

Remembrance & the young

The Remembrance Sunday commemoration this year in Shortlands will be different without our much-loved war memorial, but it will still be a great occasion for church and community to come together to remember those who gave their lives so we could be free. The uniformed organisations and other junior church groups will present poppy posies, a tradition introduced some years ago to involve young people more in the ceremony. This is vitally important, because soon few people will remain who saw active service in World War II.

I remember when I was a Guide, the parade service on Remembrance Sunday was a truly memorable occasion. In our smartest uniform we marched behind the Lymington Town Band, from the war memorial in Keyhaven up to Milford church over a mile away. The atmosphere was brilliant and we felt very proud to be included in the parade.

I firmly believe we should involve young people as much as possible in the running of our church and community groups. If they are given responsibility at an

early age, they will be better equipped to take over when their time comes.

This is summed up really well in a reading I found at www.guidinguk.com:

What is a girl?

She is the person who is going to carry on what you have started in the world.

She is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things you think are so important...

You can adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out in her age, will depend on her...

She is going to share in the control of your village, your town, your nation...

How she pursues a full and rewarding life will be determined by the set of values she is amassing now.

All your work is going to be judged, praised and condemned by her.

Her future is in your hands, but your reputation and your life in your old age are in her hands.

So it is as well to pay some attention and to give her some of your hands now!

Gill Dawson MBE

Special Events and Services

Sunday 13 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Family Communion and Parade Service

Including the Act of Remembrance, the Two Minute Silence and the Laying of Wreaths
(Note earlier start time - meet in church at 10.00am, and by the War Memorial at 10.45am)

Sunday 27 November - Advent Sunday

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 4 December

4.00pm Christingle Service

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

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



CHRISTMAS IS COMING...



... AND SO IS
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From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

25 Sep Thomas Soule

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved

Rev Canon Doug Redman 30 Sep

Did you know...?

... that if you can't get to St Mary's, St Mary's can come to you?

The church's Pastoral Team – members of the clergy and others with special training – can make home visits to people who are unable to visit church – perhaps through ill health, incapacity or frailty.

So what should you expect from a home visit? They vary a great deal. Some need to be very short. Others take far longer: tea may be taken together, with prayers and a short service of Holy Communion.

No two visits are the same, but all of them aim to help bring the love of God into people's homes when and where it is most needed.

The Pastoral Team aims to look out for people who may welcome a visit – and would like to hear from anyone who is in this position, or in a situation where the Church may be able to help.

If you would like to know more, please contact the Parish Office on 020 8460 5682.

Remembering loved ones

Each year on the Sunday nearest All Soul's Day (2nd November) we hold a service at St Mary's where we have an opportunity to remember our family members and friends who have died and to give thanks for them, for their memories and for the effect and influence that they have had and continue to have on our lives.

We acknowledge the pain of being the ones left behind, but also acknowledge their going on to be closer to God. Some may come to remember one person, whilst others wish to remember several.

During the service there is a time when we write the names of our loved ones on cards which are collected and placed on the altar as we remember them before God. There is an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance during the service. We leave the candles burning in church.

Lighting a candle is a prayer: when we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them. Lighting a candle is a parable: burning itself out it gives light to others. Christ gave himself for others. He calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol: of love and hope, of light and warmth. Our world needs them all.

Rev Morag Finch

Saint of the Month November St Andrew – 30 November

St Andrew was St Peter's younger brother. Born in Bethsaida, he later lived in Capernaum with his brother. Andrew may have been a disciple of John the Baptist. When John identified Jesus as the Lamb of God, Andrew followed Jesus instead. He went to get Peter and took him to Jesus too.

It was Andrew who told Jesus about the boy with the five loaves and two fishes. Andrew is also mentioned when some Greeks asked Philip if they could see Jesus. He in turn asked Andrew, and the two of them told Jesus together.

Andrew was present at the Last Supper, but is not mentioned by name in the Bible thereafter.

Later writings state that he preached along the Black Sea and up the Dnieper River as far as Kiev, and from there he travelled to Novgorod. So, he became a patron saint of Ukraine, Romania and Russia. According to tradition he founded the See of Byzantium (later Constantinople and Istanbul) in AD 38.

Legend has it that Andrew was martyred by crucifixion at the city of Patras, on the northern coast of the Peloponnese. Early texts describe Andrew as bound, not nailed, to a Latin cross of the kind on which Jesus is said to have been crucified; yet a tradition developed that Andrew had been crucified on an X-shaped cross, or "saltire", now commonly known as a "Saint Andrew's Cross". This was supposedly at his own request, as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus had been. However this tradition does not seem to have been standardised before the later Middle Ages.

