

On a journey together

We learn how to do something and then practise so we don't forget. It's often said that once you have learnt to ride a bicycle you never forget - that might be true but if you haven't ridden a bike for years you will probably be a bit wobbly if you try! Often we learn to do things in stages. Many of us probably started on a tricycle before moving on to a bicycle; possibly using stabilisers in order to help us build confidence before being able to discard them.

Sometimes we need props, tools or partners - can you imagine trying to cook a meal without any utensils or take part in a three legged race on your own?

As Christians it is important that we have the tools and support that we need. We read the Bible to help us understand the stories and teachings of our faith. We may use other books to help explain to us what it means to be a Christian. We spend time with other Christians whether in church, Sunday school, bible study groups or just meeting for coffee and a chat. Knowing that we have the love, care and support of other Christians is important to us on our faith journey.

In May, after a preparation course, some of the young members of our congregation received the bread and wine at communion for the first time. They recognise that the faith into which they were baptised isn't just that of their parents and godparents but one which as they grow up is increasingly becoming their own. They wish to receive communion to help strengthen them and allow them to receive God's grace on a regular basis as they continue exploring their faith and what being a Christian means to them. As they continue to grow we pray that their understanding of faith will allow them as adults to come to Confirmation when they will confirm that faith into which they have been baptised for themselves.

Rev Morag Finch

Special Events and Services

Sunday 8 June

10.30am Family and Parade Service

*With the help of Junior Choir
Followed by the Parish Picnic*

Sunday 15 June

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Neary
Canticles: Harwood in A flat
Anthem: Hymn to the Trinity - Tchaikovsky



UNIS EN JÉSUS-CHRIST: St Mary's welcomed visitors from St Francis of Assisi, Douai, in May. The French parishioners and Guides enjoyed a visit to Greenwich, a parish meal, hospitality from members of the congregation, and a service of joint worship.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

17 Apr Sebastian Phillips
11 May Adah Wilcox
11 May Annabelle Lightbody
17 May Chiamaka Olumba
17 May Amarachi Olumba
18 May Megan Wright

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------|
| Anne Rundle | 22 Apr | aged 74 |
| Dorothy Clift | 23 Apr | aged 94 |
| Christine Ellis | 28 Apr | aged 96 |
| Allan Wells | 29 Apr | aged 71 |

Children Admitted to Holy Communion

We welcome to God's table:

Alice Aldred
Bethan Brown
Alexandra Cousens
Ashley Cousens
Michelle Doa-Duque
Sebastian Doa-Duque
Lucy Hemsley
Juliette James
Raven Jones
Lloyd Maurel
Elliott Maurel
Amarachi Olumba
Chiamaka Olumba
Kirsty Price
Emma Rogers



15 children received communion for the first time on Sunday 18 May

Dorothy Clift

Dorothy was born in Yorkshire. Her father was the parish priest and her mother was a musician, artist and a great organiser of social events and daily life in the town.

In 1942, Dorothy qualified as a doctor at the University of Leeds. She met Arthur, the surgeon who became her husband, when they worked together in Oxford. They moved to Bromley in 1945 and worked for a short time at Farnborough Hospital. The family attended St Mark's Bromley, and later St Mary's Shortlands.

Dorothy devoted about 25 years mainly to supporting Arthur and caring for her family of six children. She then worked in family planning before moving to the dermatology department in St Bartholomew's Hospital. She greatly enjoyed learning about her patients' lives, convinced that skin conditions are much affected by people's emotions and experiences.

Through her retirement, and after Arthur died in 1990, Dorothy continued to care for her family and neighbours. She organised a weekly church service and a poetry reading group for residents at Durham House. She visited and helped the residents while gradually she became older than many of them.

Dorothy loved her home. In 1991, her daughter Cecilia and her family moved into the house and enabled Dorothy to stay there for the rest of her life, as she so much wanted to do.

Dorothy had many interests ranging from discussing developments in medicine and medical ethics and changing views about Christianity, to gardening, sewing and cooking. Dorothy is survived by five of her children, seven of her nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

The family wish to express their gratitude for all the many kind words and thoughts, and the donations to Save The Children in her memory.

Remembering

Christine Ellis

Christine was an active member of St Mary's for many years since her husband became our Organist and Choir Master in 1961.

She was born in Anerley in 1917. Despite poor health she did well at school, excelling particularly in Mathematics – an attribute which she was delighted to have passed on through the generations including to her great grandchildren.

In 1931 she met her future husband Leslie when he visited her home to see her father but he appeared not to notice her as she was only 14. However, love shone through: when she reached 20 they got together and were engaged a year later. In 1939 they married and were to have two children – Andrea and Roger.

