

Spring cleaning

With the lighter evenings and some sunshine it is beginning to feel as though spring has truly sprung. I was able to sit out in the garden to eat my sandwich at lunchtime the other day (albeit with a fleece on). At the time of writing, the daffodils are blooming and the blossom looks like it will soon be coming out on the trees.

Spring always seems to me to be such a hopeful time, a time of new beginnings, with the dark evenings of winter lengthening out into the bright summer evenings. It is a time of change and transition.

Easter fits into this seasonal pattern too, after the solemnity of Lent and Good Friday we find ourselves rejoicing as we prepare to meet the risen Christ on Easter Day. The church building springs back into life as we once more have flowers, sing and say the Gloria and use again the word Alleluia.

In many ways Easter can be taken as an opportunity for us to put our lives in order, a spring clean if you like. We too can become new and allow the buds of faith we have to blossom. We can say sorry for the things we know we could have done differently, that perhaps unintentionally have hurt others, knowing that we will be forgiven by Jesus.

The great gift that comes from the suffering of the crucifixion is forgiveness of sins. Jesus took on the sins of the world in order that we may be forgiven.

As we celebrate this Easter time we should remember to give thanks for all that Jesus has done for us. In the words of the prayer for Easter Day:

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Rev Morag Finch



On 1 March there were cards and cake to welcome back Rev Morag after her illness and thank Rev Jane after all her hard work for St Mary's during Morag's sick leave

Special Events and Services

Thursday April 2nd - Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Washing of Feet and Eucharist of the Last Supper

Friday April 3rd - Good Friday

10.30am Family Service

2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

Sunday April 5th - Easter Day

8.00am Sunrise Eucharist

10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection

Including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday April 19th

6.30pm Friends Choral Evensong

Responses: Neary

Canticles: Brewer

Anthem: Evening Hymn - Balfour Gardiner

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Come along to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church on Sunday 26th April after the 10.30am service to find out more about what has happened at St. Mary's over the last year - and our plans for the next year.

Papers for the meeting will be published on the website at least a week in advance: www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Stay in touch!

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





From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Peter Austen	23 Jan aged 85
Denis Arnold	12 Feb aged 96
Vida Haynes	12 Mar aged 92

Have your say!

Have you got a story to tell? Some news or insights to share?

SPAN is pleased to feature stories of general interest to the community of Shortlands.

We can't promise to publish, but if you have an idea for an article in SPAN please contact the Parish Office.

My day job

As a qualified Company Secretary and HR practitioner, I consider myself incredibly fortunate that during my working life I have had some wonderful opportunities. Having left school after my A levels I entered the world of work and at my father's insistence continued to study part-time for my professional qualifications – not easy after a day's work and with many temptations far more interesting than studying. I remember even finding washing-up a treat!



My employment since then has predominantly been in the public and not-for-profit sector and, more recently, I have opted for a 'portfolio of part-time roles' which means I am now working more hours than ever juggling competing priorities.

I have enjoyed working for a variety of local authorities and membership organisations, doing my best to keep them legal; been Chief Executive of a charity for the elderly in Southwark providing help and support for some of the most vulnerable members in our community and developed and delivered qualifications and training for a variety of professional bodies.

Over the last ten years I have become more involved in the City of London and the Livery Companies, both as a Liveryman and Clerk, which has provided me with an opportunity not only to give something back but also to visit and experience some great things not available to the general public. This brings me into contact with many fascinating people, which is a privilege and pleasure and an opportunity to make a difference.

Many people think working in an office is boring and 'not for them' – far from it. I have been a gypsy liaison officer; had responsibility for London's civil defence and the transportation of hazardous substances; conferred Freedom of the Borough on RAF Biggin Hill; travelled to Mauritius to run a company AGM; identified one of the largest frauds by a FE college; run banquets for the Lord Mayor in the Mansion House and had tea in the Royal Box at Wimbledon! No two days are the same and it certainly isn't boring.

Julie Fox



130 people from churches across Beckenham and Penge came together to celebrate Women's World Day of Prayer at St Mary's on 6th March. The ecumenical service, which was celebrated worldwide, was written by women from the Bahamas and focused on social problems in the islands and across the world. The theme was taking Jesus' love into the world through serving others.

Come and join the fun when
The Friends of St Mary's
invite everyone to

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Family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children £30

Who is my neighbour?

The bishops of the Church of England have written a letter urging Christians to consider the question how can we 'build the kind of society which many people say they want but which is not yet being expressed in the vision of any of the parties?'

The letter encourages church members to engage in the political process ahead of the General Election and to put aside self-interest and vote for the common good: 'The privileges of living in a democracy mean that we should use our votes thoughtfully, prayerfully and with the good of others in mind, not just our own interests.'

The letter specifically avoids advocacy for any one political party but instead encourages those in the Church to seek from political candidates a commitment to building a society of common bonds over individual consumerism. Political parties across the spectrum are encouraged to seek bold new visions of hope and idealism.

