

Who is my neighbour?

Recently our bible reading in church was the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37). Jesus was questioned: 'who is my neighbour?'

He responded by telling a story. A man went on a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho and was beaten up by robbers. A priest went by and walked past on the other side. A Levite did the same. Then a Samaritan came but he stopped and helped, cleaning up the wounds before helping the man to an inn where he looked after him and left payment and instructions for further care.

We hope that we are like the Samaritan and would come to the aid of strangers. When there is a disaster or emergency, we see generosity, as individuals are

touched by the need and make financial donations or practical ones. But helping your neighbour, loving your neighbour as yourself is something we can do every day, not just when disaster strikes.

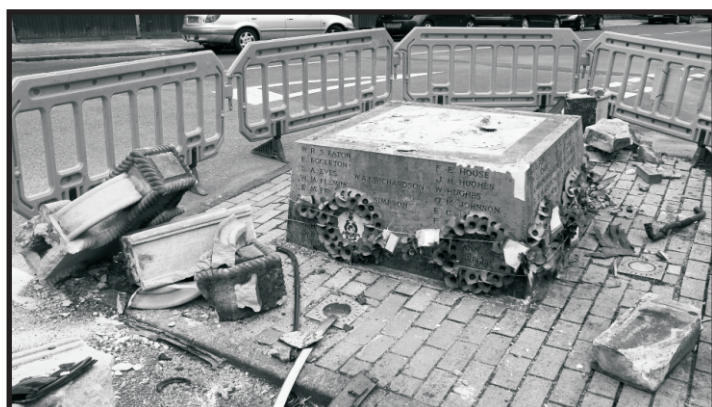
Loving our neighbour is how we respond when someone who always talks for a long time is in their garden when we are walking the dog. Do we go the other way? Or stop and talk and spend time with them? Loving our neighbour is how we respond when a child has a tantrum in the supermarket. Do we grumble, making hassled parents feel worse? Or do we smile and offer them sympathy?

Loving our neighbour is caring for all those who live here no matter where they originate from. Since the EU referendum, there has been a huge rise in racial abuse and hate crime in Britain. Many people, including second and third generation British citizens, are being told to 'go home'.

It is looking after others and showing our love that makes us neighbours. We learn to be like the Samaritan, helping those we meet each day who need our help. Our neighbours are not necessarily like us and we don't even have to know who they are but we do need to be willing to care for them.

By following the commandments to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves in this time of change and uncertainty, reaching out and listening to each other, building bridges not walls between us, we will be living in a far greater community.

Rev Morag Finch



Shortlands War Memorial

The war memorial is a treasured part of the life of Shortlands. It has been the focus of many community commemorations since it was dedicated in 1921. Most recently it was the centre of St Mary's Church's Diamond Jubilee and the Service of Whistle for the Somme.

Bromley Council, which looks after this memorial, is already actively looking to recover the costs of the repair/ replacement works and will be working closely with the local community and bodies such as the Royal British Legion over coming weeks to ensure that a suitably dignified replacement is chosen and set in place at the earliest possible opportunity.

It is too early to say how much of the former memorial can be preserved but we have full records and have secured the damaged sections.

We would like to thank the emergency services for their quick response together with Council Officers, local residents and the staff of the Church Office.

We remember all those who have been affected by this incident, particularly the car driver who we hope has a speedy and full recovery.

We owe it to all those who gave so much for their country and our community that we restore this memorial as soon as possible.

Cllrs Mary Cooke & David Jefferys

Special Events and Services

Sunday 18th September

6.30pm Choral Evensong
Responses: Smith 5 part
Canticles: Sumsion in A
Anthem: Be thou my Vision - Chilcott

Sunday 2nd October

6.30pm Informal Service
led by the Music Group

Sunday 9th October

10.30am Harvest Parade Service
followed by Harvest lunch
Harvest gifts will be given to Bromley Women's Aid



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Carol Walklin 19 July aged 86

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Gladys Webber 29 June



Remembering

David Vydelingam

David was born in Port Louis, capital of Mauritius, in 1932.

His career started as a school teacher at his old school, St Andrews, Quatre Bornes, where he met the love of his life, Dvina, the girl next door: they married in 1962 and moved to London.

He started work as a teacher in London, then studied for further qualifications while working as an immigration officer at Heathrow. He then moved to work for the Home Office, and was part of a small team sent to work on the initial stages of the Hong Kong handover.

David was a dedicated father, creating a happy, secure home together with Dvina, for Ruth and Sacha. He had been a Scout Master in Mauritius and was extremely proud that his grandsons have continued through the ranks of scouting.

