

Past, present and future

There was much excitement over the summer as to the identity of the next Dr Who. Many vicars seem to spend time flipping backwards and forwards through time – I spent time over the summer thinking about services for Christmas. It often feels like living in two time zones, the present and the future, not quite knowing where you will end up.

Part of this planning has involved preparation for our annual All Souls service which we will hold on Sunday 3 November at 4pm in church. This will

give us an opportunity to remember family members and friends who have died. At this memorial service we move back to the third time zone, the past, as we join together in prayer and thanksgiving for those who have been important to us, and remember how their lives were interwoven with ours.

During the service, the names of those we wish to remember will be collected and placed on the altar, and we will light candles in their memory. The service will be followed by refreshments at the back of church. Please pass these

details to anyone you know who might appreciate the opportunity to remember loved ones in this way.

We light candles as a symbol of love, hope, light and warmth. Lighting candles can be seen as a parable – a story with a meaning. In burning itself out, the candle gives light to others in the same way that Jesus gave himself for others. The lighting of a candle is a prayer; when we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them.

Rev Morag Finch



The Friends of St Mary's hosted an evening of music, sunshine and good company on 13 July, when 4 Play Sax entertained music-lovers picnicking in the church grounds.

Visit Turkey in 2014

Following on from previous successful tours, we are organising a trip to Turkey during half term next year (27 October-2 November 2014).

The tour will take in the delights and sights of Istanbul, as well as visiting Ephesus, Pergamon, Troy and Gallipoli. We will be travelling back to the time of Homer, St Paul, St John and the First World War, as well as experiencing modern day Turkey, where East meets West.

Run by Riviera Travel, the tour includes a seven-day programme, six nights' accommodation in excellent four-star hotels (bed and breakfast), four dinners, scheduled flights from Heathrow, and the services of a tour guide throughout. The cost is £1,227 per person for two sharing (a single room supplement is available for £249).

To join us, please collect an information sheet and booking form from the Church porch or contact Ann-Marie Jefferys (0208 460 6030) or John Westropp (0208 650 5178).

Special Events and Services

Sunday 6 October – Harvest Festival

10.30am Family Communion and Parade Service

Includes the presentation of Harvest Gifts.
To be followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch.

Sunday 20 October

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Neary
Canticles: Short Service – Gibbons
Anthem: Fight the good fight – Gardner

Sunday 3 November

4.00pm All Souls Service

Sunday 10 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.

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Looking ahead...

15 December Christingle service

This year the service will start at 4pm





From the Registers

Baptisms

14 July Jacob Joshua Smith
28 July Raven Olivia Dominey Jones
18 Aug Jack Joseph Mehew

Marriages

27 July Simon Peter Wellington
and Deborah Ann McKie
17 Aug David James Hazell
and Jodie Leigh St.Ledger

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

9 Aug Victoria Townsend, aged 50
23 Aug David Brett, aged 57

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

16 Aug Margaret Lock



Remembering

Vicky Townsend

On Friday 9 August a congregation with standing room only gathered to say farewell to DS Vicky Townsend.

Vicky was a much loved daughter, twin sister, soulmate, sister-in-law, aunt, niece, cousin, colleague and friend.

She grew up in Petts Wood and from the age of seven was actively involved in the Friday Club, linked to the local Baptist Church. Sunday School probably gave her the basis for her values of duty, loyalty and generous love.

Vicky was determined to join the police force and after training was stationed at Bexleyheath. She quickly joined the CID and became a Detective Constable. She received a commendation for professionalism and investigative ability, and was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1998. Her ability to deal with people was extraordinary: be it a

stropky prisoner or a difficult witness, she could get them onside.

From 2004 Vicky worked with the Homicide and Serious Crime Command. She never lost sight of the fact that every murder left those affected bewildered, often angry and quite rightly demanding answers. Vicky understood this and was able to gain the trust and co-operation of every family she came into contact with.

Vicky cared for victims of crime and their families as she cared for her family, colleagues and friends. She loved children and they loved her. Her battle against cancer was heroic. At the very end of her life her thoughts were still for others. The countless acts of kindness Vicky showed throughout her life will be a fitting and lasting tribute to her memory.