The bishops defend the right of the Church to enter into the political arena: 'It is not possible to separate the way a person perceives his or her place in the created order from their beliefs, religious or otherwise, about how the world's affairs ought to be arranged.'

The letter recognises the danger in the current situation where people are disengaging from politics, arguing that restoring faith in both politicians and the political process requires a new politics that engages at both a deeper more local level within a wider, broader vision for the country as a whole.

In the letter, the bishops warn against despair and urge people to vote in the General Election: 'Unless we exercise the democratic rights that our ancestors struggled for, we will share responsibility for the failures of the political classes. It is the duty of every Christian adult to vote, even though it may have to be a vote for something less than a vision that inspires us.'

You can read the full letter here:

<https://churchofengland.org/media/2170230/whoismyneighbour-pages.pdf>

A BIG THANK YOU from Maddie Webster, a Young Leader with 2nd Shortlands Guides: her cake sale on Mothering Sunday raised £700. She has now reached her fundraising target of £3,500 to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Japan this summer.





If you would like your children to explore the Christian faith in an imaginative way, and in a friendly group, why not bring them along? Junior Church meets most Sundays during term time (see our website for dates) during the 10.30am service.

There is a crèche and groups for 2-5 year olds and 6-11 year olds, as well as one for young people of secondary school age. Children and young people play an important part in the life of the St Mary's community. We would love to welcome you and your family.

Pictured: Some of our youngest members of Junior Church have fun preparing to celebrate Palm Sunday.

Green havens

South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen are interesting and historic local havens for wildlife – and people! The Friends work with the council and other organisations to improve these important greenspaces.

Activities last year included a Bat and Moth Walk – another is planned for 2015. Friends have planted lots more bulbs to welcome Spring, with our bluebells. Projects include more work on their history – including the auxiliary hospital in the First World War. Highfield schoolchildren continue to enjoy the Wood and Glen in planned activities. We are developing a submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to restore historic features and vistas and generally to improve the Wood.

We are again running a Community Event - on Saturday 13th June, 2pm to 5pm, when there will be a performance by the jazzy part of the Bromley Youth Orchestra, entertainment for children and a 'Try Tennis' event. There will be more information in the next edition of SPAN.

Friends receive Newsletters with topical information and articles on current wildlife – and are notified of events. To join the Friends (it is free!), e-mail with your name, postal address, and phone number to: FSHWKG@outlook.com

There is more information at <http://www.bromleyfriendsforum.org>, and on the information panels onsite.

Peter White

Mission of the month

St. Christopher's Group

The St Christopher's Group comprises St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham and St Christopher's Bromley in Orpington (previously Harris HospisCare). Both care for adults from the age of 18 years upwards.

St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham has 48 beds on four wards providing in-patient medical and nursing care led by consultants in palliative medicine and experienced and specially qualified nurses. In addition, there is Home Care led by clinical nurse specialists in teams focused on each of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. This catchment area covers 1.5 million people.

The Anniversary Centre offers a 'social hub' for patients and families, and includes a café with internet access, a rehabilitation gym, treatment rooms, a bathing suite, group rooms and a hairdressing salon. They offer a programme of social events which is also open to the general public.

There is also extensive planned day care and a range of supportive care services, inpatient and home care multi-professional teams that include social workers, chaplain and spiritual care lead, welfare advisers, psychiatrists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and complementary and creative therapists.

The St Christopher's Candle Project is a specialist service for all bereaved children and their families, offering individual and group support. It works with more than 250 bereaved children and their families each year.

St Christopher's Bromley provides services across the borough, offering home care, day care and a specialist service to support patients with lymphoedema.

St Christopher's cares for over 2,500 adults each year. Each year they provide over 15,000 days of care on their wards and support around 2,400 people in their own homes.

It costs over £18 million a year to deliver all the services. Only about a third of this comes from the NHS. This means that they need to raise more than £12 million from supporters and the local community.

For more information, see the display at the back of church or www.stchristophers.org.uk

What are Friends for?

The Friends of St Mary's were established to assist the Vicar, Churchwardens and the PCC in meeting the financial needs of the church and parishioners. To do this, members pay a small annual subscription and organise social events to raise funds.

Recently the Friends have purchased new cutlery for the hall, and they are currently paying for additional choir robes and books.

If you want to find out more about the Friends, or would like to join, please speak to one of the committee, whose names and photographs can be found on the noticeboard just inside the inner church doors, or leave a message with the Parish Office and they will put you in touch.

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WORSHIP

Every Sunday

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
(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/
(Sun, Mon, Wed)		8460 5682
Reader Emeritus	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
Reader	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
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	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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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
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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 (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
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.	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Kateswaran	8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Miss. G. Attoh	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
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
Mission Chairman	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
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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

SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmarysshortlands.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: £17.00 per column inch per issue. For details please call 8460 5682 during office hours.
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