

Royal Promises!

Probably not since the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 will so many people be watching a Christian wedding ceremony as will doubtless be on 29 April. The future heir to the throne, Prince William, will marry Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey.

The solemn and moving words of the service will echo around the world: 'to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part'. As one groom - a lawyer, needless to say - remarked, 'Not many escape clauses there!'

The exchanging of rings is equally uncompromising: 'all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you'. All that I am? All that I have? All? It's such a comprehensive word; it leaves nothing outside its limits.

You may notice, as the service proceeds, just how often the word 'love' occurs in it. Indeed, the opening words sum it all up: 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.' This is the great sacrament of love. On 29 April we can - wherever we are - share in its joy.

As we share in the joy of William and Kate so we recognise the considerable need for us to uphold them in our thoughts and prayers. Not just for their marriage and their life together, but also for weight of public scrutiny that will await them in the years to come.

As a community here in Shortlands we send them our very best wishes for a long, happy and fruitful marriage. May God bless them.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, 27 April at 8.00pm in Church.

Everyone on the Church Electoral Roll is encouraged to take part in and vote at this meeting. There will be reports from the Vicar, the Treasurer and other officers of the Parochial Church Council on the events of the last year. Do come and support your church, your parish and your representatives.

The Church Accounts are available to view on the notice board at the back of the Church.

This year's meeting is particularly important as we shall be consulting the meeting about some of the proposals that are part of the Vision and Action Plan for the next five years. Some of the suggestions concern the Church building which is why the meeting is taking place in Church.

This is the last time the APCM will be held on a week day. In future years it will be held on a Sunday immediately after the morning service to ensure it is easier for people to attend.

Services and Events at St. Mary's

Mothering Sunday 10.30am **Family and Parade Service with the Blessing and Distribution of Posies**
3 April followed by a Cake Sale in the Church Hall in aid of the Guides Summer travelling projects.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 10.30am **Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday**
17 April 6.30pm **Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week**

Maunder Thursday 8.00pm **Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch**
21 April

Good Friday 10.30am **Family Service** led by Reverend Jane Peters
22 April 2.00pm **'An Hour at the Cross'** led by Canon Paul Miller

Easter Day 8.00am **Sunrise Eucharist**
24 April 10.30am **Eucharist of the Resurrection** including the renewal of Baptismal Vows
and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt
6.30pm **Evening Prayer** in the Chapel

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 Molly Tout (8464 9593) or the Parish Office (8460 5682).



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

26 Jan Joan Pennett, aged 91
30 Jan Pamela Tindall, aged 75



Remembering

Joan Pennett

Joan, known as Jay, was born in Wembley but the family soon moved to Kent where her younger sister Kathleen (known always as Kay) was born and where the family were to remain.

Jay went to school locally at Prendergast's where she excelled particularly at dance, winning many awards. On leaving school she went to secretarial college following which she got a job as a secretary until she began a four year stint in the WRNS from 1942 to 1946. She served as a Petty Officer Writer (shorthand) on HMS Lynx at Dover, HMS Assegai in Durban, in Nairobi and HMS Tana in Mombassa before being demobbed from Chatham. After her demob she went to work at Phillips Electrics where she was secretary to the MD - she remained there all her working life.

In later life, when she and Kay retired they travelled extensively and every October departed for six months' stay in Florida.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Reverend Jane Peters, was held at Beckenham Crematorium.

Pamela Tindall

Pamela was born in Greenwich and was brought up in South London. Following school she went to Pitman's Secretarial School. Such was her aptitude at shorthand and typing that even before she reached the age of 16 her speeds had exceeded not just expectations, but she had broken all previous records and she was offered a job as teacher there! A remarkable achievement.

She married David and they had three children, Stephen, Sarah and Nina and she gave up work to raise their family.

Pamela was a fantastic swimmer and she took up sailing at Chipstead after a total hip replacement. Her other hobbies included ballet, nature and travel.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Reverend Jane Peters, was held at St. Mary's attended by family and friends.

An Olympic opportunity for our church

The 30th Olympic Games will be held in the UK in summer 2012. The aim is simple, according to The Organising Committee: "We want to use the inspiration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to change lives." As Christians we can agree with the ambition to see lives transformed and so join in the celebration.

The 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games are a unique (and perhaps once in a lifetime) mission opportunity to engage and communicate with local communities. It provides a particular theme that the local church can capture and contribute to this sporting, social and cultural moment.

The Olympics, as an event, is likely to engulf the country in a wave of conversation and engagement. The Games will bring an opportunity to be inspired and celebrate. They will also bring to our attention issues of social justice and there will be a need for the church to respond. And there is the opportunity for churches to consider the social and cultural issues which relate to the legacy of the Olympic Games in London

Churches in all the main denominations across the UK are going to be involved in the Olympics through More Than Gold, an umbrella Christian agency of over sixty denominations and Christian organisations. More Than Gold crosses all denominational boundaries, and offers a tried and tested outreach programme which churches can easily use, and so make the most of this once in a lifetime chance to be involved with the Olympics.