Andrew is also the patron saint of Scotland, fishmongers and rope-makers.



SHARING HARVEST GIFTS: This year's donations were taken to Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA) which was thrilled to receive them. They will be distributed to women and children presently staying in their refuges.

BCWA provides services for women who are experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse. It provides refuge accommodation for women and their children which takes the form of a large family home in a confidential location.

BCWA also runs a Safebeds scheme, a temporary accommodation service for social services' clients with no recourse to public funds.

The outreach team supports women and men in the community who want to understand their options, from a non-judgemental listening ear. This can be by telephone or face to face. BCWA also runs support groups for survivors of domestic abuse.

For more information phone 0208 313 9303 or visit www.bcwa.org.uk. There is also literature at the back of church.

Golfing for Kenya

On Sunday 9th October, after Harvest Festival Church Parade, Mowgli cub pack held a Crazy Golf event in the Church garden to raise funds for the charity 'Timu Rafiki'. They had designed and built their own nine-hole course and were rewarded on a sunny morning by taking a grand total of £52.

The charity was set up by our former County Commissioner, Ben Richardson who sadly passed away earlier this year aged 35. Its aim is to enable Chief Joseph, a Zulu chieftain (and headmaster) to facilitate the support of young people through scouting in Kenya. Mowgli were privileged to host Joseph a couple of years ago as part of the International Partnership award, which proved very popular.

Adult scouters are also holding a golf day in memory of Ben and we decided this would be a fun way to add to this wonderful cause. Anyone who knew Ben couldn't fail to want to pitch in for him!

Many thanks to everyone for taking part!

'Chil' - Tricia Braithwaite



From Shortlands to South Africa

Between June and September this year I was volunteering in the wonderful city of Cape Town in South Africa. It's a truly beautiful place with so much to see and do, but a place with great difficulties, still dealing with the history of apartheid and with large numbers of people living in poverty.

In the mornings I was volunteering at Pollsmoor prison with a project called Restore (www.restore.org.za). We were working with a group of 10-15 inmates, teaching a restorative justice programme with topics such as community, the effects of crime and forgiveness. It was a truly eye-opening experience to spend time in Pollsmoor and to hear the stories of these young men. Many preconceptions that I held were challenged and I will never forget the people I met there.

In the afternoons I was helping at an after school project at Sentinel Primary School in Hout Bay. The children at the school lived in a very poor community and many had nowhere safe to play after school finished. I had great fun playing games with the children and assisting with homework. We would finish our day by giving the children a hot meal before they went home.

Overall, a great experience that I learnt a lot from. **Calum Finch**

Mission of the month

Friends of Cathedral Music

Cathedral choirs represent our oldest living heritage, going back 1,400 years: they are acknowledged as the finest choirs of their kind in the world. Day in, day out, they perform to the highest standards and provide a rich musical and spiritual experience in sublime surroundings. It is free to all and is attracting increasing numbers in our modern stressful world.

Since its founding in 1956, Friends of Cathedral Music (FCM) has become the world leader in the provision of grants in the field of cathedral music and has allotted some £3.5m to cathedral, collegiate and major church choirs.

This support is an investment for the future: for the youngsters who make up our cathedral choirs, choral education is second to none, offering unique opportunities to acquire life skills and attributes.

Until now, FCM has relied on members' annual subscriptions and occasional legacies to enable it to make grants but these are no longer adequate to address the scale of financial strains that cathedral choirs now face. Soaring costs and pressure on cathedral finances have resulted in a reduction in support for choirs and individual bursaries, in some cases by up to 50%.

So in 2016 FCM's Diamond Fund for Choristers was launched. Its aims are to:

- ensure that any child with the musical talent to sing in one of the nation's finest choirs should have the opportunity to do so, regardless of their gender, background or means
- support outreach programmes among local communities and primary schools to widen the net from which prospective choristers come forward
- help provide bursaries
- relieve hardship with specific grants.

For more information see the display at the back of church or <http://www.fcm.org.uk/>

Canon Claire Tillotson adds: "If Cathedral Choirs did not exist then choirs like ours would not have the invaluable experience of singing at places like Bury St Edmunds, so we are very grateful. I am also indebted to them for the experience my daughter Rachel received as a chorister in Rochester Cathedral Girls Choir. As a result she is now studying at a top music conservatoire".



ON SONG: St Mary's Music Group led the way at the Churches Together in Beckenham picnic in September

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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

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/
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Assistant Organist	Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
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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
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
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Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704

		or 07960 988552
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(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
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