

Our duty as citizens

The church celebrates Pentecost this year on 4th June; it is a culmination of the resurrection appearances and the Ascension: events which the disciples didn't expect to happen after that first Good Friday. It was the response to these events by the early disciples and the Christians that followed that has caused Christianity to spread throughout the world.

We are currently in a place where few of us expected to be at the beginning of the year - we are about to have another general election. I think we can draw on the experience of the disciples and recognise the responsibility that we have as citizens of the United Kingdom. It is important that we each exercise our democratic right and vote.

If you are a praying type, do pray for all the candidates in the run up to the election and for all those who are elected as constituency MPs that they may be women and men of integrity.



ENTENTE CORDIALE: St Mary's recently visited our twin parish in Douai, northern France, and shared in worship together (more details on page 3)

The bible encourages us to pray as we elect leaders and for their ongoing support. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul says - 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority'. So, praying for all those who are elected, from whichever shade of political opinion they come, should be our initial response.

People throughout the world die fighting for democracy and their opportunity to have a say. We owe it to them and to previous generations to ensure our voice is heard. I urge you to think carefully about the candidate you vote for, the issues they are standing for and how they affect the whole community.

Although Jesus never had the opportunity to make his mark at the ballot box, he did speak about engaging with the instruments of government. Matthew's gospel tells us how a group of religious leaders tried to trap Jesus into declaring himself as either a rebel or collaborator by asking him a question about paying tax. Jesus' response - 'give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's' - was on one level about the payment of that tax.

It also speaks about our duty as citizens to be involved with our government and its leaders: elections, local or national, give us the opportunity to do just that.

Rev Morag Finch

Special Events and Services

Sunday 11 June - Trinity Sunday
10.30am Family and Parade Service with commissioning of PCC
Followed by the Parish Picnic

Sunday 18 June
6.30pm Choral evensong
Responses: Smith 5 part
Canticles: Wood
Anthem: Greater Love - Ireland

Parish Picnic & Barbecue

Sunday, 11 June

in the church grounds
following the

10.30am Family and Parade Service

A great day for all the family!

Bring your own picnic
or buy barbecue food and support the Guides'
fundraising for international trips
They will also be selling soft drinks and ice creams

Donation bar run by Friends of St Mary's
Bouncy castle, games, crafts and competitions

In the church hall if wet

CONGRATULATIONS: to Harris Primary Academy Shortlands who have been rated 'outstanding' in every category by Ofsted.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

23 April Finlay Turner

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Audrey Truelove 24 Apr aged 88



Remembering

Audrey Truelove

Audrey was born and brought up in Swansea. After school she had various jobs including working in Harrods and back in Swansea in the finance office of the local bus company.

Audrey and her family were members of the Chapel: when Desmond Truelove returned from the Army he found that a 'village' girl had joined the congregation while he had been away. That was the beginning of an association which led to 65 and a half years of marriage.

Audrey's faith was of paramount importance to her. She went from being Chapel to a preference for high church.

Whichever church Audrey attended she participated fully – Deanery Synod, Mothers Union, Young Wives, the choir... She knew exactly how church should be run – and made sure various vicars knew too! She was never afraid to speak out about something if she knew she was right, and would always help if she could. At St Mary's she was the first female sidesperson – a ground breaker.

In her youth Audrey played the cello, later she enjoyed knitting and crochet as well as singing and good clothes. She was very proud of her appearance, with which she took great pains – and of doing what was right.

Audrey was very proud of her granddaughters: she had always wanted a sister and was delighted when Richard and Carole gave her two granddaughters – they had a lovely relationship.

The last few years of Audrey's life were difficult as dementia took hold – but there are many who have good, fond and funny memories of Audrey for which they are thankful.

The annual Churches Together in Beckenham Picnic on the Green

is on

**25 June:
picnic at 1.00pm
followed by a service at
2.00pm.**

The theme this year is
*'The God of peace
will be with you!'*

We will be joined by Barry Mizen
(www.forjimmy.org)

and there will be a short presentation by the Quakers on issues of peace and justice.

What do you think about St Mary's church hall and meeting rooms?

What more could we do?

We want to hear your views!

