

Living water

The burst water main at the top of Church Road in February made me stop and think. We may have been inconvenienced if we had to detour when driving. At the Vicarage we were without water overnight but fortunately it had come back on by the morning so I didn't have to resort to driving round Shortlands in my pyjamas to find water to make a cup of tea in the morning.

It did make me realise how much we take water for granted, how used we are to turning on a tap and having an unlimited supply of clean, safe water.

Water is essential for life, yet there are many places in the world where lack of clean water results in severe illness and often death.

Roughly one in ten of the world's population doesn't have access to safe water. One in three of the world's population doesn't have access to adequate sanitation. In some places, people have to walk up to ten miles to collect water. In many countries, fetching water can take up to five hours a day.

We are currently in the middle of Lent, a time where we often reflect on our actions and the impact that they have on others. It can be too easy for us with our faith, however strong or tentative it may be, to take it for granted and not reflect on what it really means to us.

Jesus talks about living water, the Spirit of God that feeds and nourishes us. This water is never cut off or runs dry. Jesus told the woman at the well: 'those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' (John 4.14)

The reality of our lives as human beings is that we need both water and spiritual water.

Rev Morag Finch



Bromley College - an inside view

A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY: Over 30 members of St Mary's congregation and friends enjoyed a visit to Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges in January. Reverends John Ilson and Bruce Driver kindly led the tours around the historic buildings. Did you know the buildings include columns relocated from London's original Royal Exchange building after the Great Fire?

Special Events and Services

Sunday 15 March - Mothering Sunday

10.30am Family and Parade Service

With the help of the Scouts

Including the blessing and distribution of posies

March 29th - Palm Sunday

10.30am Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday

6.30pm A Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week

March 30th and 31st, April 1st

8.00pm Evening service with reflection

April 2nd - Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Washing of Feet and Eucharist of the Last Supper

April 3rd - Good Friday

10.30am Family Service

2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

April 5th - Easter Day

8.00am Sunrise Eucharist

10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection

Including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

8 Feb Aurelia Mae Robinson

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Norman Parr 5 Jan aged 88

Margaret Wearden 26 Jan aged 83

Remembering

Norman Parr

Norman didn't really 'do' church. His worship of God was in a different way. He was so in tune with nature – fascinated by birds, butterflies, lichens and mosses.

He regularly stood in for Father Christmas at St Mary's Christmas Fairs. He needed padding up but the twinkly smile made him a natural.

He was a man with a passion for life, and an absolute rock to Marian. He would sit patiently watching the world go by at many flower exhibitions but Marian wasn't worried because he had the ability to make women want to mother him and he always seemed to get given a cuppa and a cake!

He married Marian when her three children were teenagers. He was very kind and supportive to them - there aren't many dads who would tolerate the youth club band practising at home, especially as Ian played the drums.

In his latter years he worked, into his 80s, at the Natural History Museum as a volunteer twice a week, which he loved. He was especially pleased to be working within the butterfly exhibition; he was fascinated by them and he was very knowledgeable about their lives and habits. He and his family were rightly proud when he was awarded the title of volunteer worker of the year.

At Bromley South station, they would let him through the barriers before the rest of the post rush-hour crowd when he was travelling to the museum. Maybe it was because he took the time to say good morning and raise his hat that got him favours: he even managed to stay in the first class seats - the inspector used to say, 'It's alright mate- you stay where you are!'

Norman was easily loved for being himself; a gentleman in both senses of the word, with a twinkle in his eye.

Peter Austen

Peter was born in Bromley, and when he left the grammar school at 17 he joined Sun Life. After a brief interlude for National Service he returned to Sun Life as a salesman and worked his way through the ranks, retiring at 60 as regional sales manager. He used to commute to town on the train complete with bowler hat and rolled up umbrella.

While he never enjoyed popular music, he was once tasked with interviewing The Kinks about their insurance needs. This involved him meeting with them backstage after a gig – having turned up in his suit, it was rather the worse for wear after all the drinks that were thrown around in the crowd!

