

New beginnings

I hope that you get a good break this summer. Most people have some sort of holiday over the summer before returning to their usual routine in September. For some, it might be a big change after the holiday; moving into a new class, a new school, going away to college or a new job. A holiday can be a time to relax and take stock and there can be the sense of new beginnings afterwards.

With a big change, where we aren't known by people, there is the opportunity to try to reinvent ourselves without carrying the 'baggage' of the past. This provides a real sense of new beginnings and a fresh start. The other time for new starts is the New Year: again, a time of holidays and opportunities to make New Year resolutions. Knowing that other people are also committed to new starts can encourage us in our attempts.

In many southern hemisphere countries the long summer holiday is around Christmas and the New Year; January is often when the new academic year begins as well. Perhaps it sounds attractive to start the academic year then and combine the educational year with the calendar year, but many of us enjoy the opportunity for new beginnings that are offered separately by August summer holidays and the New Year.

I like new beginnings and they are one of the things that appeal to me about Christianity. When I meet with God, in church worship or personal prayer, I get opportunities to reflect upon my life, acknowledge that I have made mistakes and know that if I am serious about trying to move on I can make a new start. I meet with a God who doesn't just consider who I have been, but looks at who I might become. God provides me with new starts to try and move on and reach my potential in Christ.

I don't need to wait until the summer or New Year for such opportunities: God is keen to offer me new beginnings anytime that I seek them.

Stuart Buchanan



War Memorial update

The pieces of the Memorial have now been collected by the specialist restoration company from their storage location in Bromley and have been transported to the conservation studio in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Various samples have been sent for analysis to help inform restoration works. The stone elements have now been cleaned and the restorers are in the process of removing old cement bedding mortars and broken slate dowels.

Meanwhile the brass panel commemorating those who fell in the Great War has been removed from the plinth and is currently being cleaned and waxed in the studio.

It is envisaged that the restoration work will be complete later this year, by around October, with further details to follow.



HARVEST LUNCH

Sunday 8 October

St Mary's Church Hall

Tickets available in September

after services and from the church office

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Invite you to a Wine-Tasting

on Saturday 14 October

in the Church Hall at 7.15pm

Tickets £10

Raffle



Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is 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.stmarysshortlands.org.uk



Special Events and Services

Sunday 17 September

6.30pm Choral evensong

Responses: Smith 5 part

Canticles: Wood in D

Anthem: Wash me thoroughly - Wesley



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

25 June Georgiana Leivers
9 July George Levett

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Gerry Peters 17 June

FREE FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL

The Bromley Family Film Club is hosting its first free film festival for local children and families on Saturday 2 September, 10:30am - 6pm. It will take place at the Mansion House, Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham Hill Road.

Everyone is welcome at this one-day celebration of cinema in the community. Come and enjoy animation workshops, balloon modelling, storytelling, arts & crafts activities, outdoor cinema and a fantastic line-up of films and events for the whole family.

The festival is fully inclusive with wheelchair access and autism-friendly screenings. Places for each film and event are allocated on a first come first served basis, so do arrive early to avoid disappointment!

Full programme details at www.freefilmfestivals.org/beckenham-mansion or register your interest: bromleyfilmclub@gmail.com



ST MARY'S HOME AND AWAY

St Mary's choir has been 'on tour' recently, singing Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral in July. This followed a joint service with the choir of St Mildred's, Addiscombe a few weeks earlier. St Mary's are looking forward to hosting a return visit from the St Mildred's choir in the Autumn.

The next chance to enjoy a Choral Evensong at St Mary's will be on Sunday 17 September at 6.30pm.



My day job

My day job is being an archivist – don't worry, a reaction of mild panic and bemusement to this word is quite usual!

I am one of the Assistant Directors at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), the regional archive service for London with 100KM of archives; original documents, photographs, films, AV, plans, and digital items about the history of London and Londoners.

Our oldest document, a William I charter, is 950 years old this year. Other iconic treasures include two Magna Cartas and other medieval City charters; Joseph Bazalgette's Victorian sewer plans; the Foundling Hospital collection; the London Bomb Damage maps; and one of the 6 authenticated signatures of William Shakespeare.

We have archives from hospitals, businesses, schools, charities, community and campaigning groups, and religious organisations – including over 900 Church of England parishes from the Dioceses of Southwark and London, St. Pauls and Southwark Cathedrals. Recently we have taken in the archives of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, a fascinating part of London's history.

I have responsibility for several teams of people at LMA, and with my fellow Assistant Director lead on future strategy for the service. My job is hugely varied, ranging from negotiating to take in new collections; curating our Heritage Gallery at Guildhall; creating job opportunities for Apprentices; and setting up partnerships and projects which promote the archives and take them to new audiences.

This year I'm working on our first family fun day; developing our schools programmes; an Open House day and a project for people with learning difficulties: we believe strongly in making archives welcome to new and non-traditional users. I also provide



information for official enquiries for bodies like the police – a more sombre part of the job.

I am fortunate to work with the archives of the world's greatest city and its peoples, there's always something to learn and to tell.

Charlotte Scott

St Mary's comes to you

What is prayer visiting? Each summer, homes in a few streets in our parish receive letters from St Mary's saying that a couple of people will visit. The purpose of the visit is to introduce ourselves and to see if there are any issues, worries or problems that people might like us to pray for back at St Mary's. There is no doorstep praying involved.

