burial at Oakfield Wood, Wrabness.

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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

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

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What is a Natural Burial Ground?

Natural burial grounds are cemeteries which aim to provide ecologically friendly or 'green' burial sites. Today there is an increasing awareness that we need to care for our environment and our natural resources. By having a natural burial there is a feeling of contributing to an area which will be protected for future generations, and which will grow and evolve.

Usually a biodegradable coffin is used; these are made of materials such as cardboard, bamboo, willow or a shroud. Embalmed bodies are not allowed, as the embalming chemicals are poisonous to the soil. Instead of gravestones a tree or shrub is usually planted, with a wooden plaque to mark the grave. At some burial grounds the trees are selected from a list of native tree species such as Oak, Ash, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Silver Birch.

The trees are then planted in the correct Autumn planting season. At some sites graves are dug carefully beneath already growing trees. The grounds are kept as natural as possible with wild flowers and plants growing. This provides a habitat for birds and other animals who need natural woodlands. Many sites are developing areas, not just of woodlands, but also meadows.

There is a great variety of burial grounds – ranging from those situated in the countryside, others part of a conventional cemetery, some near towns. Some allow pets to be buried. There are currently over 200 natural burial grounds in the United Kingdom, and more are in the process of being set up to meet the increasing demand.

New Recruits!!



Thirteen newly baptised children and adults were welcomed into the Christian Church at the October Family and Parade Service. Pictured are some of those who attended together with Canon Paul Miller, who with the Reverend Alison Newman, officiated at the Baptism Services.

St. Mary's Church Choir

We are always pleased to welcome new singers to both junior and senior sections of the choir.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to find out more do come along for choir practice on a Thursday evening and give it a try. The Junior Choir meets from 7-8pm and the Senior Choir from 7.45-9pm. Alternatively contact Frank Roddy or Claire Tillotson (contact details on page 4) or speak to any member of the choir for more information.

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for donations during the month of October of £17.00

Concert Band to play at St. Mary's



A renowned concert band is to give a Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Shortlands on Sunday December 9th at 3:00pm.

The XBY Concert Band has established a reputation as one of the foremost symphonic wind bands in the United Kingdom. Its success has emerged through repeated achievements at the National Concert Band Festival Finals by gaining two silver and five gold awards.

The band has also achieved acclaim for winning a first prize in 2005 and 2001 at the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland and a second prize in 1997.

Around 200 players have had some association with the band since its formation and there are currently around 40 regular players.

Its leader is Claire Tillotson, the

Assistant Organist at St. Mary's Shortlands. Some members have completed courses of study at music colleges and universities and are now professional musicians. However, the majority of members are either studying or pursuing careers in other areas and welcome this opportunity to keep up their music in their spare time.

Since 1989, XBY Concert Band has secured a valuable relationship with Musical Director Dennis Mycroft. Dennis is Head of Brass Teaching for the Bromley Youth Music Trust, being actively involved in the training of young musicians and conducting the XBY Concert Band. Admission will be by programme at £5. More information about the band can be found on their website www.xbyconcertband.co.uk



One World, one Promise

Here are some of the thoughts of the five Guides from Shortlands who were lucky enough to celebrate 100 years of Scouting by attending the World Scout Jamboree in Essex and Kanderjam in Switzerland:-

"The most amazing part of the Jamboree by far was sitting in the arena on the opening night and looking around seeing the thousands of people walking in, all from different ethnicities and backgrounds."

"I realised that I was incredibly lucky to be part of such an amazing event, and that I had something in common with everyone around me. The highlight was when everyone hiked to a beautiful lake in the

mountains and renewed their Promise in their own language."

"I enjoyed most the fact that everyone was so kind and friendly, and all got on with each other really well. I enjoyed everything, but especially making friends and meeting new people."

"The most amazing part of the World Scout Jamboree was that a smile and simple hello broke the language barrier and it really was so easy to talk to people."

"The bit I enjoyed most was the opening, sunrise and closing ceremonies, as they were so moving and it felt so wonderful to be part of an once in a life time event"

Mothers' Union Prison Visiting



Angela Pain, our Diocesan Co-ordinator, gave an interesting talk in October on MU involvement at Cookham Wood prison in Rochester.

In the UK, over 100 MU volunteers work in over 90 prisons, seeking to help sustain and develop families separated by imprisonment. There is a wide range of projects up and down the country. These include parenting groups; sessions as part of a pre-release course; and a group, at the request of the Chaplaincy team, helping to address isolation, loneliness, feeling of loss and bereavement. The women enjoy meeting with each other in a relaxed environment and particularly value talking to volunteers who are trained in listening skills and who treat them with respect - being non-judgemental - and bring a sense of the outside world into prison.

Mothers' Union is always invited into prison by the Governor and works with the full support and encouragement of the chaplaincy team.

**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

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

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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
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Scouts (Fri.)	Mr. T. Watson	8650 0184
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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
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