

Fleeing to safety

I wonder if you have noticed the sculpture above the window on the west end of St Mary's church? Carved in white stone, it depicts Mary seated on a donkey holding Christ as a baby. This was created by the sculptor John Rattenbury Skeaping.

The original St Mary's church was destroyed during the Second World War: it had three stained glass windows which had been donated by local residents. One of the panels of the east window depicted the Flight into Egypt and the repetition of this theme in the sculpture on the new church provides a link with the old building that it replaced.

The flight into Egypt is a biblical event described in the Gospel of Matthew (2.13-15), in which Joseph fled to Egypt with his wife Mary and infant son Jesus after a visit by the Wise Men (or Magi) because he was warned in a dream that Herod was planning to search for Jesus and destroy him.

It seems a very topical illustration at the present time when we hear of thousands of people in the world sharing a similar experience to Mary and Joseph. As refugees they have been driven from their homes by war, violence and famine, living in hope of safety in another country.

It's hard to imagine, when we perhaps feel safe and secure in our community, what it must feel like to have to leave family, friends and all that you have ever known to flee to safety, often risking your life, for a future of uncertainty: not knowing whether you will be welcomed or returned to a place of danger.

Two thousand years after Jesus and his family fled Bethlehem as refugees due to their fear of Herod it seems that society has not learned how to treat people.

Jesus found safety in Egypt until the family was able to return to Nazareth after the death of Herod. Are we willing to offer hospitality and safety to those in similar need today?

Rev Morag Finch



WELCOME TO THE TEAM:

Stuart Buchanan was recently licensed as a reader at St Mary's.

(L to R): Maggie Compton (Deputy Warden of Lay Ministry),
The Ven Dr Paul Wright (Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley),
Rev Morag Finch, Stuart Buchanan, Peter Stotesbury (Reader),
Ann Gimson (Reader Emeritus)

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



St Mary's In the Mood

The University of Greenwich Big Band
commemorates the

70th anniversaries of VE and VJ days

Sunday 11 October, 3pm

St Mary's Church

Tickets £10 each, available after 10.30am
services in church and from the Parish Office
Arranged by the Friends of St Mary's

Special Events and Services

Sunday 4 October

10.30am Harvest Festival

Family and Parade
(with the help of Mowgli Cub Pack)

Sunday 18 October

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Reading
Canticles: Sumsion in G
Anthem: Blessed be the God - Wesley

Sunday 1 November

4.00pm Memorial Service

We give remembrance and thanks for the
lives of those we love but no longer see



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Alan Jones 21 Aug aged 89

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

19 Jul Nathaniel Cheetham
21 Jul Maxwell Baptiste
26 Jul Benjamin Anderson
2 Aug Poppy Carter
13 Sep Hayden Wood
13 Sep Flynn Wood

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

21 Aug Simon Hunter and
Charlotte Wicks

Remembering

Alan Jones

Alan Jones was born in 1926 in Forest Hill, and he lived there and in Brockley throughout his childhood and early life, apart from a period when he was evacuated to Oxted, Surrey, and then on to Devon during the war.

In January 1945 he was called up into the Army and was accepted for service in the Intelligence Corps. Later in the year he was sent for training in India, and subsequently served in Bangalore, Basra in Iraq, Egypt and Palestine.

In 1948 he was demobbed. He was invited by the man in whose house he had been billeted, in Oxted, to apply for a role at Coutts & Co the bankers.

Having discovered that he missed the army life, Alan volunteered for the Territorial Army, which he enjoyed until other interests began to occupy his time – in particular the role of stage manager for the Croydon Players.

In 1967 Alan was appointed Head of the International Department of Coutts & Co. At this time, he had advertised for someone to look after his mother, who was unwell. Molly, a qualified nursing sister, applied for the role: she 'clicked' both with his mother and with Alan himself, and they were married within a few months.

Alan took early retirement from the bank in 1981, and he and Molly came to live in Shortlands in 1990. Alan was elected a Director and Secretary of the Foxes Dale Residents Association.

After Molly died in 1994 Alan began attending St Mary's, and for many years he participated in, and then oversaw, the distribution of SPAN.

Sir Philip Goodhart

Sir Philip Goodhart, who died in July, was the MP for Beckenham from 1957 until 1992. During some of that time he was President of the Friends of St Mary's, becoming a Life Member on his retirement.