Bromley Lawn Tennis Club played a huge part in his life: it was where he met Joan (they were married for 55 years) and they were both active and accomplished tennis players. Peter continued playing doubles until a few years ago.

In 1963, he was approached by friends asking if he could investigate the possible cost of taking out insurance against twins. It got Peter thinking and he actioned the insurance for himself and Joan. Six weeks before her due date Joan's scan showed twins – the payout funded their Silver Cross pram.

In his spare time Peter completed two diplomas, in history and sociology. He had a fascination with geology and was actively involved in evening classes and field trips on the subject. Peter and Joan travelled widely, and much enjoyed touring in a caravan.

Peter was a regular at St Mary's for over 30 years. He made a quiet contribution to many parts of church life – he just got on with things and helped where it was most needed. He worked on the group which set up SPAN in November 1980.

Peter was always hospitable, friendly, a quiet reassuring and unchanging presence. He was a great dad to Caroline and Claire, a granddad to six grandsons and two step grandchildren and a highly regarded friend and colleague.

Let's take the Music and Dance

I have sung in a church choir since I was six. My first appearance 'on stage' was as the front half of a cow in a school play at the age of seven. Our grandmother's Christmas treat was to take us to Sadler's Wells Theatre to see a D'Oyly Carte production of Gilbert and Sullivan. The music had always seemed 'comfortable', which is explained when you see how many hymn tunes in our hymn book that Sullivan has written.

At my secondary school I was in the Chapel Choir, where we sang a daily service and performed a major oratorio and an operetta each year. My first opera at the age of 11 was Carmen as a cigarette factory girl! The dramatic bit all ended when I left school at 18, but I carried on with the choral singing.

When I was working in Bromley my boss was the Chairman of a local operatic group and I was persuaded to return to the boards at the age of 31. Since then I have sung/ performed at a number of venues including Bromley Churchill Theatre, the Royal Albert Hall and St Mary's Church Hall.

Highlights have been: Jesus Christ Superstar - twice! This was very moving, but also gave the opportunity to explain the significance of the events to non Christians in the cast; starring as an Ugly Sister in our

Panto; and being part of the winning cast at the International Gilbert and Sullivan festival in 2014.

Behind the scenes I occasionally act as stage crew and I have acted as a chaperone for productions at the Churchill Theatre. But my dancing days are definitely over!

Robin Hogg



A horde of toddlers

If you venture into Church House on a Thursday, you might wonder what you have found - a horde of toddlers and babies, laughing and singing. St Mary's Mothers and Toddlers is in full swing!

We cater for babies as well. We are run by mums whose children used to come or still come to the group. Despite some of our own children being all grown up we still come to play, talk and cuddle the babies.

Mothers and Toddlers started at St Mary's because members of the Mother's Union wanted somewhere they could meet and the children could play. It built over time led by Jean Crawford and then Marian Parr who ran it for 22 years. With numerous volunteers helping out it continues to the present day with both busy morning and afternoon sessions.

The group aims to provide companionship and support for parents and carers of young children. There is a variety of play materials to keep the children amused and promote learning. In the summer we often extend the play area to the church garden which is sectioned off and have fun with water play if the weather is hot enough! There is always a singing time followed by refreshments.

So far the group has run on a just turn up basis and does not operate a membership list. We hope people feel that they can just pop along. We do at times get quite busy especially in the morning.

We are a church based group so the crafts often reflect the church year. There is an informal church service at the end of term which often involves some special puppet visitors. In the summer term there is a party with lunch and entertainment.

St Mary's toddler group operates in term time only from 9.30am to 11.45am and 1pm to 2.30pm. More information is available from the Church Office.

Sue Harrison

Easter Lilies



If you would like to remember a departed loved one at the Great Festival of Easter, we invite you to make a donation to the Flower Fund as a memorial to that person.

A list of the names of all those to be remembered will be placed on the altar on Easter Day, to affirm our hope in the resurrection to eternal life and the Christian's eternal security in Christ.



