

Moving forwards, shaped by the past

The period since I moved into the Vicarage has felt a strange time; a time of limbo in that I have been here yet have had a sense of not being here as I have had no role in church.

At times like this it is easy to feel restless and unsettled, particularly when you find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings without your usual landmarks and points of reference. Catching the train into London, it felt very strange looking out the window not recognising where I was, seeing different stations after my familiarity with the route from Liverpool Street, the District and Central lines.

The date of my collation service, 15 June, is also the day that the church remembers Evelyn Underhill. She wrote on prayer and the spiritual life, in particular Christian mysticism, in the early twentieth century. Evelyn became known as a retreat director and spiritual guide and was much associated with Pleshey, the retreat house of Chelmsford Diocese.

It struck me as a nice touch of serendipity that, as I formally leave Chelmsford Diocese to begin my ministry here at Shortlands in Rochester Diocese, there is a link. A date which has significance in one place will from now on have significance to me in another. It feels like a handing over from one chapter in my life to the next one.

I am aware how often in our lives we bring the past with us as we move forward into the future. We constantly move into the future but at the same time are shaped by our past.



Guide District Commissioner Helen Last ran the barbeque at the Parish Picnic to raise funds for the Girlguiding trip to Peru where she will be one of the leaders this summer. She was assisted by a team of Guide and Cub Scout leaders, from left: Gill (Rusty), Helen, Louise, James and Diane.



Celebrating Rev Morag's service of Collation: (left to right) Rev Jane Peters, Rt Rev James Langstaff, Rev Morag Finch, Rev Richard Finch

Many of the experiences we have had in our lives make us the people we are today.

'God is always coming to you in the Sacrament of the Present Moment. Meet and receive Him there with gratitude in that sacrament' – Evelyn Underhill.

Rev Morag Finch

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S, SHORTLANDS

The Friends invite you to a
SUMMER SOIREE
in the Church Grounds on Saturday, 13 July
from 6.30 to 9 pm
4 Play Sax will play at intervals during the evening
Dress: smart casual
Tickets: £3, available from the Church Office
Bring your own picnic. In Church Hall if wet.

Special Events and Services

Sunday 7 July
10.30am Family and parade service

Sunday 21 July
6.30pm Choral evensong
Responses: Sanders
Canticles: Murrill in E
Anthem: Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow).

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

26 May Delilah Davidge

2 June Peter Brown

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

31 May Marilyn Crawford, aged 65



Remembering

Marilyn Crawford

Marilyn was born in Manchester, but grew up in Swansea where she acquired her Welsh accent. However due to her father's work she and her family travelled extensively, including living in Iran and Hong Kong.

Possibly it was this somewhat nomadic early life which set the pattern for her working life.

She went to work in the Foreign Office and managed to have some very desirable postings including Antigua and Paris. She loved to travel and returned to Antigua only last year. She was rightly very proud of her work and made many friends over the years. Her colleagues in many ways were as a family to her because she never married nor had children.

Perhaps for this reason, when her niece Sophie produced four little boys in fairly quick succession, she became a doting great aunt. She loved to hear what Charlie, Alfie, Stanley and Harrison were doing and what they were getting up to.

It was with a sense of shock that her family and close friends attended her funeral at Beckenham Crematorium on 31 May to say goodbye to a much loved sister, aunt, colleague and friend.

Karen Bigg

In May we learned of the death of Mrs Karen Bigg, Headteacher at Highfield Junior School: she had been ill for some time.

Karen was a highly dedicated Headteacher and she will be sadly missed by the school and by her friends and colleagues in the Highfield community. She was a calm, kind and caring person who placed children's learning and wellbeing at the centre of all decisions for the school.

Mrs Bigg was a part of the Highfield community for 13 years, starting at Highfield Junior School as the Deputy Headteacher in 2000. After taking up a headship in Medway for several years, she returned in September 2007, initially as Acting Headteacher. Soon afterwards, she became the permanent Headteacher.

Following Mrs Bigg's death, the pupils were all informed by their class teachers and shortly afterwards Reverend Jane Peters went into the school to take a whole school assembly.

Reverend Jane talked openly to them about death and how Mrs Bigg was now in a different place. While this was a sad occasion she also reminded them to think about all the good things that Mrs Bigg had done.

The school held a memorial service in St Mary's on 7 June so that the children and staff could celebrate her life and remember her. The next few months will be a difficult time for the school and so our thoughts and prayers are with them and of course with her family.

**Paul Hemsley,
Chair of Governors,
Highfield Junior School**

John Stevens

A memorial service was held at St Mary's to celebrate the life of John Stevens, who died in May aged 81 years. The service, and the funeral which preceded it, were taken by Canon Doug Redman.

John was known through the many years he served this community as the reliable, trusty and friendly proprietor of Jollye and Wood Estate Agents at Shortlands Station.

