SHORTLANDS PARISH NEWS

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



A big day for these happy siblings



Sunday, 29 January was a very big day for these children. They were baptised and welcomed into the Church family. Their parents, have recently joined St. Mary's and now come to church regularly. They decided it was right to have their children baptised into the Christian faith, and Vicar, Canon Paul Miller, was delighted to make the arrangements.

A large congregation joined them and this was another example of how many people are being drawn into the Church as a place of welcome, hospitality, as a place to belong and to grow in the Christian faith. 'This was a lovely occasion very special indeed. It was a real privilege to affirm these siblings in the Christian faith and life, and to tell them how special they are in God's eyes.', reported Canon Miller.

A reception was held afterwards in the Church.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO REPLACE OLD BOILER

The breakdown of the boiler that heats the Church, Church House and Church Hall came as a nasty shock during a very cold weather spell. Hundreds of children and young people have been disappointed to have their activities cancelled.

We are working on a replacement as soon as possible but it's a big project and will make a serious impact on Church finances. While we have some reserves, they are likely to be wiped out, and worthwhile planned community projects may be affected.

The replacement programme is also complicated due to the presence of asbestos in the pipework which needs removing before a new boiler can be installed.

Please would you seriously consider making a donation to our boiler replacement fund. The cost will be in tens of thousands of pounds.

If you can, please send a cheque made payable to St Mary's Church Shortlands PCC and send it to Parish Office – Boiler Fund, Church House, 39 Kingswood Road, Bromley BR2 OPU. If you are an incometax payer and wish to gift aid it, please write your full name and address on the back and write "I wish this to be gift aided".

Thank you.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S



Concert by the KENTONES



at St. Mary's Church, Shortlands on Saturday, 17 March at 7.30pm Tickets £8 inc. interval drink

a Barbershop Choir



At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

13 Jan Joan Starling, aged 77 3 Feb Paul Hickford, aged 57

7 Feb Violet Alexander, aged 73



Paul Hickford

Paul grew up in Mottingham and went to Greenacre Primary School and then to Haberdashers' Aske's. Paul's father died when he was only 6 years old. Paul was one of four, and is survived by his brother, Brian, and sisters, Susan and Barbara. He trained as a PE teacher but then took a career change and became a monev broker, then went into the media.

Paul was married twice, firstly to Michelle and then to Jane, before meeting his partner, Jo. He died suddenly and unexpectedly. A large congregation packed St. Mary's Church for a service to celebrate Paul's life in which his friends gave tributes and his god-children read poems. The service was conducted by Canon Paul Miller prior to a private committal at Beckenham Crematorium.

Violet Alexander

Violet Primrose Alexander was born in February 1938 to Rose and Bill in Deptford. She was one of seven children

The family moved to Bellingham where she went to school. Violet had a wonderfully happy childhood growing up under the especially loving care of her mum Rose. The children were all greatly loved and cared for. Rose was meticulous about treating the children fairly and equally. If there was money for a toffee apple she would divide it into seven portions so that they could all have a fair share.

Leaving school she went to work for a dressmaker. Her work was of such a high standard that the time soon came when the boss would give her the most important work to do.



At the age of 16 she and Gordon met and began what was to be a lifetime of mutual devotion and in 1957 they married.

Violet adored her family. They were what made her tick. When all her nieces and nephews came along she couldn't wait to get there to see them; she was always knitting, crocheting, sewing things for them. Even when she would accompany Gordon when he went fishing, she'd take her knitting with her.

She was a happy and contented woman, a loving and supportive wife, a good neighbour and friend. She is now at peace.

A funeral service took place at Beckenham Crematorium conducted by the Reverend Jane Peters.



Fairtrade Fortnight 27 February - 11 March

Take a step for Fairtrade Fortnight 27 February to 11 March. This event is held by the Fairtrade Foundation each year.

This year at St. Mary's we are marking the fortnight by asking you to "take a step for Fairtrade" by simply swapping one item of shopping for a Fairtrade item, it could be your tea or coffee at home or at work, there are many other items you could swap. Come and see a wide selection of Fairtrade goods at our stall in the Hall at St. Mary's Church on 18 March after the 10.30am service. Look out for promotions in your local supermarkets; by changing to and using Fairtrade goods we can all bring about postive changes in the lives of thousands of producers in the developing world.

Many farmers and workers struggle to provide their families with basics such as clean water, schooling and health care. But Fairtrade puts the power of trade back into the hands of these farmers and workers



"HAPPY AND GLORIOUS!!" SHORTLANDS' DIAMOND JUBILEE PARTY

We invite you to join us on Sunday, 3 June 2012 at the Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands for a family, fun-filled celebration Buffet lunch (tickets only), Bar-B-Q, Drinks, Picnic Area and entertainment.

Further details will be in forthcoming issues of SPAN

Mission of the Month MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP - FLYING FOR LIFE

MAF is a worldwide Christian organisation operating over 135 light aircraft in more than 30 countries. The dedicated teams use their skills in aviation and other fields to work in partnership with national churches, missions, relief and development agencies. MAF planes work in parts of the world where surface travel is impossible or very difficult due to the terrain or political unrest. MAF helps to reach remote communities to deliver medical experts, development workers and water purifying equipment as well as anything from food to educational supplies to people cut off from the rest of the world

Susie Shelton will be talking about the work of MAF during the 10.30am service on Sunday, 25 March.

Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen Make Progress

The Friends of South Hill Wood and made a huge impact very quickly so Kingswood Glen are making excellent progress in their current and future projects. In the summer of 2010 Bromley Council held their annual People for Parks Awards open to any friends and voluntary groups involved in supporting a park or green space within the Borough. The group were successful and the findings were read out at the awards ceremony:- "As a newly formed group, they have already had a successful public meeting, several litter picks and practical conservation events, involved the school (Highfield Infants') in developing a group logo and raised funds through donations. They have

Shortlands Golf Club Long established (1894) Family Golf Club currently seeking men, ladies and juniors to expand the membership base. Monthly medals, Honour Board Competitions, excellent Social Events Calendar "A garden oasis in suburbia"

Contact Ken Murray: 8460 2471/8828 or

well done! The assessors were impressed with a strong sense of community and thought the partnerships formed with local groups as a fantastic first step for the group."

The group have been nominated again for the 2011/2012 People for Parks Awards. The assessors were very impressed with the natural beauty of both sites which has been greatly enhanced by their regular work days. These are always very well attended.

In October 2011 the group won a "Big Lottery" grant application. These funds are to open up the fenced off area in the north-west corner facing on to Tootswood Road so that this area of woodland will be available for all to enjoy. This project will be completed by December 2012.

The Chairman, Dot Kilsby, was delighted with the success and was keen to express her gratitude. "Thank you to all our members and supporters - our success to date would not have been possible without the help and involvement of the local community."

Well done - we look forward to further updates.

To the Editor of SPAN

There are so many people I did not have a chance to say goodbye to when I left Shortlands, in December. So may I remedy this through the medium of SPAN - St. Mary's link with the whole parish. After sixty years I am leaving very many good friends and neighbours, but I take with me such happy and varied memories; of Highfield School, Guides and Brownies, Christmas charity care sales, the recent flower festivals. Durham House. family weddings and baptisms, the funerals of family and friends and much, much more. Always there has been the comforting presence of St. Mary's with its friendly and welcoming atmosphere and active involvement in the community.

As I start in a new home here in Dorset I send warm greetings to everyone - be assured I shan't forget you!

Elizabeth Dimmock



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).

The Real Easter Egg

Out of 80 million Easter Eggs sold in the UK every year, the Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter Egg to mention Jesus, and the events of Holy Week, on the box. A donation from every Egg will go to support the work of the charity Traidcraft Exchange.



St. Mary's will be supporting this initiative and will be selling Eggs after the Mothering Sunday service on 18 March.

HARRIET AND HANNAH OFF TO AFRICA

This summer two of the Young Leaders working with St. Mary's Brownie Packs will be giving service on a much wider scale. Harriet Adam helps the leaders at 2nd Shortlands (Thursday) Brownies, and Hannah Dowling helps at 1st Shortlands (Wednesday) Brownies. They have both been selected for trips run by Girlguiding LaSER (London & South East England Region): Harriet to Zambia and Hannah to Malawi to help children who have very different lives from those of the children in Shortlands.

Here is what the girls would like to tell you about their ventures: HARRIET (pictured left)

I am extremely excited to have been selected as part of a team of 18-26 year-olds which will be participating in a three week long Girlguiding service project in Meheba refugee camp in Zambia, during which we will work with the Book Bus in a different school each day. Meheba refugee camp, run by the UNHCR, was opened in 1971 for refugees that fled Angola during the Angolan revolution against the Portuguese, but since the 1990s has been receiving refugees from other African states. Its current population is approximately 16,000, of which just over 5,000 are children. During the first two weeks, we will be staying in the refugee camp in tents, with no running



water or electricity. In the third week we plan to visit points of cultural interest and natural beauty, to discover more about the country and culture of Zambia. To participate in this worthwhile and challenging project, I have to fundraise £2,800.

In the coming months, we will undergo training weekends with the Book Bus charity which will prepare us to work with and teach children of a variety of ages in the refugee camp. HANNAH (pictured right)

After going through an intensive selection process, I was fortunate to be selected for a three week long Girlguiding service project to Malawi in the summer of 2012. For two weeks we will be working on a project called 'The Book Bus Project'. The book bus is a mobile library that travels around rural schools in Malawi with the aim of helping children to improve their literacy. Whilst working on the project we will be distributing books and helping to inspire children with a love of reading through playing games, reading aloud and doing craft activities. We plan to spend our final week experiencing the culture of Malawi by going on excursions to sites of cultural interest and meeting up with some Malawian Girl Guides. To take part in this incredible opportunity I have to raise £2,670.



Canon Paul Miller recently returned from co-leading an educational study tour of Israel and Palestine. A party of forty-four spent one week in Jerusalem and Galilee accompanied by the Bishop of Rochester, the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley and Canon Claire Tillotson who was the travelling musician and directed the mobile choir.

Photographed are Canon Miller who came across a donkey in the Judean desert en-route to Jericho, the oldest inhabited town in the world and 1300 feet (400 metres) below sea level, and the whole group in the Roman amphitheatre at Caesarea Maritima.



