

An Easter People

As I sit to write this, it is a few days before Christmas, such are the constraints of deadlines. By the time you read this, Christmas will have faded into the past – a distant memory except when the credit card bills fall on the doormat. Some presents will have been broken or lost and we may be wondering what on earth it was all about. Yes, Christmas is a Christian festival, one of the high points in the Christian calendar, but it is also very much a part of our cultural life.

Whilst we celebrated

Christmas and the God who came to us in the form of a baby, Christians are actually much more 'Easter People'. Easter is the real focus of the Christian year. It's when God's Rescue Plan was activated. When (if you are a 'trekkie') we look at Death: The Final Frontier.

We believe that having come to show us what God is like, Jesus then showed us how to have a relationship with him, taught us about grace and mercy, and died for each one of us so that we may have eternal life.

One of the things I like about the

Easter story is the people involved. At Christmas we saw Jesus being worshipped by the great and the good in the Magi, and by the humble and poor in the shepherds. He came for all of us – each and every one.

At Easter we see his deep love for humankind: the vulnerable, the faint-hearted, the just plain bad. He loved Judas Iscariot who betrayed him. He loved Peter who denied him three times; his church was to have its foundation in Peter later on. He loved his mother so much that as he suffered the agony and indignity of

crucifixion he ensured her future, committing her into the care of the disciple John.

If you read the Easter story you will find flawed humanity at its best and at its worst. Each one of us is recognizably in the story with all our faults. And yet we know that God loves us as we are. He knows us as we are. And if we want it, his rescue plan ensures that we will spend eternity within that love.

May your Easter be a time of blessing and peace and may you find hope and comfort in its message.

Reverend Jane Peters

Special Services & Events

Sunday 3 March

6.30pm Informal Service for All Ages with contemporary music and worship

Sunday 10 March - Mothering Sunday

10.30am Family and Parade Service with the blessing and distribution of posies with help from the Monday Brownies
Afterwards, a Cake Sale in the Church Hall in aid of Comic Relief

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 24 March - Palm Sunday

10.30am Procession of palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
6.30pm "Olivet to Calvary" by Maunder, a sacred cantata sung by the choirs of St. Mary, St. Mark and St. Peter & St. Paul at
St. Mark's Church, Westmoreland Road

Thursday 28 March - Maundy Thursday

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

Friday 29 March - Good Friday

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

Sunday 31 March - Easter Day

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

STOP PRESS

It has been announced that The Reverend Morag Finch, at present Vicar of Gidea Park, near Romford, will be St. Mary's next Vicar. More details in April SPAN!

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 the Parish Office (8460 5682).



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

27 Jan Madison Pankhurst
Jason Dunnet

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

28 Jan Beryl Baines, aged 95
30 Jan Hilda Holloway, aged 95



Remembering

Beryl Baines

It was very fitting that Beryl's funeral was held at St. Mary's Shortlands even though for the past few years she had lived nearer to her daughter.

For most of her life Beryl lived in and around Shortlands. Her son was in the choir at St. Mary's and her daughter married here. She had been a worshipper with us for many, many years.

She met her first husband Jack through their mutual love of sport and the couple, who married in 1939, were to have two children: Susan and Andrew.

Always interested in her children and their lives, she gave them a loving and fulfilling childhood which they supposed to be the norm. It was only in later years they realised just how privileged they had been.

As her five grandchildren came along, she extended her interest to them and eventually was blessed with nine great grandchildren too.

Jack died in the mid-seventies and Beryl took up her interest in sport again. This led to her eventual second marriage to Tom and her embracing his family as well. Sadly, he was to die after only four years and once again she threw herself into family and sporting life.

Beryl had many hobbies. She loved all sports and was a fervent Arsenal supporter, she travelled extensively right into her late eighties and her garden was a delight as well.

A strong willed and gracious lady with a great sense of fun, she lived life to the full and this showed in the large number of people who attended her funeral to support her extensive family. A private Committal was held at Beckenham Crematorium led by Reverend Jane Peters.



Hilda Holloway

Hilda was born just off the Old Kent Road and attended school in Ruby Street. She was a good student and a hard worker. On Christmas Day 1938 at the age of 21 she married her husband Alfred who she had met at the cinema and shortly after, because of the war, the family moved to the Tunbridge Wells area.

