

Peace and Quiet

At the end of this month we begin the season of Lent. For many this is a time for 'giving up' all the things that we like but are deemed to be bad for us – sweets, chocolate, alcohol, smoking, and so on. The intention is to make us fitter and healthier. And, a little like New Year's Resolutions, the intentions are hard to keep!

However, for Christians Lent is a time of reflection: preparing for the rollercoaster of Easter with the commemoration of Jesus' death and resurrection, quiet contemplation and drawing closer to God.

I have had the privilege of spending time at West Malling Abbey which is the venue for vocational courses run by the Diocese. The Abbey was founded in about 1090 and passed into secular ownership after the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. The Abbey was restored to its original purpose in the late 19th century and is run by a charitable trust.



SPACE FOR REFLECTION: West Malling Abbey

It is home to a small community of Benedictine nuns, who work in the grounds, offer hospitality, and spend a life in near silence and constant prayer. Their purpose is to get close to God, to serve Him and to support others through prayer. They offer the opportunity to study and reflect in a place of quiet and peace, far from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, where you can really feel God's presence.

As we prepare for Lent, please think about spending time in a quiet place. It might be popping into St. Mary's during the week, it might be in the quiet of your own home, or out in the beautiful countryside. Wherever you find yourself, reflect on the things in your life that you need to put right, contemplate on how you might be able to help others in our community or beyond, and be prepared for what God might have in store for you.

Ann-Marie Jefferys

Special Events and Services

Sunday 19 February

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Sumsion in G

Anthem: Clare Benediction - Rutter

Sunday 26 February

6.30pm Songs of Praise

The Music Group will lead a service of favourite traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs.

Wednesday 1 March - Ash Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion services

& 8.00pm With the Imposition of Ashes for those who wish it



LIGHT A CANDLE

In January, at a memorial service of Choral Evensong, a votive candle stand was dedicated in memory of Canon Doug Redman. Pictured are Ven. Dr Paul Wright, Rev Morag Finch, and members of the Redman family.



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Dennis Wood 8 Dec aged 88

Expedition to Nepal

In summer 2018, one of our choir members, Oliver Wright-Jones, will be going on a World Challenge Expedition to Nepal for four weeks with Saint Olave's Grammar School. He will be helping to rebuild community centres in remote villages following the 2015 Earthquake.

He is looking for a range of part-time jobs, including dog-walking and car-washing, in order to raise the £4,000 he needs to cover travel costs, vaccination and equipment. You can contact him after 10:30am Sunday Services, or call him on 020 8466 1427.



Remembering

Brian Dunk



Brian was born in Croydon in 1939 and was educated at Trinity School, having earned a scholarship. Music was always a big part of his life and he was at various times a member of West Wickham Operatic Society for whom he was publicity manager, a member of Theatre 62 in West Wickham, a major fund-raiser for Bromley Youth Orchestra, and in more recent years a member of the Highfield Schools' Community Choir.

It was through music that he met his wife Diana, who was playing piano one day at the West Wickham Operatic Society when he was there. They were married for more than fifty years and had three children - Chris, Jay, and Maz - and three grandchildren.

The family moved to Shortlands in 1990s and Brian became well known to many through his devotion to the community. He was for many years a very active member of the Shortlands Residents Association and was a founder member of the Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen. On many Saturday mornings throughout the year he could be found litter-picking and carrying out other work in and around the woods.

He was also, in 2009, appointed as a Governor at Highfield Infants' School, and his involvement with the school became increasingly important to him in recent years. In addition to his role as a Governor, in which he had particular responsibility for safeguarding, he became in effect a full-time but unpaid member of the staff - spending an immense amount of time reading with individual children and helping them to develop their skills. He was well-loved by the children, and by the staff and his fellow Governors.

There are many in Shortlands who are very grateful for what he has done for the community and who will miss him a great deal.