He had a wide range of political interests from foreign affairs and defence to consumer rights and railway safety and was regarded by political commentators as a thoughtful and independent MP.

He had a highly developed sense of public service, and believed strongly that his duty as an MP was to represent the interests of his constituents.

Although he ceased to be Beckenham's MP over twenty years ago he remained in touch, supporting social events and helping with elections. He is remembered in the local Conservative Association as 'a lovely, charming man'.

Quiz night

in aid of

Welcare in Bromley

Saturday 10th October
7.15pm

St Mary's Church Hall

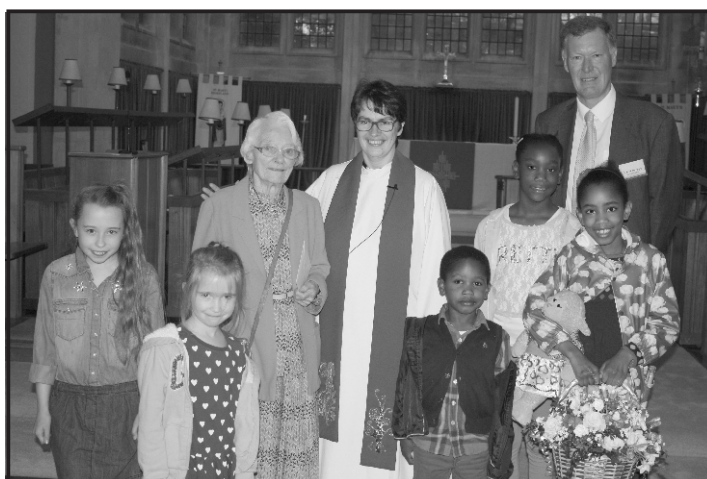
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Rev Morag Finch, churchwarden David Jefferys and children from Junior Church helped Peggy celebrate her birthday

Peggy Smith

In July St Mary's congregation was very pleased to join Peggy Smith in celebrating her 100th birthday.

We asked Peggy to share with us a few memories of a life which has seen many innovations - cars, radio, television, the National Health Service, decimalisation and the decline of ladies wearing hats in church, to name but a few. She said 'I remember when we were children, electricity became available in our home for the first time: before that there were gas mantles. My sister and I used to take turns to switch the new light off and on again!'

Peggy came to live in Mays Hill Road in Shortlands at the age of 26 in 1941, after her home in Peckham was badly bombed. She stayed there until she moved in 1988 into Blenheim Court.

At school she had received careers advice that her options as a girl were to be a detective, to be a chicken farmer, or to be a masseuse. As she enjoyed sports and games, she chose the latter, and trained at Guys as a physiotherapist. She subsequently worked in a number of hospitals in Surrey and South East London, including 26 years at Bromley Hospital.

Asked to what she ascribes her long life, she said: 'I have always liked the natural things: being outdoors, walking, playing tennis and badminton'.

CHOIR NEWS

The new term started with some new changes in the junior choir. After many years of leading the juniors, Rachel Tillotson and Megan Scobie have moved up to join the adults.

Rachel handed her Head Chorister's ribbon on to Rebecca Aldred and Megan handed the Deputy Head Chorister's ribbon on to Lloyd Maurel.

I would like to thank both Rachel and Megan for all they have done for the junior choir and wish them all the best of luck in the adult choir.

Congratulations to Rebecca and Lloyd. I know they will do a sterling job!

We are seeking to recruit more children to join the junior choir so if there are any boys or girls in year 2 (age 6/7) or above at school who feel they would like to come and join us then please contact me:

Claire.tillotson@ntlworld.com

This year the

Christmas Fair

will be held on

Saturday 28 November
in the Church Hall.

Save the Date!



Mission of the month

Welcare in Bromley

Welcare in Bromley has two family support workers currently working with families in the borough. The good news is that funding has been secured for a third family support worker which will mean more vulnerable families receiving support, advice and guidance on an individual basis. A monthly support group also provides an opportunity for families to meet and share their experiences in a safe environment.

Welcare also provides volunteers who offer practical help and support to individual families and children in their own homes. Volunteers work either with the parent or with a specific child to encourage self-esteem and problem solving so that the families can become more independent. Volunteers are well trained and supervised within the organisation.

