

SHORTLANDS PARISH NEWS

St. Mary's, Shortlands
endeavours to bring the love
of God into the everyday lives
of the people of Shortlands.

the SPAN

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February 2013. Year 33 Number 2

Giving Service in Shortlands

St. Mary's welcomed back Canon Doug Redman and his wife Valerie to a special service on January 13th. Canon Redman, formerly Vicar of St. Mary's prior to his retirement in 2001, gave a sermon on the theme of making a commitment, as part of a number of activities on the theme of 'stewardship'.

The Reverend Jane Peters explained: 'as Christians, we believe that we are called to give our time and skills, as well as our money, for the service of God. Stewardship Sunday is a chance for us to think about the ways we can make that commitment – in ways as varied as helping to clean the church, delivering SPAN or serving on a committee.'

The service was also an opportunity to say thank you to a member of St. Mary's who has given her time and talents generously - Gill Dawson MBE has



The Reverend Jane Peters, Canon Doug Redman, Gill & Tim Dawson and Valerie Redman celebrate Gill's 30 years of service.

led the 2nd Shortlands Guides for 30 years. Representatives of The Guide Association made a presentation

marking this achievement, and the large congregation enjoyed drinks after the service to celebrate

Gill's many years of commitment to the community.

Special Services & Events

Sunday 3 February - Bible Sunday

10.30am All Age Eucharist and Parade (with help from the Beavers)
- Reverend Jane Peters

6.30pm Choral Evensong for Candlemas
- Father Leon Carberry, Area Dean of Beckenham, Vicar of St. James', Elmers End

Sunday 10 February

10.30am Family Communion
- Reverend Jane Peters

4.30pm Celebration of Gifts
- Reverend Jane Peters

A service including an exhibition, entertainment and get-together, thanking God for the gifts he has given us. An opportunity to share our gifts - whether they are poetry, reading, singing, making cakes, flower arranging, visual art or dancing!

Wednesday 13 February - Ash Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion services, with the Imposition of Ashes for those who wish it
& **8.00pm**
- Reverend John Ilson at 10.00am and Reverend Jane Peters at 8.00pm

Celebrating Candlemas

On Sunday, 3rd February St. Mary's held a choral evensong to celebrate Candlemas. So what is it? Pat Chase did some research at www.projectbritain.com to find out.

February 2nd is Candlemas Day and it is an ancient festival that marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. In pre-Christian times it was known as the 'Feast of Lights' as it celebrated the increased strength of the sun as winter gave way to spring.

In the Christian church it commemorates the ritual purification of Mary forty days after the birth of her son Jesus, and Christians remember the presentation of Jesus in the temple. Christians call it Candlemas because it was the day when all the candles that were to be used in the church during the coming year were brought into church and a blessing was said over them. So it was the festival day or 'mass' of the candles.



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

4 Jan Bob German, aged 77

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

6 Jan Joan Murphy, aged 96



Remembering

Robert Edward German

Bob German, who was a Sidesman at St. Mary's Church, died suddenly on the 15th December. He was born in Worcester in 1936 and attended the Grammar School there.

Aged eighteen, he joined the Royal Navy for his National Service and spent two years at sea as a member of the crew of the aircraft carrier HMS Triumph. At Birmingham University he read for a degree in Commerce. He then moved to London to join the Civil Service as an Inspector of Taxes. In 1960, he married Annette, and they have three children. His first District Charge was in Stratford-upon-Avon but thereafter he had head office or other Central London responsibilities, ending his career as a Director of the Board of Inland Revenue. In

retirement he enjoyed helping to care for his seven grandchildren.

Bob's family wants warmly to thank all who sent messages of prayer and support.

The Funeral Service was held on Friday, 4th January, at St. Mary's Church, and was conducted by Reverend Jane Peters and The Venerable Dr. Paul Wright, Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley. The service was followed by a private committal at Beckenham Crematorium. Annette and her family were supported by a large number of relatives and friends.



Reverend Charles Brown

We were sorry to receive news of the death, on 3rd December, of the Reverend Charles Brown. Reverend Brown was a Non-Stipendiary Minister here at St. Mary's between 1984 and 1986.

He is remembered as a quiet, gentle and kindly man, who was very easy to talk to. His aura of peace and calm was much valued by those who knew him. After a career in commerce, he trained for the ministry around the time of his retirement, having lived in the parish for years with his family. He said that, apart from his wedding day, the day he was ordained was the happiest of his life. He left St. Mary's to become Priest in Charge of St. Lawrence, Seal, near Sevenoaks, and retired in 1990.

Mission of the Month

St. Christopher's Hospice

St. Christopher's was founded by Dame Cicely Saunders in 1967: the first modern hospice, providing care and support for dying people and those close to them, when and where they need it.

As well as 48 beds at the hospice building near Crystal Palace, there is a home care team, a social hub for patients and families, and an extensive range of day care and supportive care services. Inpatient and homecare services are delivered by multi-professional teams that include social workers, chaplain and spiritual care lead, welfare advisers, psychiatrists, physiotherapists, occupational therapist, complementary and creative therapists, bereavement service volunteers and others.

Each year St. Christopher's cares for over 2,000 dying individuals on their inpatient wards and in people's own homes, providing over 15,000 days of care on the wards. You can find more information about this charity on our Mission noticeboard during February and further information can be found at www.stchristophers.org.uk

Bishop James at St. Mary's

We welcomed Bishop James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester to lead services on 16 December. Bishop James is pictured chatting over coffee after the service to (left to right) Reverend Jane Peters, Heather Donovan and Janet Purslove.



Music Group - Sing your praise to the Lord!