In 1958 Christine began voluntary work with the Girl Guide Movement and in 1983 was awarded the MBE for her services to Guiding and the WRVS for which, on retirement, she was given a 30 year service medal.

From 1994 until her death Christine lived in Franklin House where she enjoyed the company and friendship of many other residents.

Immensely proud of her family, Christine kept up with modern technology and occasionally skyped James, Susan and their family in Australia: a source of wonder that she could see and talk to them 10,000 miles away.



UNIS EN JÉSUS-CHRIST

Above: Rev Jane Peters, Abbé Jean-Marie Telle, Rev Morag Finch, Ven Dr Paul Wright, Rev Richard Finch

Right: Guides from Douai and Shortlands gather outside the church hall.



Parish Picnic & Barbecue

Sunday, 8 June

in the church grounds following the
10.30am Family and Parade Service.

Bring your own picnic -
barbecue food and refreshments available to buy.
Bouncy castle and games for all the family.

Come and join the fun!

Serving Shortlands

The Shortlands Residents Association (SRA) held its Annual General Meeting on 30 April at St. Mary's Church Hall. A packed Hall listened to a humorous and enlightening talk by the Mayor of Bromley, Cllr Ernest Noad. He recounted his life in politics but especially his last year as Mayor and as our local Councillor.

Many other local issues were discussed such as parking, the proposed school at the Kingswood House site, traffic increase, and the Street Scene pilot. All these issues are taken up by the SRA, on behalf of all local residents with the appropriate Council officials and our local Councillors.

Committee members were appointed but there are vacancies, especially for a Development Officer, so if you are interested in local planning or have expertise in that area and feel able to help, please get in touch!

If you would like to join the SRA, are interested in representing your road as a Liaison Officer, or to serve on the Committee please contact Ann-Marie Jefferys (0208 460 6030) in the first instance. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ann-Marie Jefferys

The Friends of St Mary's

invite you to a

Fun Wine Tasting Evening

Come and test your skills and knowledge and have fun!

Date: Saturday 21st June

Where: St Mary's Church Hall

Time: 7.15 for 7.30 start

Tickets: £10 from the Church Office

Bring your own snacks



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



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Mission of the month

JusB

JusB youth centre was started in 2003 by the family worker from St Mary's Church, College Road who met young people in Bromley who had nowhere to go, were not particularly interested in church yet needed support. They wanted somewhere to 'jusb themselves'.



JusB's mission is 'to serve young people by accompanying them through thick and thin on their journey to independence'. It encourages young people to support each other and be good ambassadors in their community.

Since its launch, the charity has done this in a variety of ways for thousands of young people aged 11-23 during term time and school holidays. These include advice and guidance to help find a job or stay on in education, a homework club and projects to help develop new skills like craft, cookery, urban music and video animation.

For more information, see the display board at the back of the church, visit the website www.jusb.org.uk or phone 020 8464 2722.

Looking back, looking forwards

Approximately 40 people attended St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 27 April to look back at the year 2013.

Tim Dawson, the Treasurer, reported a financial surplus, but explained that this was unlikely to continue in 2014 as the church had been without paid clergy for half of 2013. Donations had decreased, which increased the challenge yet further: he asked everyone to review their giving commitment.

The meeting remembered Don Weekes, who had given faithful service to the church for many years, including his role as Assistant Treasurer.

Rev Morag Finch looked ahead to plans for 2014. She described faith as an ongoing journey: we need to be challenged in that journey, to see if we need to adapt or change.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) had met in February to identify the church's priorities for the coming years. There is a need to widen the number of people involved in planning and delivering St Mary's many activities, and we all share in the responsibility to seek and encourage people to help: no contribution is too small to make a difference.

The meeting heard that Sally Aldred and Catherine Bingham are currently taking part in a course for people who are not ordained as vicars. It is hoped that they will be able to help the PCC to develop the church's work in serving the local community bringing the love of God into the everyday lives of the people of Shortlands. Further work will look at how we can best use the church's buildings to do this.

Jan Boam and Keith Mills were newly elected to the PCC, and the meeting thanked those who were stepping down.

Heather Wills



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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 |
| | 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 & Acting Director of Music | Canon C. Tillotson | 8460 7368 |
| | Mr. N. Stoffel | 8460 0063 |
| Electoral Roll | Mr. J. Westropp | 8650 5178 |
| Stewardship | Mrs. S. Aldred | 8460 3978 |
| Junior Church | | |

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. 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 | 8249 0984 |
| Brownies (Thurs.) | Mrs. 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 |
| 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. M. Harrison 8464 0284 |

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