

## Past regrets, good intentions?

A few years ago at this season of the year I was chatting to a young Christian friend who had grown up with her family in Calcutta. We were talking about different ways of passing from one year to another and I was interested to hear about the way her family got together and planned the year ahead. It differed significantly from my own practice.

On New Year's Eve the family would get together for a meal and, having thought for some time about their lives, they would tell the other family members what changes they felt they needed to make in their lives in the coming months. So far that's not dissimilar from our New Year's Resolutions. However, they would then get out their notes from the previous year and look at how they had progressed with that year's intentions.

They believed that moving into the New Year offered a God-given opportunity to draw closer to God and to reflect him better in the world. For them, this was a way of including Him in the process of their spiritual development and general maturity, and the prayerful support of other people they loved would help them in this progress.

Well, it made me slightly ashamed of how lightly I take my New Year's Resolutions and how very short a time they last. My 'intention' to see others through Jesus' eyes remains very much a work in progress.

But it also made me aware of what a wonderful resource we have in each other, and just how important loving encouragement is in our lives.

Every ending is a potential new beginning. Indeed, in Celtic religious art there is no ending nor beginning – lines (and life) are continuous.

I wonder... do you dare to do things differently this year?

*Rev Jane Peters*



**CONGRATULATIONS** to James Griffiths and Diane Bradford, respectively leaders in Mowgli Cubs and Friday Guides, who recently announced their engagement.

### Special Events and Services

**Sunday 5 January - Epiphany**  
10.30am Family Communion

**Sunday 19 January**  
10.30am Family Communion  
Address by Canon Francis Makambwe from our  
Mission of the Month: Fighting Poverty in  
Zambia  
6.30pm Choral Evensong

**Sunday 2 February**  
10.30am Family and Parade Service  
with the help of Monday Brownies  
6.30pm Choral Evensong for Candlemas  
Father Leon Carberry, Area Dean for  
Beckenham, Vicar of St James', Elmers End

### Stay in touch!

To keep up with news from St. Mary's in between editions of SPAN, you can like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter – search for 'St Mary's Shortlands'. Don't forget our website [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)





## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

17 Nov William Dale  
Jessica Dale  
1 Dec Bobby Holt

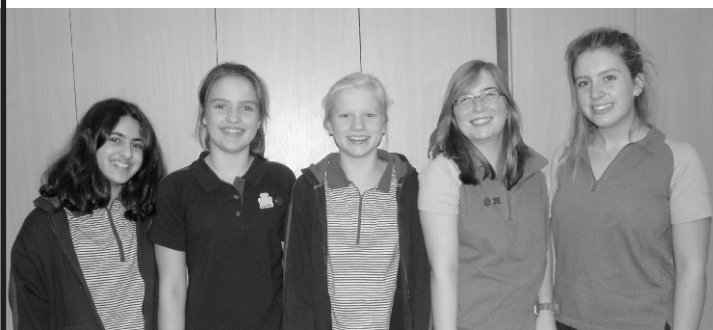
### Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

9 Nov Donald Weekes



# Guiding all over the world!



Five members of 2nd Shortlands (Friday) Guides (pictured above) have been selected to take part in international trips to represent Girlguiding UK.

Young Leader Lucy Ellis-Keeler has been selected to take part in a London and South East Region trip to Malawi this summer, where she will be working with the Book Bus service project to help children in Malawi.

Further ahead, Young Leader

Maddie Webster will be attending the World Scout Jamboree in Japan in summer 2015, along with over 40,000 Scouts and Guides from 146 countries.

Three Guides - Charlotte Ellis-Keeler, Sarah Kleist and Natasha Sethna - will be attending an international jamboree for Scouts and Guides in Norway this August, along with other members of Greater London

Kent Guides.

All five girls are delighted to have been selected for such fantastic opportunities, but rather daunted by the enormous amount of fundraising they need to undertake to raise the money for their trips: £2,800 for Lucy's trip to Malawi, £3,000 for Maddie's World Scout Jamboree, and £850 each for Charlotte, Sarah and Natasha's jamboree in Norway. A grand total of well over £8,000!

Lots of fundraising activities are planned by the girls to help them reach their targets. Details will be circulated, and the girls would very much appreciate everyone's support. If you would like to help them in any way, please contact Gill Dawson on 8460-5884 or [gill@gill.dawson.name](mailto:gill@gill.dawson.name).

*Gill Dawson*

## My Day Job: Joel Kibazo

It is 5.30am on a Thursday and I have just checked in for a flight to London from Tunis. Ahead of me is a day of meetings in London, a lunch, and a ball, before I return home at around midnight if I am lucky. But this flight will not end my travels this week because I will be at Heathrow tomorrow morning on my way to Berlin for a weekend of more meetings.