**Pop in for a chat
between
9.30am and 1pm,
Saturday 1 July**

**St Mary's church
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Choir news

St Mary's Shortlands Choir will be singing a joint Evensong with St Mildred's Addiscombe at St Mildred's on Sunday 25 June at 3.30pm. All are welcome to attend and we look forward to hosting St Mildred's here in the autumn.

Music will include Collegium Regale (Howells); Let all the World (Vaughan Williams) and Responses by Spicer.

In addition, we will have our usual Evensong the previous week at St Mary's.

On Saturday 8 July, St Mary's Choir is singing the office of Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral at 4pm. Please do come and support us.

We are always looking for more members to join the choir, particularly junior members. So if your child is in Year 1 or above at school, enjoys singing and would like to join the choir please contact our Director of Music, Claire Tillotson on 07801 656634.

Serving Shortlands

The Shortlands Residents' Association (SRA) Annual General Meeting was held at St. Mary's Church Hall on 26 April. Over 100 residents listened to the Chairman of the Association, Mark Dempsey, highlight the areas of concern that the Association had dealt with over the past year, and Mike Ricketts, who gave details of this year's annual guided walks and visits, details of which can be found on the SRA website (www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk).

After the official business and elections were over, Victoria Miller gave a presentation on the Parking and Street Cleaning Survey undertaken by the SRA at the end of last year. A number of issues were raised, including poor parking, parking by commuters and the inability to keep roads clean due to parking. Cllr Colin Smith, the Portfolio Holder for Environment at Bromley Council responded. These issues remain of most concern for residents, along with planning applications.

Before the evening concluded with refreshments and a time to socialise, there were a number of questions from the floor including several about the state of progress of works to the War Memorial. Cllr David Jefferys stated that Listed Building Consent had been granted and the work would be completed, with rededication taking place in time for Remembrance Sunday in November.

Ann-Marie Jefferys

God's healing touch

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.' (Philippians 4:6)

During his earthly ministry, Jesus said many prayers for healing. None of us has authority to heal a body, only our Creator does and that's why we always pray in Jesus's name.

At St Mary's we believe that Prayer has healing power, healing not just for the body but the mind and spirit also.

On the third Sunday of each month we offer healing prayer for those who wish to receive it. While communion is being given, usually two trained members of the team will stand at the back of church, screened to offer privacy, and will pray with and for you or whoever you wish to bring for prayer.

Names do not have to be given and any concern can be prayed for. Usually this will last no longer than a few minutes. Those offering the prayers will then continue to pray for you during the coming week.

Do you or someone you know need God's healing touch? Do you wish to say a prayer for a sick friend or family member? Then please feel confident that you can bring your prayers to us in total confidence.

Friends of St Mary's Summer Soiree

Saturday 15th July

6.30pm onwards

In the Church Grounds

Entertainment provided by 4 Play Sax

£2 per ticket per person - tickets on sale after 10.30 services

from 4 June or from the Parish Office

Bring your own picnic supper

Drinks including Pimms and desserts

including strawberries will be on sale

In the church hall if inclement!



CONGRATULATIONS

Ivy Burton
recently celebrated
her

100th
birthday

'Jumelage'

30 parishioners from St Mary's travelled to Douai at the end of April, where they were given a warm welcome by members of our twin Parish of St Francis of Assisi.

On the Saturday afternoon everyone visited the Belfry at Douai Town Hall, a Unesco World Heritage site dating from 1380, and housing a peal of 62 bells. Even the older and less mobile members of our group managed the 200 stone steps spiral staircase right up to the top of the tower!

Then we visited the Collégiale St Pierre, a newly restored basilica with a fascinating history of French and English involvement over the centuries.

The evening was spent with host families where we enjoyed the traditional home hospitality, and prayers were prepared for mass the following day.

On the Sunday morning everyone gathered at Sainte Thérèse church for a great ecumenical mass where Reverends Morag and Richard were welcomed by the Catholic priests and shared in the distribution of communion to French and English parishioners.

Afterwards we went to the Lycée Wagnonville, a nearby agricultural college, for a magnificent buffet lunch, followed by a quick tour of its medieval garden before saying many fond goodbyes and promising to meet again in Shortlands in 2018.

