

# Autumn Reflections

Autumn: Keats' season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is here as the nights draw in. A time of reflection and looking forward. For many it is a time of new beginnings, at school, university or college.

It was a mixed summer of sport. The England football team disappointed us in Brazil; the rugby tour to New Zealand began well but faded; Andy Murray did not win Wimbledon. However we saw wonderful performances at the Commonwealth Games and Rory McIlroy amazed us in golf; Lewis Hamilton frustrated and inspired us in Formula 1. The England cricket team went from humiliation at Lords to crushing victory at the Oval by digging deep, working together and keeping faith in their leader. There's a Christian message here!

At St Mary's this has been a summer of celebrations and tragedies, joy and suffering. Our Lord did not promise an easy life but offers us hope, support and, above all, Eternal Life. This autumn we will thank God for his gifts at Harvest, remember loved ones at the special November service, and gather around the War Memorial with added poignancy one hundred years on from 1914.

We have several fun events planned for the Autumn, and some of us will be fortunate enough to visit Ephesus and Mary's House on a trip to Turkey. We are also discussing exciting initiatives to expand our outreach and mission to the parish of Shortlands. Watch this space – and come and join us!

*David Jefferys*

## Looking after St Mary's

Maintaining our buildings is a significant challenge. Much has been done ourselves, including clearing gutter and drain blockages, fixing a leaking roof above the hall toilets, clearing hall roof debris, painting outside benches and church steps, and tightening loose pews.

In addition to ongoing maintenance, outstanding work includes fitting a new lock to the hall utility room door, fixing the hall patio door lock, completing the fixing of replacement hooks in the hall cloakroom and debris clearance from the aisle roofs. Working parties will be needed for tree and bush lopping, autumn leaf clearance and exterior church house and hall painting.



**PICTURED:** the team who do much of the work to care for our buildings: Robert Barnes, Stan Clark and Keith Dalton (in the drain!)

Unfortunately we cannot do it all ourselves, and contractors will be needed to deal with rusting of the nave roof structure and water ingress to the south wall, repair of drains damaged by root penetration and high level tree lopping. Investigation of the south porch roof leaks is underway and may require repair by a contractor.

To help to meet these costs the church held a Gift Day on 21st September – but it's not too late to make a contribution! Please send your cheque to the Parish Office. If you pay tax, the Office will give you a form to complete to ensure that the church can reclaim the tax on your gift.

*Robert Barnes*

## Special Events and Services

### Sunday 5 October - Harvest Festival

#### 10.30am Family and Parade Service

*(With the help of Thursday Brownies)*

*To be followed by Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall - all welcome*

*Tickets from the office or after 10.30am services*

### Sunday 19 October

#### 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Reading

Canticles: Ireland in F

Anthem: O thou the central Orb - Wood

### Sunday 2 November

#### 4.00pm Memorial Service

*(formerly known as Departed Loved Ones)*

### Sunday 9 November - Remembrance Sunday

#### 10.15am Family Communion and Parade Service

*To include the traditional Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes' Silence and the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial*



## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:  
 13 July Harry Andrew Sallis  
 13 July James Sebastian Baptiste  
 27 July Amelia Rose-Lyn Medhurst

### Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:  
 9 Aug Reginald and Melanie Millen

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Ruth Jones	4 Aug	aged 96
Joan Cobley	25 Aug	aged 90
Ron Osborne	8 Sep	aged 88
Philip Cooper	15 Sep	aged 71

### Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:  
 27 Aug Christine Ellis



## Remembering

### Ron Osborne

Ron was born and grew up in Peckham.

His education was interrupted by the war but he became a chartered surveyor and entered the family business of building contracting. It was there he met his wife of 49 years: Jean.

He was placed with Redpath Brown where he worked – unknown to him – on the Floating Bridge. He then served in India and Israel with the army, and was due to go to Japan before the atom bomb was dropped.

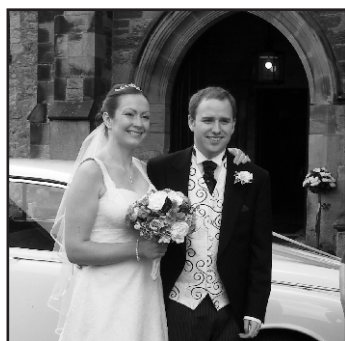
Ron had many interests. He was a Mason for 60 years and well respected in that field. As a youngster he played cricket and aged 12 he won an Evening Standard Award for scoring 4 wickets for no runs in one over.

As member of the Worshipful Company of Loriners (who make bits for horses) and of the Candlewick Club, it was a great relief to know that he could take his sheep over London Bridge!

Ron was an old-fashioned gentleman – his family was all to him and his proudest achievement. He was a traditionalist who loathed bad manners and would always take the pavement edge when out walking, doff his hat to a lady and hold open doors for people.

### 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](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Diane Bradford and James Griffiths (respectively Friday Guides and Kim Cubs Leaders) who were recently married in Durham, where they had been together at university.



### Joan Cobley

Joan was born in 1924, an only child. She was 15 when the war started, and her father's work took him to Prestwick so Joan spent the first part of the war there.

The family returned to London while the war was still going on and Joan's father got a job working for the Duchess of Westminster who in turn removed her family to safety in Sussex with Joan and family in tow.

