

Remembering

Remembering is something that humans do. More than often we remember things because they remind us of people and events that we enjoyed, or times when we experienced a sense of wellbeing or excitement. Sometimes we remember things because they are sad, or they take us back to a time of challenge or disappointment.

At this time of year the Church remembers the heroes of the Church on All Saints Day, and on the following day we remember those whose faith is known to God alone – All Souls' Day. Christians spend a lot of time remembering, or trying to remember, what Jesus said and did in order to follow His good example.

Of course this year, as a nation, we have been remembering the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. There is a huge fascination with The Great War through books, literature, films, photographic exhibitions, old newsreels and documentaries. It is probably the first major event, let alone war, on such a grand scale that has been recorded for subsequent generations to follow. All of these opportunities to look back and remember should, above all, remind us that war does not solve problems.

Of course we don't need to remember what war is like: it faces us in the media every day with the various conflicts across the globe. Such suffering and displacement are things we need to remember whenever people become so extreme in their enthusiasm that they send others off to fight for what may be a complex cause.

As far as Jesus was concerned, reconciliation and forgiveness were part of what it means to be human. I hope we can remember at this time not only those on the 'grand scale', but also those more intimate relationships between individuals so that there can be a sense of peace and wellbeing and that everyone can flourish in a world that God has beautifully created. For as the Book of Genesis reminds us: "God saw what he had made and it was very good." We need to remember that!

Paul Wright
Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley



HARVEST HOME: we celebrated Harvest Festival with a hearty Harvest lunch and raised £543.00 for Welcare in Bromley

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



Special Events and Services

Sunday 9 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.15am Family Communion and Parade Service

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

Sunday 16 November

6.30pm Informal Service, led by the Music Group

Think music, think drama, think scripture and a candle or two.... Our all age service will look at how we get ready for Advent and the Christmas season, and how we prepare for God's coming.

Sunday 30 November - Advent Sunday

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 7 December

10.30am Toy Service with Parade

You are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy or voucher suitable for children aged 8-13 years, which will become a gift for a local child in need of support through Welcare in Bromley

Sunday 14 December

4.00pm Christingle Service

Come and see the children's faces glowing in the light of candles.

Sunday 21 December

6.30pm The Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



From the Registers

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

30 September

Stanley Bruce

12 October

Ruth Jones



Remembering

Jonty Harrison

A Service of Thanksgiving was held in a packed St George's church on September 5th for the life of Jonty – Jonathan Harrison.

Jonty died following complications during heart transplant surgery. He was diagnosed with a severe heart condition in 2006 and was subsequently placed on the waiting list. Unfortunately, by the time he received his donor heart his health had deteriorated considerably.

Jonty lived in Shortlands for most of his life and went to school locally. He was head boy at his junior school, St David's College, and deputy head boy at his secondary school, Trinity. He excelled academically, gaining several prizes, and subsequently went to Christ's College Cambridge on a matriculation offer. He gained a first in Chemical Engineering despite being fully involved in the social life at College. He was a member of several societies and treasurer of the Junior Common Room and May Ball Committees.

After completing his degree he worked as a Management Consultant for an international company before taking over the business management of a busy health care practice in Beckenham.

At school he was joint leader of the RAF Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Section. He played the saxophone to Grade 8 and enjoyed playing in the jazz bands at school and university. He was a keen scuba diver and obtained his BSAC dive leader qualification. He travelled extensively during his short life and was a keen hockey player, playing for the school and University.

Earlier this year he married his partner, Kerry, who he met through university friends.

Jonty was a remarkable young man whose short life was full of adventure and achievement. He will be remembered by his big smile and inquisitive nature. It testifies to his character that he managed to fly a glider plane solo at 16 before he could legally drive a car. He took advantage of all that life had to offer him.

Christmas lights

Saturday 29th November will see the official switching on of Beckenham's Christmas lights. Why not come along and be part of an event for all the family, organised by Churches Together in Beckenham?

We will gather at the roundabout near the Odeon at 4.30pm, and the procession will leave the Post office at about 4.45pm. Children will be provided with LED light candles for the walk. Along the route (which will end at the Green at about 5.15pm), groups of carol singers from different churches will be singing and handing out mince pies to both walkers and bystanders. There will be a short nativity tableau at the Green along with a few more carols. The formal lighting of the Christmas lights will take place on the Green at 5.30pm.

Could you be a carol singer or a steward for an hour? If you can help, please contact Susie Shelton via the church office. Otherwise just turn up on the day and join in – all are welcome.

Flowers at St Mary's

We have a small team of dedicated volunteers, led by the highly experienced Marion Parr, who arrange the regular flowers in church and help co-ordinate our special occasions. They do a fabulous job and are keen to pass on their experience to anyone else who may like to contribute a little of their own time to help decorate the church. If you would like to help please contact the Parish Office



Just a few of the beautiful flowers prepared by our band of volunteers in church for Harvest Festival this year. Thank you to all who contributed.