Like most people Hilda made the most of things during the war and went to work in a munitions factory before later moving to the Accounts Department of the GPO.

Her daughter Christine was born in 1947 and joined in 1953 by son Michael.

Not content with being 'just' a housewife, Hilda persuaded her husband to take on the corner shop in their village and they worked happily together, seven days a week, for many years enjoying the chatting and gossiping with their customers.

In retirement Hilda became a keen gardener and took up woodwork and pottery.

Hilda had managed to live independently for several years before her health deteriorated. She came to live with her daughter, and then in recent years she lived in Coloma Court where she was well looked after. Her long life meant that she outlived most of her peers, but all those who knew her when she was younger and full of energy have fond memories of a bouncy, energetic lady with a great sense of humour, a zest for life and a willingness always to try new things.

The funeral service was conducted by Reverend Jane Peters, at Beckenham Crematorium, on 17th January. Her family joined together to say goodbye to a much loved and respected person.

The Brown Years

The Reverend Charles Brown, who joined the family of the faithful in December, was an example of what many would aspire to be: a true Christian gentleman. His was the quiet, happy aura, and I recall on joining the St. Mary's family in the 1960s, that it was Charles, with others of the same ilk, including Paul Baker, who made me feel welcome, treating me immediately as one of the family. He and his wonderful wife Joyce, went on to take over the Children's Church, which I was to inherit in later years, and his house meetings were memorable and happy ones.

To folk such as Charles and Paul, the Christian faith was what it should be, a thing of joy and wonderment.

The Heating Saga - the end?

In February 2012 the boiler, which heats the water for the central heating in all the church buildings, burst. This was a disaster as we had a very cold February and March last year. After we established that the boiler could not be repaired we immediately started a fundraising programme to pay for a new boiler. At the same time we looked into the possibility of a temporary heating solution, but did not proceed as this was likely to cost as much as a new heating system!

We had to cancel the hall and meeting room lettings and move the Pre-school to the Scout Hut, which has electric heating. We then searched for a new heating system but found that before we could proceed with this we needed to remove asbestos from the boiler room. This was completed and the new boiler installed and commissioned by the end of March. So we were back up and

running within eight weeks.

Once the fundraising was underway we went on to repair the heating system in church. It took some time to find engineers that had the necessary skills to repair the heaters. This work has now been completed and all the Church heaters are working. This took many months because we needed to maintain the heating in the Church Hall for the Pre-school and other Hall users - so we could only switch off the heating to carry out repairs during the holidays.

The final work was completed in February. We now have a much more efficient boiler and all the fan heaters in Church are working (two had been disconnected some years ago). However, the Church is a very large building and when the temperature outside is below zero, the heating system still struggles!

Let's pray that the heating is now safe for the foreseeable future!



The Heating Fundraising Committee enjoy the warmth from a radiator: (L-R) Ann-Marie Jefferys, Charles Stokes, Sue Slaney, Julie Fox

The Friends of St. Mary's

The Friends of St. Mary's is a registered charity, set up to raise money for the church. It does so by way of annual subscriptions from members of the current congregation and from people who have moved away.

The Friends play a very active part in the life of our church and throughout the year arrange events to raise money and bring people together. We consider the social side of our events to be as important as raising money and will often arrange non-profitmaking events such as trips to concerts in the grounds of Hever Castle, enjoying a picnic by the lake with friends before the concert. (Oh for those summer evenings!)

Our most recent event was a Barn Dance and our next is 'A Grand Race Night' which I am particularly looking forward to. It is sure to be a really fun evening. Why not consider joining us, you would be very welcome and it is a great way to make friends.

Debbie Speller, Chairman

Memories from East Africa

David Loades writes:

I thought readers of SPAN might be interested in some of my memories of working in East Africa in the mid-1980s. I had been seconded to work for the Foreign Office, helping to establish separate authorities in each of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania for railways, harbours and other Government services.

