

## 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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November 2012. Year 32 Number 10

## SO THE VICAR'S MOVING ON...

I guess, like you, I'm feeling sad that Paul Miller is going to take up a new appointment. However I am also excited by the idea that somewhere the Lord will be calling somebody to be the next Vicar of St. Mary's, Shortlands.

The vacancy legally begins in early November, so it will feel like the process has slowed down slightly with the 'departure' of Paul in September. The PCC (church council) are required to produce a Profile of the parish. This should prove to be a significant document, not only in the process but it will be available eventually on the parish and Diocesan websites, so it might

be interesting for you to discover just what is going on in your parish! The Profile may also include a list of attributes the PCC is looking for in the new Vicar.

Two members of the PCC will be selected to be the Parish Representatives who will be part of the process in the appointment of the new Vicar. Christmas will delay recruitment, but it's likely that interviews will take place in early Spring.

I will, as Archdeacon, be working on behalf of the Bishop of Rochester, who clearly has a significant role in this process. He will eventually come to St. Mary's, Shortlands and license

(give authority to) the person who will become your next Vicar. We want to build on the good work of Canon Paul Miller and the church community here at St. Mary's in serving the parish and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Parish Representatives and I will work closely in the appointments process, and seek to discern through consultation, prayer and reflection who should be the next Vicar of St. Mary's. I know for many of you the key question after 'who is coming?' is 'when?' That depends on a number of factors, for instance whether the new Vicar has children at school and they want to finish the

Term, or they are involved in some other major project. I think if we are lucky enough we might have a new Vicar by the summer.

Please pray for those involved in this process, that we may understand God's will and purpose for St. Mary's Church and also the wider community in which priest and people are called to serve.

Yours in Christ,  
Paul

Ven Dr Paul Wright  
Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley

## Friends' Barn Dance



The Friends of St. Mary's recently hosted a barn dance, enjoyed by all who were encouraged to 'swing your partner' and 'do si do!' by the wonderful Whirling Skirmish.

### Letter from Canon Paul Miller

Thank you all for such a wonderful send-off. We found it very emotional, and the underlying truth was that we have been very fortunate to have served in Shortlands during these past 11 years. The service on 16 September will remain with us for all time, and we are so grateful to all who took part and the outstanding music from the best Parish choir in the Diocese of Rochester if not the Church of England! We also want to thank you for your generosity in the gifts and cheque that you gave us - we were quite overwhelmed.

We hold you all in our prayers during this time of change and ask you to keep us in yours as we face up to our own challenges before retirement.

With our love and best wishes, Paul and Lynne.

## Special Services at St. Mary's

### Sunday, 4 November

#### 4.00pm A Service to Remember (Departed Loved Ones)

A book will be placed in the South Porch in which you may put anyone's name you would like read out at the Service.

### Sunday, 11 November - Remembrance Sunday

#### 10.15am All Age Eucharist and Church Parade with outdoor Act of Remembrance at 11.00am

- Reverend Jane Peters

#### 6.30pm Choral Evensong for Remembrance Sunday

led by Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley: the Venerable Dr. Paul Wright.

### Sunday, 2 December - Advent Sunday

#### 10.30am Toy Service and Family Parade

with Music from the Music Group

- Reverend Jane Peters

#### 6.30pm Advent Carol Service

- Reverend Jane Peters

### Sunday, 16 December

#### 8.00am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

- The Rt. Reverend James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester

#### 10.30am Family Communion

- The Rt. Reverend James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester

#### 6.30pm Christingle Service

- Reverend Jane Peters

## All the fun of the Fair

Scary as it may seem, Christmas is not so very far away - which means all the fun of the Fair at St. Mary's Church.



This year the Fair will be held on  
**Saturday 24 November**  
from 2-4pm in the Church Hall.



Preparations are well in hand but for it to be its usual success, we need you!

Please do come and support us - and maybe solve some Christmas present problems.

