

Lost and found

At the end of January we had a visitor in the parish office - a very friendly cat. It had spent time greeting the children as they arrived for pre-school and then found a warm radiator in the office. Perhaps it had read last month's article about our office team! We were concerned as no one recognised it as one of the local cats, but it was obviously well looked after. A bit of detective work resulted in his being returned home.

Many of us have experienced times in our lives when we feel we have wandered too far from home and feel lost. Sometimes this may mean small changes to our lifestyle in order to return home. For others a much more dramatic change is needed.

You may have sung the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. This tells something of the author's journey from a young man involved in the slave trade to a Christian minister who spoke out about the wrongs of slavery. We hear of the realisation that he had not been living well and that the grace of God would allow him to be brought back into the fold. The hymn moves from confession to an acceptance of faith and continues by considering the goodness still to come.

I think this shows us that, whatever we have done in our lives, forgiveness and redemption are possible and that we can all build a new relationship with God.

Some people are uncertain about attending church as they feel it will be full of 'good' people whereas it is full of people who have struggled or continue to struggle with all sorts of sins. Being a Christian doesn't mean that we are perfect but does mean that we recognise our shortcomings, try and turn away from them and to be Christ-like.

Perhaps Lent is a good time to come to church, whether for the first time or returning after an absence, to find out about God's love and join us as we mark this penitential season before the celebration of Easter.

Rev Morag Finch

Special Events and Services

Sunday 19 March

6.30pm Friends of St Mary's Choral evensong

Responses: Ayleward

Canticles: Brewer

Anthem: O thou the central orb - Wood

Sunday 26 March – Mothering Sunday

10.30am Family and Parade Service

With the help of 4th Bromley Brownies

Including the blessing and distribution of posies

Sunday 9 April – Palm Sunday

10.30am Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday

6.30pm A Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week

Thursday 13 April – Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Washing of Feet and Eucharist of the Last Supper

Friday 14 April - Good Friday

10.30am Family Service

2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

3.00pm Half an hour for private prayer

Sunday 16 April - Easter Day

8.00am Easter Communion

10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection

Including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

Crafty fun

On Saturday 1 April we will be holding a drop in activity morning in church for children and their parents / carers. This will run from 10.00am - 12 noon and you are welcome to



come for all or part of this time. We will be decorating eggs as well as some other Easter crafts and do hope that you will be able to join us.

Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is now office@stmarysshortlands.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.stmarysshortlands.org.uk





From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

29 Jan

Olivia Carter

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Come along to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church on Sunday 19 March after the 10.30am service to find out more about what has happened at St. Mary's over the last year - and our plans for the next year.

Papers for the meeting will be published on the website at least a week in advance: www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk

My day job

As a recent newcomer, and perhaps only known as Robin Hogg's other half, here are a few words about my life when not warbling in the chancel.

I always wanted to be a lawyer, but took a circuitous route to qualifying. That is no bad thing, as it gives a broad experience. My first 'proper' job was for a computer software company. I also worked as a legal secretary for a legal aid firm in west London. I undertook a lot of fee earning work, principally in family law, supporting lawyers working in domestic violence and Children Act cases. Some of the cases were distressing but it was rewarding to be able to help people improve their circumstances.

I was motivated to study for my law degree, which I completed in my 'spare time' over three years. I was a trainee at a firm which did mostly commercial work - a complete change from my previous experience!

Since qualifying, I have specialised in property work. Having worked in firms where hands-on practice was encouraged, I have been involved in a broad range of interesting and unusual cases, although I now principally deal with residential conveyancing. The emphasis has always been on finding solutions, achieving a successful outcome. It is a particular pleasure when that involves helping clients to find their first home together.

Recently, I have been working locally as a locum. It is challenging, as you have to step in at short notice. You get to grips with a lot of information very quickly.

Robin and I share a love of singing, but I am happy being creative in other ways too. It has been a great pleasure recently to become involved with the flower arranging team, who have made me very welcome!

Helen Bird



Trip to Douai - everyone welcome!

Members of St Mary's will be visiting our twin Parish of St Francis of Assisi in Douai from 29 - 30 April, and you are invited to join them!

We will travel by coach via the Shuttle, and visit the Musée de la Chartreuse in Douai and the beautiful basilica Collégiale Saint-Pierre whose facade has recently been completely restored.

There will be home hospitality with French families overnight, and dinner in groups with French and English speakers. We will worship together at Sunday morning mass, then enjoy celebratory lunch together prior to the coach ride home, arriving back in Shortlands around 8pm.

You don't have to be able to speak French to have a really great time! For more details, contact Gill Dawson on 8460-5884 or gill@gill.dawson.name



PICTURED (left to right): Nancy, Aleks and Eleanor

Up, up and away!

Three members of 2nd Shortlands (Friday) Guides have been selected for international trips where they will be representing Girlguiding UK in other countries.

Young Leader Aleks Nowacka is off to Mexico in August with a group from London and South East England Region. They will be carrying out a service project with VAMOS, a Mexican charity which helps children and families living in poverty, and staying at "Our Cabaña", one of the 4 World Guide Centres.

Eleanor Higgs, now an Adult Leader, will be flying to Iceland to attend the 15th World Scout Moot along with 5,000 other young adults between the ages of 18 and 25.

Guide Nancy Orakwe is currently waiting to find out which country she will be visiting. Between them they have to raise over £5,500, so they need your help!

On Mothering Sunday 26 March they will be organising a Cake Sale in the Church Hall after the Parade Service, and invite you to come and buy delicious home-made cakes. They are also looking for other fundraising opportunities, such as babysitting and car washing. If you need a job doing, please contact Gill Dawson: 07767 365318 or gill@gill.dawson.name.

