

# Christmas Hats

How many hats do you have? I don't mean beanie hats or baseball caps, but the roles you have in life. We often talk about having many hats when we have many roles to play. So the dance teacher has her teacher hat but also wears the hats (roles) of being a parent, child, friend, neighbour and colleague. Each of these roles requires her to wear different hats at different times depending on what she is doing.

In December because the weather turns colder we often see people's hats (and scarves and gloves). They may be plain, sombre colours or perhaps they are bright and jazzy. You may have a Christmas pudding hat or a practical tweed cap. Do you have a favourite?

In the coming month we will hear the Christmas story retold in St Mary's whether by our toddlers or pre-school, one of the local nurseries or schools or on Christmas morning. As we hear the familiar story we realise that there are many people in it with different roles to play. There are the shepherds on the hillside - a close community of hard-working people, often shunned by others. There are the Angels - heavenly messengers with voices like... well, Angels! There is the Inn-keeper, Herod, Wise Men and others. Not to mention Mary, Joseph and the donkey. Each has a role to play and different hats to wear.

I wonder if there is one of these characters that you find yourself identifying with. Think about the part they play in introducing Jesus to the world: each has a role. This is the Good News of Christmas - through God reaching out to us, we can all be introduced to Jesus and we can all introduce others to him too.

Whichever hat you wear or role you have, there is always room for you to meet Jesus this Christmas. This was true for the lowly Shepherds and majestic Wise Men back then - and it is true for us today. May this be your blessing this Christmas.

*Rev Morag Finch*

## Special Events and Services

### Sunday 4 December

#### 4.00pm Christingle Service

Come and see the children's faces glowing in the light of candles

### Sunday 11 December

#### 10.30am Family Toy Service

You are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy or voucher suitable for children aged 8-13 years, which will become a gift for a local child in need of support through Welcare in Bromley. Please, no soft toys. Wrapping paper also welcome.

### Sunday 18 December

#### 6.30pm The Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

### Saturday 24 December - Christmas Eve

#### 3.30pm Crib Service with Nativity Play

#### 11.30pm Procession by Candlelight and Midnight Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord

### Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day

#### 9.00am Holy Communion

#### 10.30am Family Communion for Christmas Day





## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

13 Nov

Donovan Wootton

### Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Carol Walklin

12 Nov

### Confirmation

Confirming their Christian faith:

6 Nov

Lucy Hemsley

Oliver Wright-Jones

**CONFIRMED:** Lucy Hemsley and Oliver Wright-Jones were among 28 candidates recently confirmed at St John's Eden Park.



### Respect

In September and October I led assemblies on the theme of respect at Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools, and Harris Primary Academy Shortlands. The children had been learning what respect means and how we respect other people.

I told the children the story of The Good Samaritan, or Good Stranger (Luke 10, 30-37). Jesus told this story to illustrate what it means to keep one of God's commandments in the Bible: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind ... Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

This story tells us that all people - including those who are different from us - are equally valuable and that we should treat others with care and respect.

If a Samaritan could be a neighbour to a Jew, and Jesus told us to 'go and do the same', then all of God's people must be our neighbours and we must love them just as the Samaritan man did.

*Rev Morag Finch*

### Walking the frontline

Ann-Marie Jefferys recently walked 100km across northern France and Belgium following the frontline of the Battle of the Somme, from Lochnagar Crater to Ypres.

She was among one hundred walkers remembering those who gave their lives, visiting memorials and cemeteries along the way. This was in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity who support serving soldiers, veterans and their families. To donate, visit

[www.justgiving.com/Ann-MariewalkingtheFrontline2016](http://www.justgiving.com/Ann-MariewalkingtheFrontline2016)



**REMEMBERING:** the community of Shortlands came together to commemorate Remembrance Sunday around a wooden cross, a temporary replacement for the stone cross at the War Memorial damaged in a car accident earlier in the year.

### Saint of the Month December

#### St Nicholas – 6 December

St Nicholas, or Santa Claus, is one of the most popular saints of Christendom with countless churches dedicated to him. Yet all that is known for sure about him is that he was the bishop of Myra in Southern Turkey in the fourth century.

However there are many legends about him. For example, he had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, a practice celebrated on his feast day.

Another legend tells how, during a terrible famine, a malicious butcher lured three little children into his house, where he killed them, placing their remains in a barrel to cure, planning to sell them off as ham. St Nicholas, visiting the region to care for the hungry, resurrected the three children by his prayers.

In his most famous exploit, a poor man had three daughters but could not afford a proper dowry for them. This meant that they would remain unmarried and probably would have to become prostitutes. Hearing of the girls' plight, Nicholas decided to help them, so he went to the house at night and threw three purses filled with gold coins through their open window.

Many years after he died about half of his bones were reburied in Bari, while the other half were later taken to Venice!

He is the patron saint of bakers, brewers, brides, children, merchants, pawnbrokers and travellers.



## Following the Camino



A SIGN OF THE WAY:  
the scallop shell, used to guide  
pilgrims along the Camino.