Gerry Peters

Gerry was born in Clapham in 1931 and was mainly brought up in Catford. His schooling was very disrupted due to the war - he was evacuated three times.

One time he was sent to Windsor, where the boys didn't care for the 'rough element' from Catford and many fights ensued. Another time he was in East Grinstead and remembers many of Archie McIndoe's "guinea pigs" - those horribly disfigured burnt young airmen through whom progress was made in plastic surgery. Finally he ended up in West Hoathley - a perfect spot to watch the planes heading for London where his family were, and to collect shrapnel - this 'place of safety' was where spare bombs were dropped.

On leaving school - or schools - Gerry worked at Lloyds before enjoying his national service in the RAF. He returned to Lloyds afterwards before deciding later on that writing was what interested him. The 1960s were a time when working in Advertising was exciting.

He got a job as trainee copywriter with the Daily Mail, later went to the Sunday Times and finally was Creative Director at IPC Business Press

Gerry and Jane met in 1972 at a dance at Bromley Cricket Club: a mutual friend acted as matchmaker. Gerry and Jane went on to have two children - Harriet and Christopher - and in time, grandchildren.

Gerry was a keen sportsman, playing a lot of squash and tennis: Jane had to start playing herself in order to spend time with him.

Gerry's health was a bit of a rollercoaster over the last 25 years: Jane was told six times that he 'might not make it'. While he hated his failing powers, he remained (relatively) uncomplaining to the end.

Gerry was a good and decent man, a faithful husband and a protective father. It is testament to this, and to the affection in which he and Jane are held in the community, that well over a hundred people attended his cremation service.

A special promise

An unusual ceremony was held in Westminster Abbey in December, due to the generous permission of the Dean.

16 December 2016 was the 100th anniversary of Cub Scouting, and Cubs the world over were urged to remake their Promise on this day, at the same time, in a special location.

Many of 7th Bromley's Cubs visited the Abbey to achieve this, standing to attention in front of the Baden-Powell memorial, with the added blessing of prayers by the duty chaplain.

The Cubs will remember this ceremony for the rest of their lives. Everyone present said that it was indeed an unforgettable and quite poignant moment.

'Chil' - Tricia Braithwaite



+ Lent 2017 +

Lent is an opportunity before the great Festival of Easter to take time out and reflect on our journey through life. There are a number of ways to help you to get the most out of Lent

1. Home Groups

The weeks during Lent are a time when we reflect on our faith, and prepare for the joy of Easter to come. Lent home groups are a wonderful way of exploring our faith in more depth and of getting to know each other better. This year we will be following a course created by the Diocese of Rochester - this course will encourage us all to set aside time to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit, to explore the culture around us and find our own role within it. There will be groups both during the day and in the evening and details of these are available from the Parish Office (8460 5682) and on the notice

board at the back of church. Lent home groups offer the opportunity of asking questions in a safe environment and are led by experienced leaders. If you have not joined a group before, do consider it!

2. Churches together in Beckenham

There is an opportunity to spend time with other Christians from local churches. A series of events will take place on Tuesday evenings at St John's Eden Park. More information and details of how to register are available at the back of church.

3. Lent Lunches

A simple lunch for up to 10 people, providing an opportunity to meet together, enjoy hospitality and support a charity. Dates and locations are on lists at the back of the church where you can sign up to attend, or please ring the Parish Office on 8460 5682 for more information.

4. Daily prayer

Leaflets containing a simple form of daily prayer, including readings and a reflection, will be available in church to take home.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Easter is the most important festival of the Christian year. As such, it has always been considered necessary to prepare for it by a period of reflection and fasting from both food and festivities. This time is called Lent, from an old English word meaning 'lengthen', as the days are doing at this time of year. Lasting forty days, it replicates the time Jesus spent in the desert.

Shrove Tuesday (28 February this year) is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is not only the last chance to feast before Lent begins, but gets its name from the ritual of 'shriving' when Christians would confess all their sins and receive absolution or forgiveness, thus releasing them from the guilt and pain the sins had caused.