He had a lifelong love of Mauritius, and an especially strong bond with his extended family, friends and St Andrews church there: he and Dvina would return to Mauritius each year for several weeks or months at a time. David was much admired and respected across the world – which he travelled extensively through business and pleasure several times over with Dvina.

David and the family had been members of St Mary's congregation since 1984 and all four of David and Dvina's grandchildren were baptised in the church.

David saw the goodness in everyone he met, and guided his children to be the best versions of themselves that they could be.

He faced years of treatment courageously and with determination.

Memories of Rev Canon Doug Redman

Many people shared their memories of Doug Redman with SPAN and with his family: here are some we couldn't fit in last month:

'He was a wonderful 'people' person and a listening ear... he was a father to us all.'

'He was such a spiritual man and so gentle but also with a wonderful sense of humour.'

Charles Wood: Doug passionately supported the 7th Bromley Scout Group. He cherished his own childhood memories of Scouting and wanted to ensure future generations would enjoy the scouting movement. He did so much to embed scouting in the life of St Mary's. He helped negotiate the sponsorship agreement between the Scout Group and the church. He relished invitations from the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to take part in their meetings, perhaps to judge a competition or present badges. He had a way of identifying prospective scout leaders. He knew who to ask and how to ask. Indeed, some members of the present scout executive committee were appointed by Doug.

Ann Gimson: My lasting memory of Doug is of his kindness, thoughtfulness and loving concern, not least when his next door neighbour had a sudden, massive heart attack at home. Doug arrived home tired, saw the ambulance waiting outside, discovered how ill his neighbour was, got straight in the ambulance and stayed with him until he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. I learnt so much from Doug and treasure his memory.

Lorna Miles: We moved to Shortlands many years ago; my children were very young when we started attending the church and Doug made us feel comfortable and welcome. He was warm, personable, happy and strong in faith.

It was during an extremely difficult and prolonged period early on that we felt the extent of Doug's caring and empathetic spirit. With Doug at the spearhead, the church encircled us with comforting arms spiritually and physically. A rota was created whereby Doug, Valerie and church members would come and look after my children. This enabled me to put into place the changes required to pull my family out of the darkness and into a calmer and brighter place enriched with hope and optimism.

During my darkest moments, Doug was instrumental in helping me to reaffirm my faith in God. When he knew that his presence would make a difference he did not hesitate to make it known that God was indeed working through him. He made a huge difference to our lives, he acted on his faith and made an impact. He genuinely practised what he preached and we are a stronger, happier and spiritually healthier family for having been touched by his kindness.

Whistle for the Somme

St Mary's was proud to be part of the national initiative – 'Whistle for the Somme' – on 1 July.

The date marked the centenary of the start of the Battle of the Somme. At 7.30am whistles were blown along a 15-mile front line to mark the start of the advance by British and Commonwealth soldiers towards the German lines. Despite five days of bombardment and the explosion of mines under the German positions, their trenches were relatively unscathed. By the end of the first day British and Commonwealth troops had suffered a total of 57,470 casualties, 19,240 of whom had died. It was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army, and the start of a series of battles on the Somme which lasted for five months.

A short service of commemoration was held at Shortlands war memorial to remember the men who took part in the Battle and those who were killed or wounded.

At 7.30am two minutes' silence was kept as we remembered the precise moment 100,000 British and Commonwealth troops went over the top as part of the big push designed to shorten the war. This was followed by three short whistle blasts and prayers.



FULL OF BEANS: It wasn't just the children who had a great time at St Mary's Parish Picnic this summer!

Christian Aid Week: Thank You

Thank you to everyone who responded to this year's Christian Aid Week appeal in May which had the theme 'The week we love every neighbour'. This year the house to house collection in Shortlands raised £2,137 towards the total of over £2,900 that St Mary's has been able to send to Christian Aid.

Thanks also to the children from the uniformed organisations, pre-school and mother and toddler groups who all put 'Pennies from Heaven' around the Church during the week. These added £125.84 to the collection. The money raised will be used in Christian Aid's work to tackle the effects and root causes of poverty around the world.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S
are holding a

RACE NIGHT

on Saturday, 19
November

Further details in the
next SPAN

Mission of the month

August: Welcare in Bromley

Welcare in Bromley now employs 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 arranging for a family to receive a grant for a day out at a theme park during the summer holidays, helping to sort out paperwork with a dyslexic mother, being a mentor for children and spending time with them just playing and having fun.