Twenty-eight members of St Mary's congregation and friends travelled to Santiago de Compostela in October, in a trip led by Rev Bruce Driver, of Bromley College. The trip followed part of the 'Camino' or 'Way': the route taken by pilgrims since the Middle Ages to the site of the remains of St James in north-western Spain.

The travellers did not attempt to walk or cycle the 480 miles of the French route, but travelled by coach, joining the Way at Burgos, around 300 miles from Santiago.

Having explored the beautiful cathedral and historic centre of that city, they moved on to Leon, a further 110 miles along the route. For many, the medieval stained glass windows of Leon cathedral were a

highlight of the trip, as was a service of communion held for the group in the cathedral.

The journey continued on to Santiago itself, where the group enjoyed a guided tour of the cathedral and historic city centre. Having participated in the group's own service of communion in the cathedral earlier in the day, many returned that evening to attend the Pilgrims' Mass, which included the use of the largest censer (container of incense) in the world. Ropes were pulled bringing the censer into a swinging motion almost to the roof of the cathedral, reaching speeds of 80km per hour.

Some of the travellers also managed to find time to walk the last 5km of the Way, starting at the site where pilgrims first get a glimpse of the city of Santiago.

Valerie Burton, one of those travelling, said 'People have different reasons for going to Santiago de Compostela: it gave me time to reflect'. Annette German remembered many special moments of reflection as the coach passed those making the pilgrimage on foot. She said: 'Feeling the presence of St Mary's congregation in an utterly different environment, it was good to be in a different place, it's what pilgrimage is all about'.



PICTURED:  
the travellers in front of the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela.

## Mission of the month

### The Children's Society

The Children's Society is driven by the belief that every child deserves a good childhood. Its resources are targeted to four priority areas of work:



**The  
Children's  
Society**

Children in trouble with the law - exposed to bullying, violence and deprivation, some children are driven to crime. The Children's Society provides preventative support and guidance to lead children away from the cycle of crime and custody.

Children at risk on the streets - each year in the UK 100,000 children run away from home, and many resort to begging, stealing and prostitution to survive. The Children's Society helps them find solutions to their problems at their point of greatest need.

Disabled children - the Children's Society ensures that disabled

children are given a voice in decisions that affect them now and in the future, to overcome the effects of exclusion, ignorance and disrespect.

Young refugees - the Society helps refugee children rebuild their lives in new communities, surrounded and supported by friends, providing help with finding accommodation and education, and assisting with language barriers.

Alongside this core work it also supports projects involving traveller and gypsy children, and young people affected by adult drug and alcohol misuse.

The Children's Society relies heavily on donations. This allows it to concentrate its work where the need is greatest and not just in areas where government funding is available, and to be a truly independent organisation.

You are warmly invited to attend our Christingle service in St Mary's on Sunday 4 December at 4.00pm which will be the highlight of our financial support for the Children's Society this year.

For more information see the display at the back of church or visit [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

## Painting & Decorating

by a time served tradesman of forty two years experience

**T: 020 8650 7973**

**M: 07841 655733**

**E: [www.stretton-downes.co.uk](http://www.stretton-downes.co.uk)**

### Need long term care?

**My Care Consultant** provides information and guidance on your care and paying for care needs. We can help you with:

- Finding the best care
- Immediate care annuities
- Your property options
- Wills & Power of Attorney

Contact us for a no obligation chat today:

**Email:** [ask@mycareconsultant.co.uk](mailto:ask@mycareconsultant.co.uk)

**Phone:** (020) 3290 3110

**Website:** [www.mycareconsultant.co.uk](http://www.mycareconsultant.co.uk)



20 Bromley Gardens, Bromley, Kent Br2 0ET

Tel/Fax: 020 8249 8198

Mob: 07721 454 716

Email: [gmminstallationsltd@gmail.com](mailto:gmminstallationsltd@gmail.com)

J.I.B. Approved Electrician

NAPIT Part P

24 years experience

## The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

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/
(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
	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](http://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
	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	Mr. 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

Website [www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk)  
Editorial Parish Office 8460 5682  
Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 8464 0284  
**Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those supported by the publishers, and no responsibility can be accepted for accuracy. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for work carried out by advertisers.**  
ADVERTISING: £18.00 per column inch per issue.  
For details call 8460 5682 during office hours.  
Copy by the 5th of each month to SPAN Church House, 39 Kingswood Road, Shortlands, BR2 0HG

## AEROBICS - BUMS, TUMS & THIGHS LADIES - COME AND JOIN JACKIE

Every Monday 8-9p.m.

at St. Mary's Church Hall, St. Mary's Avenue, Shortlands.  
For more information Tel: 8650 2083 mob. 07967 214279  
*A class all ages can enjoy, beginners welcome.*

## Dawoods

The Family Law Specialists

Family and relationship breakdown is a very difficult time for anyone. Please contact Kumari Dawood in confidence for advice. Tel 020 8249 6047 or email [confidential@dawoods-solicitors.co.uk](mailto:confidential@dawoods-solicitors.co.uk)