Next week I am in Cape Town to attend the CNN African Journalist Awards, for which I have been a judge for 15 years, then to Johannesburg for more client meetings before finally returning home.

I run a public affairs consultancy which advises governments, international organisations and the corporate sector on issues to do with their public profile, as well as helping clients develop and deepen their business links with Africa.

I started the consultancy after being Director of Communications and Public Affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat, the body serving the 54 nations that make up the Commonwealth. As well as leading Her Majesty the Queen at Commonwealth functions all over the world, I was privileged to be part of summits and international gatherings across the globe and I met some very famous people including Nelson Mandela.

I enjoy the work I do enormously and I have met many world leaders and captains of business and industry. As a result of my travels, I have derived particular satisfaction at being able to worship at churches around the world in wonderful cities such as Sydney, Colombo and Harare.

Before my role at the Commonwealth I was for many years a journalist at the Financial Times and the BBC. I still write and record a monthly BBC column usually on the burning issues affecting Africa, but there is nothing as rewarding as coming home and feeling the warmth of the St Mary's congregation when I am able to attend church with my family.

**Joel Kibazo**

## Ever played consequences?

Remember the game where you write a name, fold down the paper, pass it on, repeat... finally writing a consequence - when you unravel all the pieces of paper you get some very funny stories. At Pathfinders we've been doing this as a way of writing prayers. To start with you can get some pretty odd ones, but when we used the best lines from the consequences, we crafted a prayer of our own which we are pretty proud of.

Pathfinders meet in the Chapel during the 10.30 service on a Sunday, except for Parade services. We are all of secondary school age and attend lots of different schools so it is a really good way to get to know new people and make new friends.

We discuss matters of life, any queries we have about Christianity and enjoy each other's company. It gives us an opportunity to learn about faith, play games, get creative and quite often eat as well. Pathfinders helps us to connect with the Lord and we discuss how He helps us in our lives, to be better people and live our lives well.

Sometimes we get together at other times, for pizza, pool parties and days out. 'I have only been a Pathfinder since September, but I already love it. I have learnt so much about God, but in a fun way. It is such an enjoyable and religious experience for everyone. When I joined I loved it - I was welcomed.'

Any young person age 11 - 18 is welcome to join us on a Sunday morning.

### Pathfinders Prayer

*Father, your presence is everywhere, your spirit is in us and we can only praise you.*

*We will listen to you and do as you ask.*

*Please help us through the difficulties of life.*

*Help us to forgive others and so you may forgive our wrong doings.*

*Guide us away from wrong and into your glorious light.*

*Amen*



A NIGHT'S REST ON THE JOURNEY: Lynsey and Debbie Speller deliver the Advent Travellers to Julie and Mark Fox.



# Keeping mobile

Exercise is good for the body and mind, and improvements can be made from as little as one session per week.

Fitness is a question of 'use it or lose it' - when your regular activities stop, it becomes more difficult to do them in the future. This is true of brisk walking, climbing the stairs and general housework. When daily tasks become more tiring, it is not only physically exhausting, but it can also be demoralising.

However, it is better late than never. Activity can help you improve in many ways. Physically, it can build the strength of your heart, muscles and bones.

Group mobility classes are an enjoyable and sociable way to achieve this. They offer a relaxed atmosphere in which to be guided through useful exercises by a qualified trainer. They aim to improve posture, balance, flexibility and strength for daily tasks. All exercises can be adjusted for all abilities whilst in a safe and comfortable environment.

To join a fun mobility class for senior adults, call Tom Boam on 0208 460 7101.

# New look at an old story



What does a three-thousand year old story of kindness, poverty, and faith have to say to today's world, where we see food banks at the same time as fine dining reaches new heights?

In November the music group led a special alternative harvest service, based on the biblical story of Ruth, to find out more.

The story of Ruth was told through a new drama.

Ruth and Naomi, her mother in law, arrive in Bethlehem just as the barley harvest is beginning. Their husbands have died, and they have no means of support. Ruth takes advantage of the law of the time that the poor could gather the barley which the harvesters left behind. She receives charity, but it is not a long-term solution. This comes from a distant relative of Naomi's, Boaz, who welcomes Naomi and Ruth into his home.

Then, instead of a sermon, the congregation broke into small groups to discuss what the story was saying to us today, asking whether those living in poverty are offered help when it is

needed, or only when we find it convenient. The service also included modern worship songs and new prayers from the Iona Community.

There will be more informal evening services coming soon - look out for them in SPAN or on the new St Mary's Facebook page.

*Tim Aldred*

## SPAN needs you!

Can you help deliver SPAN?  
Call Alan Jones on 8460 5437

# Mission of the month

## Fighting poverty in Zambia

Fighting Poverty in Zambia is a charitable trust, established in 2009. FPZ's work delivers projects in rural Zambia with a focus on education, training and healthcare, designed to enable rural communities to generate sustainable incomes and be self sufficient.