This day is recognised all over the world, with the most famous examples being Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) in New Orleans, Carnival (Farewell to meat) in Rio de Janeiro and Pancake (races and eating) in this country. Why pancakes? What better way to use up all perishable foods like fat, eggs and milk before forty days of fasting?

The following day – Ash Wednesday – is the first day of Lent. Ashes were used in olden times to express grief and repentance. In extreme cases, people would wear sackcloth and ashes, used as an outward sign of one's inward condition. Sackcloth was a coarse material, making it quite uncomfortable to wear. The ashes signified desolation and ruin.

These days at St Mary's, there is a service on Ash Wednesday when ashes – the burnt remains of the palm crosses from last year's Palm Sunday – can be marked on your forehead. Shrove Tuesday is not celebrated (in church, at least)!

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

The Parish Office

We are very fortunate to have two members of staff working in the Parish Office: Nicola, who works five mornings a week and Emma, who works three mornings a week during term time.

Nicola came to us in 2013 and Emma has been working in the office for around seven years.

So what does work in the office involve? They deal with phone calls and personal callers during office hours, answering queries and ensuring a response to any concerns.

Nicola works with the production team to get SPAN ready for the printers and advertisements for SPAN are also dealt with by the office. Nicola produces the weekly 'pew papers' and extra service sheets when they are required.

Baptism enquiries come to the office to find available dates, and enquiries, bookings and payments for the hall are dealt with by the office team.

The team also make sure the church is warm and welcoming for the congregation, for weddings, funerals or baptisms. One very enjoyable duty is filling out the wedding register ready for the happy couple to sign: neat writing is required!

The ladies work really hard making sure everything goes well. Office hours are 9.30am – 12.30pm Monday to Friday.



PICTURED: Nicola Blake and Emma Parker

Mission of the month

Book Aid

Book Aid was started in 1987 as a positive response to an urgent appeal from overseas Christian book sellers who were suffering an acute shortage of books.

Book Aid is committed to providing Christian literature to overseas areas which are suffering from 'Book Famine' – mainly Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Shipments of new and second hand books are made to established Christian bookshops and churches who sell the books they receive at affordable prices. Help is also given in a variety of other situations such as individual Bible colleges and Christian schools. It also supports local publishing, marketing, training and development through the funds generated from book sales

Books are gathered by volunteers through a network of UK collection points. They are then transported to the main London warehouse where they are sorted, boxed and placed on pallets which are put into a container.

The types of books sought include:

- All kinds of Christian books regardless of age or doctrine
- Books on theology, and Bible commentaries including lexicons
- Bibles of any version (except 'New English Bible') regardless of age
- Ladybird books both religious and secular

Book Aid cannot accept dated material such as Bible reading notes and Sunday school material, nor are CDs, DVDs, videos and non-Christian books required.

For more information see the display in church during February, or visit www.book-aid.org. If you would like to donate any books, please leave them in the box provided under the Mission table.



United in Christ

We may be leaving the EU, but the link with our French friends in our twin parish of Saint Francis of Assisi in Douai is as strong as ever!

Come along and join our coach trip to France and enjoy fun and fellowship, home hospitality and shared worship: Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th April. More details to follow, but save the date now!



Unis en Jesus-Christ

Friends of St Mary's

Old Time Music Hall

18 March 2017

Save the Date

CAROLS WITH FRIENDS

St Mary's was pleased to host a dementia friendly carol service on 21st December in conjunction with Home Instead and Bromley Dementia Action Alliance. This was well attended by folk from throughout the borough. We sang a selection of traditional carols and heard the Christmas story retold. Our service ended with refreshments. It is hoped that we will be able to be involved in similar events in the future.

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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 617302/8460 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. 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
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
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. H. Last	8460 8122
	Mrs. S. Tight	8290 6704
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	or 07960 988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
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

Clr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Clr 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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