It was lovely to see how throughout the weekend the young people both English and French looked after and helped the older members of both parishes - a real example of international friendship and caring for other people. The 'Jumelage' is now in its 22nd year, and is going from strength to strength.

Gill Dawson



Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is now office@stmaryshortlands.church
To keep up with news from St. Mary's in between editions of SPAN, you can like our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter – search for 'St Mary's Shortlands'.

Don't forget our website
www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk



Pentecost – 4 June

Ten days after Ascension Day comes Pentecost: that is fifty days after Easter as its name, from the Greek, implies. This festival celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and other disciples of Jesus, transforming them from frightened and confused people to men who would face martyrdom for what they believed. We are told in the bible that it marks the birthday of the church.

Pentecost already existed in Judaism, in which it commemorates the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Pentecost is probably better known as Whitsun - or 'White Sunday'. It is believed that this is because – following St Peter's example - it was a day for baptisms, and those being baptised would wear white. Alternatively, it may derive from the Anglo-Saxon word 'wit', which we still use for verbal cleverness but which meant 'understanding': Pentecost was when God poured out the wisdom of the Spirit.

The first Pentecost was clearly an extraordinary event. The Bible tells us that there was a violent wind – symbolic of the Spirit of God as described by Ezekiel. There were also tongues of fire which rested on each disciple, mirroring Jesus' words that both He and they were the light of the world and showing that they would do what Jesus did. The disciples spoke in languages which were not their own and everyone could understand each other. This links back to the story of when those building the Tower of Babel could not understand each other; now all was reversed.

In England there are several customs associated with Pentecost. There are many Whit Walks and the traditional "Procession of Witness" has long been celebrated throughout the North West.

In Randwick, Gloucestershire, after rolling three double Gloucester cheeses around the church, one is cut up and shared amongst bystanders and the other two are rolled down a steep hill.

And in Stilton, Cambridgeshire, teams of four, in bizarre costumes, roll stilton cheese along a 50-yard course. They must not kick or throw the cheeses. The prize is a whole Stilton Cheese, which weighs about 16 pounds, and bottles of port - the traditional accompaniment.

Mission of the month

St Christopher's Hospice

Dame Cicely Saunders founded St Christopher's Hospice in 1967 and in doing so made an extraordinary contribution to alleviating human suffering. The hospice has been a centre of education, innovation and insight ever since. The St Christopher's Group now consists of the site in Sydenham and the Caritas Centre in Orpington.

Led by Dame Cicely, St Christopher's holistic approach which cares for a patient's physical, spiritual and psychological wellbeing, marked a new beginning, not only for the care of the dying but for the practice of medicine as a whole. Today its vision is of a world in which all dying people and those close to them have access to the care and support they need, when and wherever they need it.

Every year St Christopher's provides care and support to over 6,000 people across South East London, both at home and in the hospice. It costs £20million a year to run its services, £14million of which has to be found by fundraising.

This year St Christopher's is holding many special events to celebrate its 50th Anniversary including a fun walk and tea at Lambeth Palace.

For more information see www.stchristophers.org.uk and the display at the back of the church.

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Link Parish
St. Francis of Assisi, Douai, France

WORSHIP

Every Sunday

- 08.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Communion, except when notified. During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18.
- 18.30 Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday in the month)

Every Monday

- 17.30 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 Holy Communion

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. M. Finch	8464 8065
(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/8460 5682
(Sun, Mon, Wed)		
L. L. M.	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Readers	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
	Mr. S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mr. A. Williams	07914343495
	Mrs C. Corbin	07973295134
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3365
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
Electoral Roll	Mrs. M. Shaw	8460 9681
Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

PARISH OFFICE Tel: 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Mothers & Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8650 4553
Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
Friends of St. Mary's	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947

For admissions to Beavers, Cubs & Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
Cubs (Tues)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers	Ms E. Hay	07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides please tel: 08001695901 or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07516 650940
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Kateswaran	8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
Mission Chairmen	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246
Mobility Class	Mrs. Jan Boam	8460 7101

LOCAL COOKS

Cllr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Cllr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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