Bring your books, bric-a-brac, toys, raffle prizes, old jewellery, bottles or other clean saleable goods to the Parish Office

Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 1.00pm.



## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

2 Sept Georgie Johnson

8 Sept Grace Watson

### Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

29 Sept Jonathan & Elizabeth  
Monk

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

13 Sept Dr. John Dawson

16 Oct Ken Cotton

### John Dawson

John was born in Rochdale – now in Greater Manchester - an only child.

After attending Manchester Grammar School he gained a scholarship to Cambridge – to Gonville and Caius - from whence he went to train at Guy's Hospital.

You will rarely see a list of degrees/qualifications/awards/Fellowships as long as the list which is on John's CV – nor a list of such iconic hospitals in which he worked. John was nothing short of gifted.

And yet there was a modesty about him. A shyness despite his brilliance. A humility.

Beyond work he was passionate about fell walking and went every year with friends. He loved sailing and water generally.

He also loved books – not just the reading of them but their acquisition. He made very regular jaunts to secondhand book shops seeking out things to make up complete sets or books especially about his beloved fells. John and Bridget didn't really need wallpaper in their house – the shelves of stacked books did the job.

And that's the sign of an active and interested, enquiring mind. John certainly had that.

A very successful doctor, his marriage in 1964 to Bridget was a very happy day and their marriage was completed when they added to their family first Caroline and then Julia. The addition of Olivia, their granddaughter, was a further blessing.

The catastrophic stroke which John suffered a few years ago has meant that Bridget and the girls have tragically lost him bit by bit. At the funeral service, held at Lewisham Crematorium, those who knew him saluted John and shared the grief of his family in the final loss of a devoted family man, a brilliant doctor who has made a difference to so many people's lives for the good and to a colleague, friend and neighbour. John's family was supported by a very large congregation from different aspects of his life during the service which was conducted by Reverend Jane Peters.



# ALL CHANGE!

**The admission system for putting girls onto a waiting list for Rainbows, Brownies & Guides has changed.**

In future, instead of ringing up a local leader, any parents wishing to register their daughter's interest in joining a local unit should complete an online application on the Girlguiding website or telephone the number given below.

Similarly, anyone wishing to offer their services as a leader or helper (you will be welcomed with open arms!) should use these contact methods.

Contact information for admissions to Girlguiding is as follows: [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested) or telephone 0800-1695901

For any other queries regarding your daughter's activities once she is in Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please continue to use the local contact numbers which are given on the back page of SPAN.



## Girlguiding

## Mission of the Month Deanery Emergency & Pastoral Fund

The Beckenham Deanery is a group of parishes in the Beckenham and Penge areas, of which St. Mary's, Shortlands is a member. These funds enable gifts or loans to be made to any parish within the Deanery, to either help a church in its work in the local area, or to help maintain a parish which is unable to support itself.

Churches in the Beckenham Deanery are invited to contribute to the fund. Recently the Funds have provided a grant towards a church's heating fund, contributed to the employment of a part-time Parish Assistant, and supported "Christians Against Poverty", a debt counselling service working in the area.

For more information please see the display at the back of the church.

## Harvest Festival at St. Mary's



St. Mary's Harvest Festival was well-attended with a large number of children from St. Mary's uniformed organisations, Children's Church and the wider community joining the usual congregation.

Gifts were brought to support the work of Welcare in Bromley, a charity with which all the Beckenham Churches work to help those struggling with day to day difficulties.

Reverend Jane talked about

Harvest in Jesus' time and the pattern of life in rural areas compared with Shortlands and then, working with the children, made words from the letters of HARVEST to show the importance of thinking of others who don't have very much. We usually have plenty to EAT whilst others STARVE. We need to SHARE and HAVE A HEART.

The service was followed by a Bring and Share community lunch in the church hall.

## Get your skates on!

**Peter Braithwaite recently raised around £1,300 for St. Mary's heating appeal. He writes:**

This year's Berlin marathon for inline skaters took place on 29 September and is the biggest skating marathon in the world. There were nearly 7,000 skaters participating, including me.