Welcare in Bromley continues to work with vulnerable families within the borough. One recent case involved a family of mother and two small children who were victims of domestic violence, the father being the perpetrator. The family support worker enabled the mother and children to leave an increasingly difficult situation by arranging for them to obtain accommodation at a women's refuge. They have now been there for a few weeks, the children are more settled and the mother is gradually regaining her confidence and self esteem.

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

September: The Biggin Hill Romania Group

The Biggin Hill Romania Group (BHRG) was formed following a television appeal in 1990. After the end of Nicolae Ceausescu's repressive regime, the rest of the world finally saw the truth of the country's poverty and suffering, which included around 150,000 Romanian orphans, living in deprived conditions. Despite changes over the years, there are many children and young people at risk in some parts of the country.

Initially the BHRG intended to relieve the distress of sick and disabled children, but moved on to distributing aid to hospitals, dental surgeries, schools and churches. In 1997 the group opened the Robert Cole Centre in Comanesti, north east Romania, for children with special needs. More than 70 children attend regularly as well as others from mainstream schools who come for physiotherapy and speech therapy. The Centre aims to help each child reach their potential, and to encourage their acceptance by wider society.

In 2007 the Foundations for Life Centre was opened to help the first 'graduates' of the Robert Cole centre with vocational and life skills once they reach 20 years of age.

The family and shoe box appeal takes place in the Autumn. Gift boxes are transported to Comanesti to be distributed amongst the most needy, including many Roma children who would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas. Blankets, scarves, mittens and hats, knitted by Craft and Chatter members and others, are sent out regularly. Donations of good condition children's and adult clothes are either given to those in desperate need, or sold in the Group's small shop, with all profits going to the project.

Might you be able to help bring a smile to a needy child this Christmas? Details are on the noticeboard at the back of church or www.bigginhillromaniagroup.com/

Churches Together

Do come and join us on Beckenham Green on Sunday 18 September from 1.00 until 3.30pm for an event to proclaim our Christian unity. Bring a picnic lunch and perhaps a rug to sit on or a garden chair. There will be stalls and activities for children, music and a service with everyone joining in the singing of familiar hymns.

St. Mary's is part of Churches Together in Beckenham which is again organising the event.

Why are we in Shortlands members of Beckenham Churches when our postal address is Bromley? After the Norman Conquest, this country was divided into parishes, and rivers were often used as boundaries. The River Ravensbourne formed the boundary between Beckenham and Bromley. The area covered today by the parish of St. Mary, Shortlands is on the Beckenham side of that river and was in the parish of St. George, Beckenham until 1870. Shortlands had developed with the coming of the railway in 1858, so a new parish church was built, but it remained in the Church of England's Deanery of Beckenham.

Beckenham Green used to comprise two roads of small terraced houses. The whole area was devastated by two bombs that fell in the nights of 2 and 17 July 1944. I remember climbing over the rubble with my grandmother to get from one bus to another to complete our journey to Croydon. The road was piled high with bricks and tiles and broken furniture. Awful to reflect upon; but such sights were pretty normal for me then.

Beckenham Green is now a lovely open space, with trees and flowers and gentle slopes; a great spot for a picnic, a song and maybe a prayer. I shall find a moment to glance at the small plaque commemorating those who lost their lives there in those dreadful war-time days and offer a prayer for all — especially children — who, in today's world, live with war and terror and destruction.

Annette German

Saint of the Month

St Michael – 29 September

St Michael is different from all the other saints in this series in that he was not a human being. He is an archangel, which is probably best described as one of the chief angels. Only two archangels are mentioned by name in the Bible – Gabriel, who appeared to Mary before the birth of Jesus, and Michael.

St Michael has the distinction of being an archangel in Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel had a vision in which an angel identified Michael as the protector of Israel and informs Daniel about the role of Michael during the 'Time of the End'. Daniel refers to Michael as a prince of the first rank.

In the New Testament there is a reference in the book of Revelation to the great battle when the apparently disenchanted archangel named Satan or Lucifer went to war with God in heaven. Michael was forced to lead the forces of good against Satan's hordes, which were thrown out, never to return.

St Michael may have appeared in a vision to a fisherman on the Cornish island subsequently called St Michael's Mount thus linking it to Mont St Michel in Normandy.

His feast day in late September not surprisingly coincides with the flowering of Michaelmas daisies.

St Michael is protector of Israel, and the Christian Church. He is the patron saint of police officers, the military, grocers, mariners and paratroopers. He also, of course, used to be revered in Marks and Spencer's!

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WORSHIP

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- 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

- 17.00 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 Holy Communion

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

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(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
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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	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825

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. W. Keeping	8466 1599
	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
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Cllr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
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