During my time there, I visited 'Paxtu', near Nyeri. This was a cottage built for Lord and Lady Baden-Powell in 1938, and was a very comfortable bungalow. They named it 'Paxtu' - or 'Pax too' - after their home, Pax Hill, near Bentley in Hampshire. The cottage had a view of the twin, snow-covered peaks of Mount Kenya. I stayed at Tree Tops, and also the Outspan hotel, next to Paxtu: they were all built by the same man: Eric Walker. He had been a personal secretary to Lord Baden-Powell when the scouting movement was first established, and was one of the first two Scout Inspectors, with responsibility for the south of England. I liked the name for the hotel. 'Outspan' was a Boer word for unhitching the oxen after a hard day's work - so here it means 'taking a break and relaxing'. Each year, scouts and guides meet at the Outspan hotel to begin a



memorial parade and service for Lord Baden-Powell, who died at Paxtu in 1941. He was buried at the church in Nyeri following a full military funeral, having declined earlier to be buried in Westminster Abbey. In the church at Nyeri there are many gifts and memorials that scouts and guides have made through the years.

Lord Baden-Powell's gravestone has the Scout tracking symbol for 'Gone Home' - a circle with a black dot in the centre, which you can see from the photo.

Mission of the Month The Whitechapel Mission

Founded in 1876, the Whitechapel Mission provides a lifeline to people caught up in the cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of various kinds. It helps people help themselves, giving them confidence, independence and life skills. Its strapline is 'bringing hope where there is despair'.

The Mission is open 365 days a year providing around 300 vulnerable people every day with hot food, clothing, laundry, showers, counselling and medical care. Help with form filling, training, and putting people in the direction of hostels, recovery programmes, work, benefits, etc. are all part of the service. The Mission provides Severe Weather Emergency Provision which operates as soon as the

temperature drops below 0°C, a service provided for over 130 years.

In the past year over 109,000 breakfasts were served, 463 people used the Mission as their regular postal address, £600,000 was spent on helping Londoners back on their feet, 2,800 used their advice services, 151 people found a hostel, 112 found a flat and 24,000 hours of volunteering were given by individuals, companies and churches.

All the funding needed for this vital work is received through voluntary donations, fundraising events, and donations given in kind. The Mission does not receive any Government funding.

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

Sing to the Lord



At the heart of the musical activity of many churches is the church choir - and music is certainly an integral part of the worship here at St. Mary's. We are very fortunate to have a thriving four part choir, which sings a varied and expanding repertoire. Music is sung from across the centuries, ranging from plainsong dating back hundreds of

years through to contemporary works.

We are also very fortunate in having an organist and assistant organist. St. Mary's choir rehearses once a week on Thursday evenings and sings at the 10.30am service on Sunday, choral evensong once a month at 6.30pm and for festivals, weddings and funerals and mid-week services.

We follow the Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life scheme and members of the choir also take part in RSCM courses, services and other regional events.

When all are present we have thirty one choir members including 10 juniors. We are always keen to recruit new choir members. If you are interested in joining the choir come along to choir practice on Thursday evening, or speak to me, Claire or any member of the choir for further details.

Frank Roddy

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Planning Ahead

The church council came together on a snowy January Saturday to plan ahead for the coming year. While we're looking forward to the arrival of our new vicar, we're also aiming to maintain momentum until they arrive.

We've achieved a lot in the last year: as well as having fun raising almost £47,000 for the heating appeal, and giving Canon Paul Miller a good send-off, we have also continued to do much mission and pastoral work in the community.

The meeting considered how we can all use the gifts we have been given in the service of St. Mary's and the community. There are many roles in the life of St. Mary's that individually don't take much time or effort - but added up, they make the difference. Having asked people to give their money last year, this year we are asking people to give their time and skills - such as cleaning, helping welcome people to services, or making coffee. All of these are vital to help St. Mary's run smoothly.

The meeting also considered how to support people who God may be calling, for example to help lead worship in church or in home groups, run activities for young people, or provide pastoral support to others. Training and support is there for those who are interested - and there are ways to get involved even if you have limited time to contribute.

The meeting agreed a number of actions to welcome new arrivals into the parish, to support and reach out to older and younger people, and to make greater use of the website and social media in future.



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- 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

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
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	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
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Organist &	Mr. F. Roddy	01689 877025
Director of Music		
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 08001 695901 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
	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 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 4600
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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