Visitors knock on doors in pairs. Our encounters are varied and cover many different aspects of life: no two visits are ever the same. Many of those with whom we have conversations have no contact with St Mary's – this is immaterial.

We at St Mary's regularly pray for the people who live in our parish and beyond. This year, as previously, we met people who are grieving, lonely, suffering from serious illness, or are carers or have loved ones with problems. We received prayer requests for the troubling events in the world, and the attacks in Manchester and London. Others requested prayers for peace between nations and religions, for our political leaders, for the young and old, those awaiting or recovering from surgery, for young people starting new schools in September. Sometimes people we met said they were fine at the moment, and were glad for that.

The prayer requests we received were included on the weekly pew paper at St Mary's, and prayed for during our services.

Perhaps you didn't get a knock on your door this year, or maybe there is someone or something you would like us to pray for. Prayer requests can be left at the church during the year either via the Parish office or on our prayer tree.

Susie Shelton

THANK YOU: Oliver Wright-Jones would like to thank everyone who has supported him in fundraising for his world challenge expedition to Nepal in 2018, either by offering odd jobs or generous donations. He has taken on various tasks such as lawn mowing, car washing, baby sitting and garage clearance. He is still available for jobs to raise money to help him reach his target, especially now that he is off school until September. Please contact him on 020 8466 1427.

Missions of the months

Welcare in Bromley

Welcare in Bromley continues to work with vulnerable families within the borough, employing three family support workers. It is receiving an increasing number of referrals and so more families and children are receiving services, including group work for children.

There are also trained and supervised volunteers working directly with parents and children in very practical ways, for example spending time with a mother completing the new Personal Independence Payment form, helping to sort out paperwork with a dyslexic mother, being a mentor for children and spending time with them just playing and having fun.

One recent case concerns Samira who was referred to Welcare by her children's school because she was socially isolated and needed help with finding support services for women who had experienced domestic violence and honour based violence. The family also needed to find activities for the children to take part in outside of school and help with applying for benefits. The family support worker and a volunteer have worked with Samira to achieve these goals. Overall the family feel that they are in a much better place in their lives because of the intervention from Welcare.

Welcare values the support of the Anglican Church: by prayer, by fundraising and by encouragement of their work

If you would like to find out more, please see the display at the back of church during August or visit the website www.welcare.org

Bishop Justus Vocational Centre, Chemba

Chemba is a district in the Diocese of Kondoa, Tanzania. It is one of the poorest districts in Tanzania.

The people of the Diocese have a vision and a project; to build a Vocational Centre that will equip young people in the Diocese to learn a trade and develop skills that will generate an income. Despite the Tanzanian Government's determination to send all young people to school, the majority finish their education after primary school, and therefore are unable to contribute to their family or village communities.

The project involves new buildings and the use of existing Diocesan buildings in Chemba. These will provide workshops, teaching areas and dormitories for students. Teaching and training will be provided in carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, building and electrical work, sewing, cooking and agriculture.

The Rochester Diocese's charity 'Poverty and Hope' has provided a contribution to the costs for the first four years and the project is twinned with Bishop Justus School in Bromley. The project needs further funding over the coming years not just to build the Vocational Centre but also to initiate the running of the Centre.

Bishop Given Gaula said: 'The best thing the Diocese can do for our young people, many of them poor, some orphans, is to offer them skills for life'.

For more information about the work of the Diocese of Kondoa please go to their website:
http://kondoa.anglican.org/Groups/263417/Bishop_Justus_Vocational.aspx

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THANK YOU: to all those who came to our open morning on 1 July to give us your thoughts on the buildings on our site and how you think we can improve things.

We enjoyed chatting with those who came along about the wide range of activities on offer at St Mary's – from Pre School, Toddlers and Junior Church, through to Craft and Chatter, exercise classes and social events for older people. We know that many people also value the classes and groups which meet in our church hall.

The architect we've appointed to develop some options for us will consider everything he heard on the day, and all other thoughts that people have shared with him during this recent period of consultation, when preparing those options later this year.

We'll keep you posted on this – and we'll continue to think about how St Mary's can best bring the love of God into the lives of people in Shortlands.

Rev Morag Finch



SUMMER SOIREE: Over 60 people enjoyed the music of Four Play Sax at St Mary's on an evening in July, arranged by the Friends of St Mary's.

Lammas Day – 1 August

Many years ago Lammas Day was a festival to mark the annual wheat harvest: it was the first harvest festival of the year. On this day it was customary to bring to church a loaf made from the new crop, which began to be harvested at Lammastide.

The name comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word Hlafmaesse meaning Loaf Mass. It marks the beginning of the harvest when people in rural areas used to go to church to give thanks for the first corn to be cut. As such it predates the modern Harvest Festival held in October.

The loaves made by farmers on Lammas Day were given to the local church where they were used as the Communion bread at a special mass. However the custom ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Roman Catholic Church.

Lammas Day used to be a time for foretelling marriages and trying out partners! Two young people would agree to a 'trial marriage' lasting the period of the Lammas Fair – usually eleven days - to see if they were really suitable for wedlock. At the end of this time, if they didn't get on, they were allowed to part.

To bring good luck, farmers would let the first corn bread go stale, and then crumble it over the corners of their barns.

Lammas Day is these days only commemorated in Scotland where it is a quarter day used for one of the four divisions of the legal year, historically used as the days when contracts and leases would begin and end, servants would be hired or dismissed, and rent, interest on loans, and ministers' stipends would become due.



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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
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	Mr. S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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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
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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

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

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