Her reception into church was led by Mounted Police. Her journey from St Mary's to Beckenham Crematorium was accompanied by outriders from the Metropolitan Police – a fitting tribute to a much loved and respected woman.

David Brett

David was evacuated during the war to a farm in Sussex. On his return to Beckenham he went to a prep school and on to Dulwich College.

His initial career was in accountancy, followed by several years with International Harvesters going around the country helping farmers with their tractors and combines: a job he loved.

He filled his time with rock climbing in North Wales and the Lake District and sailing. He also built himself a Lotus Elan, from a kit, which he drove so fast that he wrote it off and almost himself at the same time.

After his first marriage ended, David went to Croydon College to do a Social Work Diploma. In 1975 he married Maureen and his ultimate dream was fulfilled with the arrivals of Emma, Nicky and John – Emma was born on the day that he started work as a probation officer in Lewisham. He finished his career at Brixton Prison, doing a job that he loved and was very good at.

Sadly after six months of retirement he was diagnosed with leukaemia and

the remainder of his life revolved around hospitals, culminating with a stroke in 2004.

David was such a funny man with a very dry sense of humour, warm, loyal, loving.

He was primarily a family man, never happier than when the children and grandchildren were around him.

Rev. John Oliver

We were sorry to hear of the death of Rev. John Oliver, who was curate at St Mary's from 1978-81.

Born in 1947, he did not have a religious upbringing, but found his way into church through music. He went to India as a hippie, and returned to England converted. In India, through silence, prayer and meditation he became convinced of the spiritual unity of humankind and realised that whether Muslim, Hindu, Christian or Jew, "we are all seeking and exploring one Divine reality".

While studying Theology, he met Emma, a gospel band singer. They married in 1981 and had two children, Sarah and Joseph.

He is remembered by those who knew him at St Mary's as fun, gentle, kind, wise, compassionate, a good listener and a good leader. Teenagers at the time remember him with particular affection: with his background as a music teacher, playing the guitar helped him get alongside young people.

In 1985 he moved to Zambia, and to Cape Town in 1995. He always felt at home in South Africa. He believed that fear of the other, whether white or black, Muslim or Christian, is all in the mind. "If we change this mindset we can be human together. We are human beings first. We must share our humanity. Racial and religious differences always come second".

When he arrived at St Mark's Anglican Church in Cape Town, he quickly removed the rusted metal railings and metal grills at the windows. "This is symbolic to me, of an open and welcoming church," he explained. "Letting in the light of God and letting out the people of God into the world".

He became known as the public face of the inter-faith movement in Cape Town, so much so that before President Obama became President he asked for Rev. John's assistance on peace and reconciliation.

It is testament to the esteem in which Rev. John was held, that his memorial service was held in Cape Town cathedral, at which Archbishop Desmond Tutu delivered the final blessing, in Xhosa.

Advent Dinner & Dance

Saturday, 16 November

7.15pm for 7.45pm

Park Langley Tennis Club

Black Tie or Lounge Suit

Three course dinner with coffee

and all age dance/disco

Tickets £38, available from the Parish Office (0208 460 5682) or in church

Quiz night

In aid of Welcare in Bromley

Saturday 12 October 2013,
7.15 for 7.30pm, in the Church Hall

Come on your own, or bring a table
(six to eight people) * Bring your own refreshments * Raffle

Tickets £6, from the Westropps
or the Parish Office

Quiz Master: John Westropp

Mission of the Month

The Biggin Hill Romania Group

The Biggin Hill Romania Group (BHRG) was formed as a result of a television appeal in 1990. In 1989 Nicolae Ceausescu's repressive regime had ended and the rest of the world finally saw the truth of the country's poverty and suffering, which included 150,000 Romanian orphans living in deprived conditions.