Please continue to pray for the work of Welcare, for the staff, volunteers and families served by them. If you would like to consider becoming a volunteer, either helping in the office or working with the families, please contact the Welcare in Bromley office on [020 8466 0399](tel:02084660399) or www.welcare.org/centres/bromley or see the notice board at the back of the church.

Challenging poverty- the next steps

Throughout Lent this year home groups at St Mary's followed a course developed by the Diocese of Rochester, which helped us consider the ways in which we individually and as a church can address the challenges of poverty locally and further afield.

We heard from Bishop Brian Castle, the Bishop of Tonbridge, who said: 'it is the calling of all Christians to fight for those who, through no fault of their own, have been thrust into poverty'.

We were also challenged to consider the spiritual blessings experienced by those who have chosen to live without material possessions.

Following the course, members of the congregation met to discuss how to respond to the course. We are now pursuing various actions, including support to people in our own parish of St Mary's, support for churches and charities in Beckenham and Penge who are working with people who are disadvantaged and marginalised, and making connections with churches and communities overseas.

The Governing Body of Highfield Infants' School is always willing to hear from those interested in being considered as a prospective governor and who believe that they have a particular skill to offer which may be of value to the School, and would be pleased in particular to speak to anyone who has a finance or procurement background, or has links to local businesses or the local community. If you are interested in finding out more about what becoming a governor involves, please contact the Chair of Governors at tony.chase@highfield-inf.bromley.sch.uk.

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Wartime memories

I, like David Loades, was a wartime child. I was seven when war was declared. On 3rd September 1939 after the announcement on the radio, the siren sounded and we all went into the air raid shelter of a neighbour.

My father was in the Territorial Army and so he was called up at once. My parents then decided I should be evacuated, so I went off to a school at Clapham Junction with a friend – it is still there. It was decided we were too small to go on our own so my mother came too.

We were sent by train to a school in Hove. In its playground were rows of chairs on each of which was a bag, containing tea and biscuits and a 1/2lb bar of chocolate, unheard of by us. We ate it with my mother crying her eyes out at our side.

We were billeted with Mrs Christopher of Gladstone Road, Hove. We only spent half the day at school, the other half on the beach, which was great fun.

After Dunkirk we were moved to Old Woking, but we were now on our own, and our mother made her own living arrangements. We were in a big house owned by two ladies. We used to go scrumping in their orchard, hiding the apple cores in the Piggery (there were no pigs!), but we were found out and received a telling off.

My friend went home so I moved in with my mother. School was a cricket pavilion, then the Woking football stadium, then a house with a big garden. Towards the end of the manned bombing raids we went to stay with an aunt in Thornton Heath.

I remember looking out at the sky at night. It was completely red, from the fires burning in London after a big raid.

Things quietened down so we went home (to Balham). As my mother was disabled she was given an indoor shelter which we slept in most nights.

The Germans started dropping the V1s (doodle bugs). After the first night of us trying to shoot them down, the streets were covered in shrapnel, which was great for us children to collect, but this was doing more damage than the V1s themselves so they moved the defences out to the Home Counties to try and shoot them down. If the V1s got through these they were left to continue to London.

At night they were picked up by the searchlights until the engine stopped. If you were nearby you ran for cover, as you knew that the bomb was about to drop when the engine stopped.

Despite all of this I joined the cubs and became a choirboy at the church.

Then we had the V2s (rockets). You did not hear them coming until they landed.

When the war ended everybody brought out their blackout screens and we had a bonfire in the middle of the road.

Stan Clark

Thank you

There was a wonderful response to this year's Christian Aid Week and we are delighted to report that we raised the sum of £3,272.60 in Shortlands. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the house-to-house collection and to all who responded so generously.

Thanks also to the uniformed organisations, junior choir, pre-school and mother and toddler groups who all put 'Pennies from Heaven' around the Church totalling £154.26. Thanks to all these youngsters and their leaders and to Pat Chase who facilitated their visits.

Kate Buchanan and Geoff Cook



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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	8460 5682
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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
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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.plus.com
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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		
Friends of St. Mary's	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357

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	Mrs. H. Ashford	07979 504079

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides please tel: 08001695901 or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

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Guides (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Katheswaran	

		8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 1599
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Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704

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LOCAL CONTACTS

Clfr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Clfr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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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.
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