Jumelage Œcuménique: Celebrating 20 years, 1995 - 2015

20 years ago a link or 'twinning' was established between St Mary's Shortlands and the Parish of Sainte Thérèse in Douai, Northern France. This came about because, to their credit, Canon Doug Redman and his friend Marcel Brevers could see the benefits of having a link between their respective parishes similar to the one which already existed between Beckenham and Douai Rotary Clubs. Thus an Anglican-Catholic Entente very Cordiale was born.

For the past twenty years exchange visits have taken place, one year in France, the next in Shortlands, where parishioners and Guides have enjoyed sharing fun, friendship and faith together.

On 2nd May a coachload of people will travel from Shortlands for the weekend to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Twinning or 'Jumelage'.

They will be visiting the 'Anneau de la Mémoire' at Notre Dame de Lorette, a huge commemorative circle inaugurated on 11th November 2014 to coincide with the WW1 Centenary. On the memorial are inscribed the names of 579,606 soldiers who fell in the region during the Great War, listed in alphabetical order with no distinction made of nationality, rank or religion. A total of 40 nationalities are represented, and it is possible that some of them may even have come from Shortlands.

People making the trip to Douai will enjoy a warm welcome with home hospitality, shared worship at Sunday morning mass, and plenty of celebrations to mark this important milestone in the twinning of our two parishes. Everyone is welcome, especially first-timers!

Anyone interested in joining the trip should contact Gill Dawson 020 8460 5884 or gill@gill.dawson.name for further details.

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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

Mission of the month

Community Options

Community Options is an award winning registered charity, providing services for adults who have mental health needs and operating across London and the South East.

They support people to achieve sustained mental health by providing services and training to individuals, community groups and mental health professionals.

Community Options know from experience that people's needs are different at different stages of their recovery journey – which is why they offer a range of services designed to meet those needs:

- Accommodation based services including registered residential care homes, housing management services, rehabilitation services and supported housing schemes.
- Community support services – working with people in their own homes, supporting them to engage with their local communities and develop coping strategies and support networks
- Community engagement and inclusion services – taking part in these services and projects has a positive impact on individuals' feelings of self worth and confidence. Projects include a drama group, creative arts projects and a choir
- Training and consultancy

The charity is particularly trying to raise funds for community engagement and inclusion services which are a gateway to service users gaining confidence in integrating into the wider community and a step on the road to employment or other gainful activity

For more information, visit www.community-options.org.uk or see the display at the back of church.

Any old computers?

Did you know that superseded, unloved and redundant computers and associated equipment can be used securely to bless others?

If you have a computer (XP / Vista / Windows-7/8), a Mac, monitors, printers, cables, or even power leads you no longer need and would like to re-home, the Rochester Diocese Mpwapwa Partnership Group can find them a new use. Any installations disks you might still have would also be helpful when it comes to re-loading the Windows operating system on older computers.

Whether your computer has been used for home, business, or education, the internal disks can be securely wiped before a valid operating system is re-loaded. Laptops are routinely carried out to Partnership Projects by visiting teams for ongoing use by the host Diocese, whilst desktops are typically made available for schools through Computers4Africa in Aylesford -

<http://www.computers4africa.org.uk>

In this green age, computers can be securely erased, they no longer need to be physically destroyed; and most can still be used for many years by our friends overseas following some TLC and a dust out.

If you have some equipment that you think could be of use, please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements to deliver it to the church, from where the Partnership Group will collect it.



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08.00	Holy Communion
10.30	Family Communion, except the first Sunday in the month in term time. During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18.
10.30	All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time).
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
	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/8460 5682
Reader Emeritus	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
Reader	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
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	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	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 0031
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
Electoral Roll	Mr. N. Stoffel	8460 0063
Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
Open 9.30 am - 12.30 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
Scouts GSL (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers/admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
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.)	Miss. G. Attoho	07946 833576
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 1599
	Mrs. S. Tigh	8460 8122
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
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Mission Chairman	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Cllr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

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