The start isn't until late afternoon so the tension slowly builds all day until you are finally off. The route is one long loop around the city, finishing spectacularly through The Brandenburg Gate. It's virtually flat all the way so fast times can be achieved, providing it doesn't rain, (or you are involved in a collision or fall).

Unfortunately, it did rain on me for the last few kilometres (although faster skaters had finished before the rain started), which extended my time a little. However, my target was to complete the 26 miles in less than 2 hours and I'm pleased to say my

time was 1 hour 58 minutes, so job done!



# Celebrating South Hill Wood



Three years of hard work were celebrated in July with the grand opening of new Diamond Jubilee Gates at South Hill Wood.

The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen (FSHWKG) were established in 2009 by Bromley Council and the local Safer Neighbourhood Team, working together with volunteers. Since then, the group has held monthly work-days to tidy up and help make the park and Glen a better environment for all. Works include removing invasive non-native plant species, and encouraging native woodland plants, as well as aiming to protect the Great Crested Newt in Kingswood Glen.

The long fenced-off area has been opened up, a new path and benches installed, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Gates on Westmoreland Road and Tootswood Road were commissioned, using Big Lottery and Transport for London funding.

On Saturday, 21 July, Mrs Diana Trafford, daughter of Arthur Chilton King and former resident of South Hill House, cut the ribbon to one of the new gates. She is pictured above with her nephew and his wife, Chris and Wendy King, and Cllrs. David Jefferys, Ernest Noad and Colin Smith.

At least 200 people visited the park that day, enjoying many kinds of entertainment. Council Parks officers helped children make bird boxes, and led a Scavenger hunt through the woods. A Landscape Historian took visitors on tours and described the history and natural ecology of the park. Bromley Youth Music Trust and Highfield Infants' School provided excellent musical entertainment throughout the event.

FSHWKG are holding their next AGM on Tuesday, 6 November, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, at Highfield Infants' School, Highfield Drive.

# AN OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

By Janet & Ian Fiddeman

It's hard to believe it's nearly two years since we put our names forward to be considered for Team London Ambassadors, part of Boris Johnson's army of volunteers for London 2012, without really knowing what it would involve.

The Ambassadors were to be located in tourist hot-spots around London. In September 2011 we were told we would be part of the 8,000-strong team. We attended three training days, then were given our distinctive pink and purple uniforms, and locations: Ian on the South Bank by Tower Bridge, and Janet in Green Park.

We loved the opportunity to welcome domestic and international visitors to London, helping with travel queries, questions regarding tickets and events and giving information on the numerous festivals, concerts and exhibitions on in London, many of them free. Our most frequent question was, 'How can I get tickets?', as the Olympics and Paralympics were more popular than the LOCOG team could have dared dream. The best alternative

was to direct people to the live sites in London to watch the Games on huge screens alongside crowds of supporters adding to the atmosphere.

Although we had no short cuts to tickets for ourselves or others, we were thrilled to go to the rehearsal for the Olympic Opening ceremony, also to get a ticket to The Mall for the Athletes' parade, together with a thank you letter from David Cameron, badges and a commemorative DVD. We have all been encouraged to continue volunteering. The Games Makers and London Ambassadors received much applause as they epitomised the spirit and sense of community of the nation throughout this summer.

The comradeship formed in our teams, the good humour and friendliness of all visitors including Londoners, usually so reserved, and the sincere appreciation we received, all lead both of us to say the experience was one of the most memorable times of our lives. We feel proud and privileged to have had the opportunity of being part of this unforgettable summer and London 2012.



On a wall of Old St. Martin's, Worcester:  
*"O Lord, help my words to be gracious and tender today for tomorrow I may have to eat them."*



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- 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**

Honorary Curate	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
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Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	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
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Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

**PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682**

e-mail: office@stmmaryshortlands.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	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
Scouts (Fri.)	Mr. T. Watson	8650 0184
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers & admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
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
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**LOCAL NUMBERS**

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

**SPAN**

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