Recent projects include the creation of a borehole, with a solar powered pump and reservoir tank, to supply the village of Mkolama with clean water. A five year project for students from the village of Ngoli in Northern Province funds three students each year to undertake their secondary education.

FPZ is currently considering a project to provide irrigation equipment for local groups in the Nyamphande area. This will help them to overcome the effects of climate change when rains are erratic and also enable them to extend the growing season and produce a wider range of crops, which will provide a better diet, and any surplus can be sold at market.

For more information see the display at the back of the church or visit [www.fpz.org.uk](http://www.fpz.org.uk)

# Doing our Best: Part 2

My investiture as a Wolf Cub with 7th Bromley (St Mary's) pack in Gwydyr Road attracted my mother and Aunt Doris to witness my dishing and dobbing (I remember being a little embarrassed).

Prior to the ceremony I had, along with other boys, visited the home of Akela in Durham Road, to hear from him in his front room the story of Mowgli, Rudyard Kipling's timeless tale of the jungle boy and his animal companions. I loved it, and indeed, the Jungle Book was the first volume I borrowed from Bromley Library upon becoming a member.

Knot-tying was never one of my greatest accomplishments, and grannies plague me sometimes, even now! The sixers (mine was Norman) did their best. I loved the story-time at the close of each meeting.

The outdoor aspects of Wolf Cubs were terrific. Chislehurst became a favourite haunt, and tracking through the woodland there was something to remember. Books blended with the adventure on hand, and these were also the early days of the black-and-white screen on Saturday mornings. I remember hankering after a sheath-knife!

Of course, Chislehurst is renowned for its caves, especially the part they played as air raid shelters during the Second World War, but my first visit to these ancient excavations in 1937 was as awe inspiring as when on a visit only a few years ago. Indeed, on the latter occasion it seemed as though little has changed in this underground world; we still have to duck our heads in places! Taking a party of youngsters into this place was quite a responsibility for our leaders, and I do remember that, very sensibly, they counted us in - and made certain they also counted us out.

*David Alston*

Shortlands Golf Club  
Long established (1894)  
**Family Golf Club**  
currently seeking men, ladies and juniors to expand the membership base.  
Monthly medals,  
Honour Board Competitions,  
excellent Social Events Calendar.  
"A garden oasis in suburbia"  
Contact Ken Murray:  
8460 2471/8828 or  
Peter May: 8460 8828

**GMM**  
**INSTALLATIONS LTD**  
**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

20 Bromley Gardens, Bromley, Kent BR2 0ET  
Tel/Fax: 020 8249 8198  
Mob: 07721 454716  
Email: [gmminstallationsltd@gmail.com](mailto:gmminstallationsltd@gmail.com)  
J.I.B. Approved Electrician

NAPIT Part P 24 years experience

**H. Copeland & Sons**

- Caring & professional staff - 24 hour service  
- Pre-payment Plans - Memorial masonry

**9 Bromley Road, Beckenham**  
**020 8650 2295**

**The Parish Church  
of St. Mary,  
Shortlands**



Link Parish  
St. Francis of  
Assisi, Douai, France

**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
	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Priest	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
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	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 & Director of Music	Mr. F. Roddy	01689 877025
Assistant Organist	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
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	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Scouts GSL (Fri)	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
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	8650 0184
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. G. Attoh	07946 833576
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
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
Mission Chairman	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246

**LOCAL CONTACTS**

Cllr. E. Noad	8462 3295
Cllr D. Jefferys	07944 565455
(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.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
Editorial	Parish Office 8460 5682
Distribution	Mr. A. Jones 8460 5437

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: £15.50 per column inch per issue. For details please call 8460 5682 during office hours.  
Copy by the 5th of each month to SPAN Church House, 39 Kingswood Road, Shortlands, BR2 0HG

**AEROBICS - BUMS, TUMS & THIGHS  
LADIES - COME AND JOIN JACKIE**  
Every Monday 8-9p.m.  
at St. Mary's Church Hall, St. Mary's Avenue, Shortlands.  
For more information Tel: 8650 2083 mob. 07967 214279  
*A class all ages can enjoy, beginners welcome.*

**Dawoods**  
The Family Law Solicitors  
For advice on all aspects of family and relationship breakdown, please contact Mrs K Dawood  
[www.dawoods-solicitors.co.uk](http://www.dawoods-solicitors.co.uk)  
e-mail: confidential@dawoods-solicitors.co.uk  
Tel: 8249 6047  
50 Burnhill Road Beckenham, BR3 3LA  
resolution first for family law