Based just off Beckenham High Street  
[www.dawoods-solicitors.co.uk](http://www.dawoods-solicitors.co.uk)



## FERNDALE HOUSE

### Dental Practice

\*All aspects of general dental care in a friendly, relaxed environment

\*New NHS and private patients welcome

020 8466 7393

[www.ferndale-dental.co.uk](http://www.ferndale-dental.co.uk)

250 Bromley Road, Shortlands, BR2 0BW

## QUALIFIED PLUMBER

### P. J. EDWARDS

01322 868212 or 07831 54 59 51

*Bathrooms, kitchens and all domestic work undertaken*  
*Advertising in SPAN for over 15 years*

## LOCAL PLUMBER

(Beckenham)

All types of general plumbing  
Toilets, Showers, Taps, Ball Valves.

**BATHROOM INSTALLATION SPECIALISTS.**

07793 867306 Ask for Michael

## FLOWTECH SERVICES LTD

Telephone - 020 8679 4425 Email - [flowtech@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:flowtech@hotmail.co.uk)  
Mobile - 07958 608590 Website - [www.flowtechservices.com](http://www.flowtechservices.com)

**Blocked Drains Cleared > High Pressure Water Jetting**  
**Drainage Installation & Repairs > CCTV Surveys**

## HANDYMAN SHORTLANDS

Competitive rates, professional, reliable service.

Most trades covered.

Call John Prior 07967963162 / 02086998695  
or email [JOHNPRIOR2000@live.com](mailto:JOHNPRIOR2000@live.com)

### Beckenham based Funeral Caterer



Established for over 25 years and able to provide catering and waitress service in your own home or a venue of your choice.

To see our suggested menus please go to [www.careysfuneralcaterers.co.uk](http://www.careysfuneralcaterers.co.uk) or tel: 020 8658 5008

### HOLT MAINTENANCE

Garden Maintenance, Landscape Gardening,  
Window Cleaning,  
Domestic and Commercial Cleaning.  
Accredited Safe Contractor

Tel. 07956 172979

## J. & R. KILLICK Ltd.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS Est 1879

- \* **FAMILY RUN**
- \* Personal service
- \* Pre-paid funeral plans advice given
- \* 24 hours a day
- \* Modern or
- Classsic funeral fleet

For advice, assistance and our **INFORMATION** folder please phone PETER or MICHAEL KILLICK

020 8777 4502 Website [www.jrkillick.co.uk](http://www.jrkillick.co.uk)  
112 High Street, West Wickham BR4 0ND



## Sunnyfields Day Nursery

19 Bromley Grove, Shortlands

7.30am - 6.30pm daily  
children 3 months to 5 years

Tel: 8313 9191



## PICTURE FRAMING

Oils, Photographs, Watercolours, Tapestries,  
Prints, Embroideries

Jo Powell

3 Highfield Drive, Shortlands

020 8464 3149



## Langleigh School of Dancing

Ballet, Tap, Modern, Street Jazz,  
Boys Street Jazz & Zumba

from age 2½ to adult - at St. Mary's Hall

Tel: 07540 400615 for a free trial class

## Vicky - Mobile Hairdresser

over 25 years experience 07958 210577



**Creativity, Confidence**  
**Communication**

Drama for 5-8 yrs, 8-11 yrs,

01689 812 336 12-18 yrs

[bromley@helenogrady.co.uk](mailto:bromley@helenogrady.co.uk)

## SHORTLANDS DENTAL CARE

98 Martins Road, Shortlands, Br2 0EF

NHS\*Private\*Quality Care\*

\*Denplan Available\*

Tel 0208 460 7520

[www.Shortlandsdentalpractice.co.uk](http://www.Shortlandsdentalpractice.co.uk)

## Local, friendly and professional building company for your larger projects.

Extensions, Conversions,  
Refurbishment and Electrical.  
Excellent references available  
No job too large

E: [steve@rutlandbuilding.co.uk](mailto:steve@rutlandbuilding.co.uk)  
T: 020 8249 8769 M: 07949 593294



A flexible and friendly care service in your own home.



- Companionship
- Personal care
- Specialist dementia care
- Shopping

Contact us on 020 8658 2535

[www.homeinstead.co.uk/bromley-chislehurst-orpington](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/bromley-chislehurst-orpington)

## DON'T D.I.Y.

let us ...

... Decorating ... Tiling ...  
Decking ... Carpentry ...  
and more.

Contact Luke, telephone: 07946 545049  
or e-mail at [lukeb12345@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lukeb12345@yahoo.co.uk)

## ROOFING

ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN  
GENERAL BUILDING \* LOFT EXTENSIONS \* FENCING  
GUTTERING \* SKYLIGHT WINDOWS  
SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFING \* NEW SHED ROOFS  
PATIO & DRIVES PRESSURE WASHED

HARRY ALLEN 020 8402 0156