Christians Together

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are encouraged to spend time worshipping with Christians of other denominations from our local area.

This year Churches Together in Beckenham organised a variety of weekday services ranging from 'café church' to a Taize service.

Eleven churches took part in a pulpit swap on Sunday 22nd January. St Mary's welcomed Rev Neil Draisey from Beckenham Baptist Church and Rev Richard represented us by preaching at Beckenham Baptist Church.

The Friends of St Mary's

The Friends of St. Mary's (FoSM) is a registered charity, set up to raise funds to support the church. It does so by way of annual subscriptions from members of the current congregation and from people who have moved away and by organising events.

The Friends play a very active part in the life of our church and throughout the year we arrange events to raise money and bring people together. We consider the social side of our events to be as important as raising money.

Our most recent event was a 'A Grand Race Night' and our next is 'An Old Time Music Hall' on 18 March, which I am particularly looking forward to - it is sure to be a really fun evening. So why not consider joining us, you would be very welcome and it is a great way to make friends!

The weekend of 18 and 19 March is a busy weekend for FoSM, as we have our Annual General Meeting on the Sunday afternoon immediately before Choral Evensong at 6.30pm. At this service we will present the Paul Baker Young Chorister Award - named after a past Chair and President of FoSM, who had also served in the Choir and as a Lay Reader.

Robin Hogg (President of FoSM)

Old Time Music Hall

Saturday 18 March, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church Hall

Tickets £10 including a drink

In aid of the Friends of St Mary's

**On sale after 10.30 services in church,
via the parish office (office@stmaryshortlands.church)
or from Robin Hogg (07769 976512)**

Mission of the month

JusB

JusB youth centre was started in 2003 by the family worker from St Mary's Church, College Road who met young people in Bromley who had nowhere to go, were not particularly interested in church yet needed support. They wanted somewhere to "jusb themselves".

JusB was born and moved into College Road in 2005. Since then it has worked with thousands of young people giving them support and providing activities. Its mission is 'to serve young people by accompanying them through thick and thin on their journey to independence'.

JusB helps young people aged 10 - 23 during both term time and school holidays. This work includes advice and guidance to help them find a job or stay on in education. There is also a homework club and projects to help develop new skills like urban music, craft, cookery and video animation. Young people are encouraged to support each other and be good ambassadors in their community.

There are lots of ways to help from collecting old stamps, to a regular standing order or volunteering. For more information, visit www.jusb.co.uk, see the board at the back of church, call 020 8464 2722 or visit during its next Open House: 20 March 3.30-7pm



PICTURED (left to right): Gill Charnley, Geoff Cook, David Green

Cleanliness is next to

Have you ever wondered who keeps the church so clean and tidy? Well, a team of dedicated volunteers clean it on a regular basis, coming in one morning a week to sweep, vacuum, dust, polish and generally make sure that the church is welcoming to all who come through the doors.

This is done on a rota basis so the more people we have volunteering the less often you are called upon to help. The opportunity is open to anyone of any age.

If you would like to help wield a duster, push the vacuum cleaner around or help in any way please contact the Parish Office.

QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of Welcare

Saturday, 11 March, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. St Mary's church hall.

£7 per ticket, bring your own refreshments. Tickets/details from Marion Westropp Tel: 020 8650 5178

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Combating poverty and hunger

Bromley Borough Foodbank (BBF) wishes to thank supporters at St Mary's Shortlands for their support both financially and in food donations during 2016. Foodbank have also appreciated all the extra volunteers who have helped at various events during the year.

This year saw the introduction of a collection for financial donations outside Cannon Street Station in addition to regular Summer and Christmas food collections outside the larger Tesco stores. Local supermarkets also have donation boxes throughout the year. Church collections continue to play a large part in the donation of food and toiletries as well as providing the backbone of support workers and street collection volunteers.

Last November, Bromley Borough Foodbank was relaunched as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. From its inception six years ago as an arm of the Oak Community Church in Orpington, BBF has grown to six centres across the borough, so it was vital to sustain the work by becoming an autonomous charity.

BBF provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food, advice and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. It's part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

Donations of toiletries, nappies and household goods are particularly requested.

Please continue to leave your donations in the church porch. As ever, our grateful thanks to all those who give.

Vici Nightingale

Mothering Sunday – 26 March

Mothering Sunday always falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Once observed as a day on which people would visit their "mother" church, it has become an occasion for honouring the mothers of children and giving them presents.

During the sixteenth century people returned to their mother church, either the main church of the area or the church where they were baptised. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone "a-mothering". In later times, Mothering Sunday became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members. It was often the only time that whole families could gather together.

Children and young people who were 'in service' (as household servants) were given a day off on that date so they could visit their families. The children would pick wild flowers along the way to place in the church or give to their mothers.

In the USA in the early twentieth century, a movement started campaigning for an official day to honour mothers. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson officially set Mothers' Day on the second Sunday in May. Mothers' Day is celebrated around the world at different times of year, from the second Sunday in February in Norway to 22nd December in Indonesia.

Eventually, the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers.

In some churches in Lent one additional candle is added each week to those burning in church. These are purple to mirror the liturgical colour of Lent. But on the fourth Sunday it is pink (rose) to recognise Mothering Sunday.

At St Mary's, Mothering Sunday is celebrated by posies being distributed at the 10.30 service, for children to give to their mothers.



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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/
(Sun, Mon, Wed)		8460 5682
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. D. Speller	8466 1184
	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. A. Swatton	8650 1114
	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
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	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's	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
		8460 8122
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 1705
Rainbows	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
Mission Chairman	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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