After the war Joan was called to work at the Income Tax Office and they sent her to attend a school in Marylebone to learn secretarial skills. These were to stand her in good stead and she often reminisced about the girls she worked with over the years. For some time she worked at the Colonial Office.

She later worked as a temporary secretary and enjoyed the variety of work which came her way.

Alf – her husband of 63 years - says that when they moved to their bungalow in Shortlands, it felt as though they were on a permanent holiday as they had always lived in London. Towards the end of her life, Joan's mother came to live with them and she is interred at St Mary's. After Compline Joan would often be seen popping along to have a word with her mother. She was as devoted and loving a daughter as she was a wife.

Joan found time for hobbies. She loved to read, was a talented dressmaker, making many of her own clothes, and was a dab hand at soft furnishing.

Joan was a woman with a most generous heart. Her love poured out to the vulnerable whether two or four footed. Alf cannot even remember to how many cats they gave sanctuary over the years. If Joan had a few spare pounds they would go to help someone or something in need.

Whilst some disapproved, Joan was the Shortlands pigeon lady: you would see her under the bridge at Shortlands with a dustpan and brush cleaning up so that others wouldn't complain about the mess. Joan was a one off.

This year the



## Christmas Fair



will be held on

**Saturday 22 November**

in the Church Hall.

**Save the Date!**

### Leaving a Legacy

Anyone can help support the ongoing ministry and mission of our Church by leaving a bequest in their will.

A Pecuniary Legacy is a simple commitment to leave a certain amount to the Church. A Residual Legacy is one where the Church receives what is left of the giver's estate after all other legacies have been paid and all taxes and expenses settled.

A bequest can be made in two ways: firstly by writing a new will, and secondly by writing a 'codicil', which is less expensive. A codicil is an addition to the will and must be properly prepared and witnessed. To ensure any codicil entered into is properly executed and does not invalidate your existing will, it is advisable to seek the help of a solicitor.

For more information about the wording to use in preparing a codicil, please contact the Parish Office.

# Mission of the month

## Welcare in Bromley

Welcare in Bromley provides support for vulnerable families in the borough. Working in schools, the family support workers have run groups for children who have experienced domestic violence within their families. Alongside this has been a shorter group for the parents who have been victims of domestic violence. Both groups have evaluated well and will be continuing with a new cohort of children this term. Within the groups appropriate relationships and how to manage anger and fear are discussed.

Welcare also provides 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 or [www.welcare.org/centres/bromley](http://www.welcare.org/centres/bromley) or see the notice board at the back of the church.

## Rainbow pack Leaders required!



Rainbows who meet from 3.45 - 4.45pm on Mondays during term time are in desperate need of two new leaders to take over.

It is a thriving pack with 18 girls attending and a waiting list in operation. Full support will be given to anyone taking on the role.

If you are interested in taking on this role, perhaps with a friend, please contact Helen Last tel: 020 8460 1705 or email her at [helen.last@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.last@btinternet.com). Thank you.

## Learning to serve

Last September, Catherine Bingham and Sally Aldred began to take part in the Foundation in Christian Ministry course run by the Diocese of Rochester. This is a three to four year, part time course designed to prepare people for a range of ministry within the church as a lay minister. In the Bible the word used for 'ministry' is often interchangeable with the word 'service'. Lay Christian ministry can include work with children and families, young people, the sick, the bereaved, or people who want to learn more about the Christian faith. In addition, a lay minister may preach and lead many types of church services, including funerals, but not marriages, baptisms or Holy Communion. The types of role and responsibility will vary according to the gifts and abilities of the individual, the needs of their parish, and the context of their life.

How have they found their first year of studies?

**Sally:** I have really loved this year. I chose to do this course because for some time I have felt that God was asking me to explore my role within St Mary's but I was not sure what this might mean. I have enjoyed the fact that the course enables us to study many different aspects of church life and work with an emphasis on how we can use our learning within the context of our own parish. It is very much rooted in real life rather than academia. It has been spiritually and intellectually challenging, hard work and exciting. I have met some wonderful people and am really looking forward to the next year.

**Catherine:** My experience of the course has been similar to Sally's. I am finding it hard work, but very fulfilling. I wondered whether it was possible to combine the course with a demanding full time job, but felt that if God was calling me to do so, he would make it possible, and somewhat to my amazement he has. I have been particularly encouraged by the faith and wisdom of the many people involved in teaching and supporting the course and the emphasis on relating spiritual matters to everyday life - very different from the impression given in the media of the Church of England.

## End of an Era

Summer Camp 2014 at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre in Oxfordshire was a special one for St Mary's Guides and leaders, as it was the last one where Rusty (Gill Dawson) will be in charge. After 32 years organising camps, Gill will be standing down and from next year Nicki (Tuesday Guide Leader) will be taking over as camp organiser.

There is a strong leadership team in the two Guide units - three Young Leaders and seven Adult Leaders renewed their Guide Promise during the camp. Some chose to do this around the camp fire, but three of them decided the top of the aerial trek was the place for them! Nicki accompanied them to hear them make their promise but waited until they were all safely down before pinning on their leaders' badges!



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## Volunteer Musician

Join our rota to play at our weekly service on Wednesday at 11.15am. If you would like to volunteer your skills please contact the Parish Office tel: 020 8460 5682.

## SPAN needs you!

Can you help deliver SPAN?



Call Mike Harrison on 8464 0284

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