Celebrating the Harvest

St Mary's had four wonderful opportunities this year to share the message of Harvest.

Two local day nurseries came bearing their harvest gifts: Little Cherubs and Sunnyfields. The children were very enthusiastic (one little chap thought he was coming to a Harvest Vegetable!) We sang and danced together and Rev Jane explained a little of where our food comes from and talked about those in need. We asked God to bless the homes which would receive the gifts and we said prayers of thanks for all that we have. Afterwards both groups explored the church and clearly felt very at home!

We were also asked to speak at the Harvest Assembly at Highfield Infants' School where Rev Jane spoke about our Manual for Life, the Bible, and referred to the ancient wisdom of sharing the harvest and caring for those in need.

This same message permeated the address at the great Harvest Festival at St Mary's. Jesus' message is clear: we are to care for those on the margins, those in need, the vulnerable. Our gifts this year are going to the local Food Bank, whose services are more and more needed as the weeks pass. Thank you to all who contributed in any way this year.



This year the Christmas Fair

will be held on
Saturday 22 November
2-4pm in the Church Hall.



**Come and start your Christmas Shopping,
listen to carols and meet Father Christmas**

Remembering loved ones

It has been the custom for some years now to hold a special service at St Mary's at the time of All Saints'/All Soul's Day (also known as Hallowe'en). Formerly this was called the service for Departed Loved Ones: it is a Memorial Service.

It's good to set aside a time to give particular thought to those whom we love but see no more.

The service, which lasts about an hour, consists of periods of reflection, some hymns and an Anthem from the Choir, a short talk and the lighting of individual candles representing love and hope, light and warmth. At the end of the service the candles are left on the altar to burn down representing the fact that Christ, the Light of the World, gave himself for others.

As the years roll past following the death of someone we love it is good to have a special day to come together, to remember the good times and to give thanks for the part they have played in our lives and often in our faith journeys.



All are welcome - the service is easy to follow, even if you don't normally come to church. If you're not able to join this year's service on 2 November, we hope to see you next year.

Rev Jane Peters

How to pray

How often do we sit or kneel in church looking at other people and wondering what it is they are doing in their silent prayer?

Prayer is like every human skill. It is something we need to learn how to do. We can use books, ask a friend, or seek the guidance of a vicar.

But in many ways, prayer is something that we do have to find out about for ourselves. God has made us all different, and so we will all pray differently. We will also pray differently in different situations.

Prayer is the way that we keep in touch with God. Many people think they can change God: 'If I ask really nicely, then God will do what I want'. For others, prayer is a form of magic: 'If I say it in the right way, then God will answer.' Neither of these is true.

Prayer is the way in which we open up to God, so that God can work in us. And God does always answer, although not always in the way we want.

If you love someone, you keep in touch. Prayer is the same. If we love God, we stay in touch. We talk to God and we listen to God. It's a conversation.

Next month, we'll look at some ways to start our conversation with God.

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Volunteer Musician

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Mission of the month

The British Heart Foundation

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is the UK's number one heart charity. It was founded in 1961 by a group of medical professionals wanting to fund extra research into the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heart and circulatory disease.

Coronary heart disease is the UK's single largest killer, but pioneering research by the BHF has been central to the discoveries of vital treatments that are helping to change the face of the UK's fight against heart disease.

In addition to its research, BHF promotes cardiovascular health and the prevention of cardiovascular disease, and is working to ensure more people survive a heart attack or cardiac arrest. Its work is also focused on ensuring that patients and their families receive the best possible support, information and care.

You can find more information on the display at the back of church, or at www.bhf.org.uk

The Man Jesus

On 29 September a group of 40 members of the congregation, together with friends, went to the Churchill Theatre to see 'The Man Jesus', a one man show with Simon Callow.

Whilst not everyone agreed with everything he said it was a theatrical tour de force. Simon portrayed various people from the life of Jesus using regional accents. An interesting concept - have you ever thought of John the Baptist as a Glaswegian a little like Billy Connolly, or Peter as a Liverpudlian? It worked rather well.

His portrayal of the man blind from birth begging Jesus for his sight was particularly worth hearing. The words put into Jesus' mouth were that the man needed to recognise and 'name' his need. Discussions on the evening will continue for a long time to come.

Tea and topics

Come and meet your neighbours and support your local library on Monday afternoons from 2.15-3.30pm during term time.

There are speakers and discussions on a variety of subjects such as history, crafts, travel, health and local and family history.

On 8 December, bring along your old photos and talk about how things have changed since those times.

Ask for a programme and reserve a place at Shortlands Library, 110 Shortlands Road, BR2 0JP, telephone 020 8460 9692.

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.



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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	
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Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/8460 5682
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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 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. Kathereswaran	8249 0984
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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

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