Initially the BHRG intended to relieve the distress of sick and disabled children, but its work moved on to distributing aid to hospitals, dental surgeries, schools and churches. In 1997 the group opened the Robert Cole Centre in Comanesti, in North East Romania, for children with special needs. More than 70 children attend regularly, and others from mainstream schools come for physiotherapy and speech therapy. The Centre aims to help each child reach their potential, and encourages their acceptance by wider society.

In 2007 the new Foundations for Life Centre was opened on the first floor of the Robert Cole Centre, to help 'graduates' of the centre when they reach 20 years of age. The building also includes a clinic for use by the whole community: work is ongoing to provide supplies, and a local doctor gives his time free to undertake consultations. On the top floor, the Rose Centre will be a refuge for young women forced by poverty to live on the streets or in some cases, in the sewers underneath the town.

St Mary's has been supporting the work of the BHRG for some years. The annual family and shoe box appeal takes place this month. Gift boxes are transported directly to Comanesti to be distributed amongst the most needy, including many Roma children who would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas.

See www.bigginhillromaniagroup.com for more information, or the display at the back of church.



MAKING A SPLASH: the Guides had a great time at camp this August. One Guide said: "I really liked all the fun activities!"

Shortlands notebook: Doing Our Best

In 1937, as an eight-year-old boy, I became a Wolf Cub (today it would have been a Cub Scout). Two years previously, Shortlands' 7th Bromley (St Mary's) Wolf Cub pack moved to a corrugated building on the corner of Gwydyr Road, by the River Ravensbourne, flanked by an unmade pathway which all and sundry solemnly referred to at that time as "the muddy slip". (For obvious reasons to those of us living in the area during the rainy season!)

The Mowgli Wolf Cub pack had been formed in May 1929. The Group was originally housed 100 yards away along a further slip (complete with a boys' wonderland of a dump) at St Mary's then Mission Hall in Bromley Gardens, backing onto the south coast railway.

The building became disused and was pulled down in 1980, but both Troop and Pack had by 1935 found their new home in Gwydyr Road which was, incidentally, also home to the Brownies.

As today, scouting meant wide areas of activity, and the former St Mary's Church parish hall in Valley Road of happy memory was host to crest-of-a-wave Scout shows galore at that time. Packed houses as I recall!

David Alston

Mission Beyond the Parish

Each year St Mary's supports 12 different charities. Details of the charities can be found on the notice board at the back of the church. There is a mix of local, national and international charities. Some are supported annually, some biannually, and others on a one-off basis.

We will meet to decide the charities for 2014 on Wednesday 16 October at 7.30pm in the choir vestry.

If you'd like to make a nomination, please give it in writing to the Parish Office by Wednesday 9 October.

Each charity requires a representative, usually the person nominating it, who will liaise between the charity and St Mary's. The representative is responsible for creating a display on the notice board for the month their charity is supported. We may also ask for help to provide a speaker at one Sunday's 10.30 service.



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Every Sunday

- 08.00 Holy Communion
Family Communion, except the first
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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 | |
| Associate Priest | Rev. R. Finch | 8464 8065 |
| Associate Vicar | Rev. J. Peters | 07531 617302/ 8460 5682 |
| Reader Emeritus | Mrs. A. Gimson | 8460 6494 |
| Reader | Mr. P. Stotesbury | 8650 3259 |
| Pastoral Assistants | Mrs. S. Harrison | 8464 0284 |
| | Mrs. D. Speller | 8466 1184 |
| | Mrs. M. Westropp | 8650 5178 |
| 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 |
| | Mr. N. Stoffel | 8460 0063 |
| Electoral Roll | Mr. J. Westropp | 8650 5178 |
| Stewardship | Mrs. S. Aldred | 8460 3978 |
| Junior Church | | |

PARISH OFFICE TEL/FAX 8460 5682

Email: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
Open 9.30am-12.30pm 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
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| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 2W'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 CONTACTS

| | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Clr. E. Noad | 8462 3295 |
| Clr. D. Jefferys | 07944 565455 |
| (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 |

SPAN INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Website | www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk |
| Editorial | Parish Office 8460 5682 |
| Distribution | Mr. A. Jones 8460 5437 |

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