Born in 1931 at West Dulwich, John was evacuated during the War, but the family returned to Dulwich in 1945, when John left school and joined the Royal Navy. He served for seven years plus a further five in the reserve. He was a faithful supporter of the Royal Naval Association ever since, and their colours were paraded at his memorial service.

Whilst serving, the Stevens moved to Bidborough, near Tonbridge in Kent, where John returned 'on demob'. His main civilian role was with the Estate Agency, owned by his uncle but after a few years he handed over to John until he, in turn, sold the business in 1999, after nearly 40 years.

Tragically, John's partner, Iris, died in 1989, after 26 years together, through drowning while on holiday with a friend. John subsequently moved to a flat in Westfield Road Beckenham.

A very active Rotarian, John was also a member of Probus, assisted the Beckenham Blind Club, helped organise the British Legion Poppy Appeal, and was a member of the Constitutional Club and a local French Study Group. He had a large circle of friends, including the Rotary Club of Douai in France from which grew links with St Mary's. John will be greatly missed and long remembered.

Cubs win Cycling Competition

On a cold but dry day at the end of March, 12 cubs from 7th Bromley Mowgli and Kim cub packs headed up to Frylands Campsite to take part in the first annual Cyclo-X event.

Organised by Bromley District Scouts, this event saw the cubs hurtling down mud-swamped tracks, over man-made obstacles and under fences in a team race against the clock. Between heats, the cubs were able to learn about bike safety and maintenance and have their cycles security marked by the Police.

All the cubs earned their Cyclist Badge as a result. At the end of a long and tiring day the Mowgli team (Ben Healy, Lucas Norman, Jake Phillips and Freddie Taylor) emerged victorious, with Kim coming in closely behind in third place. We will be back to defend our title (and trophy) next year.





A few spots of rain didn't dampen the spirits of the many who enjoyed the Parish Picnic

Mission of the Month

The Mission to Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers is the world's largest port-based welfare service, working 365 days a year in over 250 ports to give help and vital support to seafarers.

Whether providing post-traumatic care for victims of piracy and their families, or offering a lifeline to those stranded in foreign ports, the Mission delivers an increasingly essential service for the 1.3million men and women that crew the merchant fleet the world over.

Put it in your diary now: on 28 July our speaker at the 10.30am service will be Rev. Andrew Tremlett, Canon of Westminster and former Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers.

For more information, see **www.missiontoseafarers.org**, or the display at the back of the church.

Help!

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the plaque which accompanied the tree planted last year by our Uniformed Organisations to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee?

Please inform the Church office if you can help.

URGENTLY NEEDED!

Two leaders are needed for Thursday Brownies (2nd Shortlands Brownies), a thriving Brownie pack, to start in September. One will need to complete the Girlguiding Leadership Qualification.

For further details please contact Sue Tight on 020 8460 8122 or suetight@hotmail.com or Andrea Price on 0770 424 1467 or andreaprice73@hotmail.com

Banking on your support!

Bromley Foodbank is located at the United Reformed Church in central Bromley. An offshoot of Orpington Foodbank, it is less than a year old and is already supported with regular donations from 20 churches, including Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists, URC, Quakers, Free Church and Roman Catholics. Both are part of the Trussell Trust's national network of foodbanks, which experienced nearly three times the level of demand in 2012 than in 2011.

It is a remarkable place, a small warehouse filled with shelves, floor to ceiling, supporting plastic crates labelled 'Soup expires 2014' or 'Biscuits Oct-Dec 2013'. There is a minor army of helpers from every denomination, and many non-churchgoing volunteers too.

Some people access the Foodbank directly and referral vouchers are also given by advice services and other organisations. A three-day supply of food and basic toiletries is given, appropriate to each household's needs. Supplies are given to people experiencing a temporary financial crisis – on a maximum of three occasions only – they are not to regularly supplement income or benefits. Recipients are all ages, including working families and pensioners.

Those who visit the Foodbank to collect the food are often also referred by the volunteers to other sources of help, such as Citizen's Advice.

Although the Foodbank's stock is currently adequate, they have now reached the position where more food is being taken than received. The Foodbank is also about to take on two new challenges.

A Foodbank is to open in Penge, two or three days a week starting from scratch supported by Bromley Foodbank's stock. Additionally, the Pantry, run by Christ Church Anerley, already open once a week and funded solely by that church, is to become part of the Bromley Foodbank network supported by Bromley's stock.

So Foodbank needs donations now more than ever – please bring your non-perishable goods to the box at the back of the church.

If you want to know more, please email victorianightingale@hotmail.com



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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
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Friends of St. Mary's	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
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Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers/admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178

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Brownies (Mon.)	Miss K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. A. Watson	8650 0184
Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8650 1720
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LOCAL CONTACTS

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

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Website www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
Editorial Parish Office 8460 5682
Distribution Mr. A. Jones 8460 5437
Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily
those supported by the publishers, and no
responsibility can be accepted for accuracy. The
publishers cannot accept responsibility for work
carried out by advertisers.
ADVERTISING: £15.50 per column inch per issue.
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