**THE SHORTLANDS DENTAL PRACTICE**  
98 MARTINS ROAD  
SHORTLANDS BR2 0EF  
PRIVATE \* QUALITY CARE \* NHS  
DENPLAN AVAILABLE  
Tel/Fax 020 8464 7520  
[www.shortlandsdentalpractice.co.uk](http://www.shortlandsdentalpractice.co.uk)

**QUALIFIED PLUMBER  
P. J. EDWARDS**  
01322 868212 or 07831 54 59 51  
Bathrooms, kitchens and all domestic work undertaken  
Advertising in SPAN for over 15 years

**LOCAL PLUMBER  
(Beckenham)**  
All types of general plumbing  
Toilets, Showers, Taps, Ball Valves.  
BATHROOM INSTALLATION SPECIALISTS.  
07793 867306 Ask for Michael

**Romeo Health@The Sloane Hospital**  
recommended by Consultants - GPs - Midwives  
Appointment lines: 020 8249 0159 ! osteopathy  
07956 308207 ! manipulation  
! cranial osteopathy  
Insurance approved ! sports massage

**Bromley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club**  
Sandford Road, Bromley South  
14 tennis courts of which 2 indoors and 6 floodlit. 3 squash courts.  
Competitive subscriptions. Coaching for all ages and abilities.  
Clubhouse with bar. Social events and hall available for hire.  
020 8460 0936 or visit our website  
[www.bromley-lawn-tennis-and-squash-club.co.uk](http://www.bromley-lawn-tennis-and-squash-club.co.uk)

**J. E. Neal  
Builder and Decorator**  
Property Maintenance - interior & exterior; painting & decorating; plumbing & tiling; odd jobs; no job too small.  
Established in Bromley for 26 years.  
For a competitive quote,  
call 8777 2860 or Mobile 07719 620696

**HOLT MAINTENANCE**  
Garden Maintenance, Landscape Gardening,  
Window Cleaning, Domestic and Commercial Cleaning.  
Accredited Safe Contractor  
Tel. 020 8460 9396 or 07956 172979

**J. & R. KILLICK Ltd.**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS Est 1879  
\* FAMILY RUN \* 24 hours a day  
\* Personal service \* Modern or  
\* Pre-paid funeral plans advice given Classic funeral fleet  
For advice, assistance and our INFORMATION folder  
please phone PETER or MICHAEL KILLICK  
020 8777 4502 Website [www.jrkillick.co.uk](http://www.jrkillick.co.uk)  
112 High Street, West Wickham BR4 0ND

**Sunnyfields Day Nursery**  
19 Bromley Grove, Shortlands  
7.30am - 6.30pm daily  
children 3 months to 5 years  
Tel: 8313 9191

**PICTURE FRAMING**  
Oils, Photographs, Watercolours, Tapestries,  
Prints, Embroideries  
Jo Powell  
3 Highfield Drive, Shortlands  
020 8464 3149

**Langley School of Dancing**  
Ballet, Tap, Modern, Street Jazz,  
Boys Street Jazz & Zumba  
from age 2½ to adult - at St. Mary's Hall  
Tel: 07540 400615 for a free trial class

**Vicky - Mobile Hairdresser**  
over 25 years experience 07958 210577

**Creativity, Confidence  
Communication**  
Drama for 5-8 yrs, 8-11 yrs,  
12-18 yrs  
01689 812 336  
[bromley@helenogrady.co.uk](mailto:bromley@helenogrady.co.uk)

**HOMEOPATHY & REFLEXOLOGY  
Josephine Adam**  
Homeopath BSc LCHE RSHom RGN  
0744 348 2887  
[josephine.adam@live.co.uk](mailto:josephine.adam@live.co.uk)

**Local, friendly and professional building company for your larger projects.**  
Extensions, Conversions, Refurbishment and Electrical.  
Excellent references available  
No job too large  
E: [steve@rutlandbuilding.co.uk](mailto:steve@rutlandbuilding.co.uk)  
T: 020 8249 8769 M: 07949 593294

**INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE**  
Savings & investments, Pre- and Post-Retirement Planning including Pensions & Annuities, Protection, Long Term Care and Tax Planning  
Contact: David Maguire of Maguire Financial  
Tel: 020 8460 6088 Mob: 07970 810572  
Email: [david@maguirefinancial.co.uk](mailto:david@maguirefinancial.co.uk)

**DON'T D.I.Y.** ... Decorating ... Tiling ...  
let us ... Decking ... Carpentry ...  
and more.  
Contact Luke, telephone: 07946 545049  
or e-mail at [lukeb12345@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lukeb12345@yahoo.co.uk)

**ROOFING**  
ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN  
GENERAL BUILDING \* LOFT EXTENSIONS \* FENCING  
GUTTERING \* SKYLIGHT WINDOWS  
SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFING \* NEW SHED ROOFS  
PATIO & DRIVES PRESSURE WASHED  
HARRY ALLEN 020 8402 0156