St. Mary's embraces the best of traditional and new Christian music. Alongside our superb choir, we have a thriving music group which has introduced a wealth of contemporary hymns and worship songs. As well as playing at one morning service per month, the group leads informal evening worship and other special services on several occasions throughout the year. The group is led by Graham Leech, who plays keyboard and in 2011 compiled the Shortlands Praise collection of hymns and songs especially for use at St.

Mary's. Susie Shelton (flute) and Les Harwood (violin) started the group with Graham nearly 10 years ago. Since then the part played by the group in the life of the church has steadily grown, as has the group itself. They are now joined by Tim Aldred on guitar and Kevin Sloane on electric bass, as well as singers Zoe and Patrice Cooper, Marion Westropp, Jay Sharma and Adrian Bingham. New instrumentalists and vocalists are always welcome to join the group and can contact Graham via the Parish Office at office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com



Time for Reflection

If you hear the word 'Lent' your first reaction may be: chocolate or wine! Lent is a time when we struggle with giving something up. Or is it?

Lent is the period of forty weekdays, which in the Christian church are a time of abstinence and penitence beginning on Ash Wednesday in preparation for the great feast of Easter. At St. Mary's we have two services of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday (at 10am and at 8pm) during which you may have the Imposition of Ashes if you wish – a cross marked on your forehead with ashes made from the previous year's palm crosses.

From the earliest times, Lent has been a time of preparation for baptism. Eventually, it also became time for renewal of baptismal vows for those already baptised and it is a time for reconciliation. It is a time to make space for reflection on our relationship with God and how we are responding to him – or failing to respond.

The forty days mirror the time in Jesus' life when, after stopping work as a carpenter, he began his ministry teaching people about God. For this, having been baptised by his cousin John the Baptist, Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and alone with God his father.

In churches you will see that throughout Lent the altar cloth, the hangings and the coloured robes worn by the clergy are purple – the colour of penitence - before changing on Easter Sunday to white – the colour which represents resurrection. Purple is associated with mourning, enabling us to reflect on Jesus' death but it has also from time immemorial been associated with kingship, purple being a very costly dye.

I wish you a good Lent, however you mark it, and hope to see you at our great service of Easter.

Reverend Jane Peters



Lent 2013



Lent is an opportunity before the great Festival of Easter to take time out and reflect on our journey through life. There are a number of ways to help you to get the most out of Lent.

1. Join a Homegroup

Lent is a great time to get together with other people to learn more about our faith. Lent Homegroups meet in people's houses during the day or during the evening on different days of the week. You do not need to be academic or have a degree in theology to join – in fact it's better if you come with a completely open mind and fresh point of view. This year we shall probably be looking at a course co-written by our Bishop and Dr Paula Gooder entitled "My grace is sufficient: a healing journey from Lent to St. Luke's side".

Why not join a group this year if you haven't done so before? You don't have to be able to attend every week. For further information please ring the Parish Office on 8460 5682 or see the sign-up sheets at the back of church.

3. Come to church at 10.30am every Sunday to hear five different speakers helping us engage with the challenge of Lent.

February 17	Lent 1	Reverend Dr. Margaret Wilkinson
February 24	Lent 2	Honorary Canon Claire Tillotson
March 3	Lent 3	Charity: The Whitechapel Mission
March 10	Lent 4	Mothering Sunday: Reverend Jane Peters
March 17	Lent 5	Tim Aldred

2. Lent Lunches

A simple lunch for up to 10 people, providing an opportunity for hospitality and to support a charity.

- Wednesday, 20 February - supporting Sight Savers International David & Jane Green, 84 Barnfield Wood Road
- Thursday, 28 February - supporting St. Christopher's Hospice Sue Slaney, 31 Elwill Way
- Tuesday, 5 March - supporting World Vision Nick Stoffel, Choir Vestry, St. Mary's Church
- Tuesday, 12 March - supporting ZANE - Zimbabwe A National Emergency Tim Dawson, 7 Druids Way

For further information please ring the Parish Office on 8460 5682 or see the sign-up sheets at the back of church.

4. Take part in the experience of Holy Week

March 24 - Palm Sunday

- 10.30am Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
- 6.30pm A Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

- 8.00pm Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch

March 29 - Good Friday

- 10.30am Family Service
- 2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

March 31 - Easter Day

- 8.00am Sunrise Eucharist
- 10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

Friends of St. Mary's Grand Race Night and Fish & Chip Supper

Saturday 2 March
St. Mary's Church Hall
7pm for prompt 7.30pm start

Tickets: £8
Family Ticket: £20
(max 2 adults + 2 children under 14)

Tickets available from the Parish Office or after services at the back of the church.

Easter Lilies



If you would like to remember a departed loved one at the Great Festival of Easter, we invite you to make a donation to the Flower Fund as a memorial to that person.

A list of the names of all those to be remembered will be placed on the altar on Easter Day, to affirm our hope in the Resurrection to eternal life and the Christian's eternal security in Christ.

Please contact Molly Tout (8464 9593) or the Parish Office (8460 5682).

A Heavenly Valentine



**For God so loved the world
That he gave
His only
begotten
Son
That whosoever
Believeth In him
Should Not perish
But have Everlasting life.**

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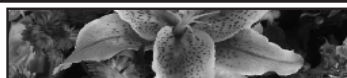
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Every Sunday

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
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Every Wednesday

10.00	Holy Communion
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Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

STAFF

Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/8460 5682
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	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. R. Bailey	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 Ann Parks	8464 1157
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Mr. C. Stokes	8460 0661
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
PCC Secretary	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. D. Weekes	8650 2950
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 9.15 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 telephone 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. A. Watson	8650 0184
Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8650 1720
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 1599
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 COUNCILLORS (L.B.B.)

Cllr. E. Noad	8462 3295
Cllr D. Jefferys	07944 565455

LOCAL NUMBERS

Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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