It is our hope that the 2012 Olympic engagement should not solely be focused on the few weeks during the period when the Games take place. Instead, the aim is to encourage churches to engage with their local communities in the run-up and beyond the Olympics events.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games will leave a legacy of national benefits in culture, sport, volunteering, business and tourism.

After the games the Olympic park will be transformed into one of the largest urban parks created in Europe for more than 150 years.

Shortlands Parochial Church Council is keeping abreast of the opportunities that await and are part of a Diocesan-wide initiative to see how we can engage with this great opportunity - watch this space!

St. Mary's Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll will be revised between 20 March and 10 April.

The Roll will be available at the back of the Church for viewing. If you wish to apply for enrolment please complete an application form.

Please direct any applications, amendments or questions to:

Nick Stoffel, Electoral Roll Officer, (8460 0063) or the Parish Office (8460 5682).

FRENCH EXCHANGE

A family from St. Mary's Link parish in Douai is looking for an English family who will offer hospitality to their son Victor, aged 15, for a week in June or July. Victor's father is the local Scout Commissioner, and the family would like to welcome an English boy to their home to return the compliment. This is a great way to practice French and brush up conversational skills!

If you are interested please contact Gill Dawson on 8460 5884, 07767 365318 or email gill@gill.dawson.name

Mission of the Month

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza Hospice Care for Children looks after children with life threatening illnesses and offers support and comfort to their families. Children can stay at either Demelza House or the Demelza Eltham Hospice and Demelza also offer Community Care throughout East Sussex, Kent and South East London. Demelza currently offer 600 families general hospice care, respite therapies, symptom control, end of life care and bereavement support for as long as the family wishes.

Demelza House was opened in 1998 and at the end of last year a £1.3 million 'Bricks and Water Appeal' was launched to replicate some of the state of the art facilities at Demelza Eltham. There are plans to extend the support facilities in Sittingbourne, by increasing the number of bedrooms from 8 to 10 with shared en-suites, and building a Hydrotherapy Pool. Two of the bedrooms will be designed specifically for teenagers allowing them as much independence as possible during their stay.

The average cost for a one day stay at either of the hospices is £850. Demelza receives only a small amount of government funding and so relies almost entirely on the generosity of the communities which it serves. 80p of every donated pound is spent on direct care for the children and their families.

Demelza are very grateful to everyone for their generosity.

This charity is St. Mary's Mission for the Month of April. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during April and further information can be found on www.demelza.org.uk

The Friends of St. Mary's
invite you to

Old Tyme Music Hall
Saturday, 14 May

at 7.15pm for 7.30pm
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Easter Reflection: 'There was a Garden'

We were standing looking at the snowdrops in the churchyard. It's been a bitter, frozen kind of Winter hasn't it? But now the sun was shining, the temperature had climbed above freezing, and those little bulbs buried in the soil had responded to it. A few weeks ago, all looked dead. But now, all around us, were the signs of Spring.

'Makes you think,' said my companion. 'Death and resurrection - it's simply part of the way things are.' I agreed, and pointed out that in a few days time we'd be celebrating, in the church in the middle of that graveyard, a man who rose from the dead and said, 'Because I live, you will live also'.

This idea, of life blossoming in the place of death is right there in the Gospels, too. 'In the place where Jesus was crucified,' St John tells us, 'there was a garden'. And in that garden was a new tomb, in which, after his crucifixion, he was buried. But within three days the tomb was once again empty. Like the Easter flowers blooming in the graveyard, life had conquered death.

If you visit Jerusalem, you will find the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the probable site of the tomb of Jesus, which you can just about find underneath all the pious artefacts. Less than a mile away is the Garden Tomb, which General Gordon thought was the tomb of Jesus, located beside a craggy hill and set in a garden. It was, in fact, inside the city wall in the time of Christ, which means it can't be the actual place of his crucifixion and burial, but there is no doubt that if you want to feel and see what it would have been like, and even peer into a genuine first century tomb, this will probably quicken your pulse more than the Holy Sepulchre.

As Jesus himself said, the seed has to die before it can produce fruit. 'In the place where he was crucified there was a garden'. The seeds and bulbs are buried, and at the right time they burst into life. As my friend said, it's the way things are, and it is the heart of the Easter message.



The First 50 years!

Colin Walklin, one of the bass singers in St. Mary's, Shortlands Church Choir, reaches the significant milestone of being in St. Mary's Choir for 50 years this year. Here is his story entitled 'The First 50 years!'.

'Walking home after having sung his very first service as a choir boy at St. Mary's Church College Road, Bromley, the air raid siren sounded. It was 3 September 1939. Colin was eleven years old and remained in the choir there under the musical direction of Mr Leslie Ellis for many years.

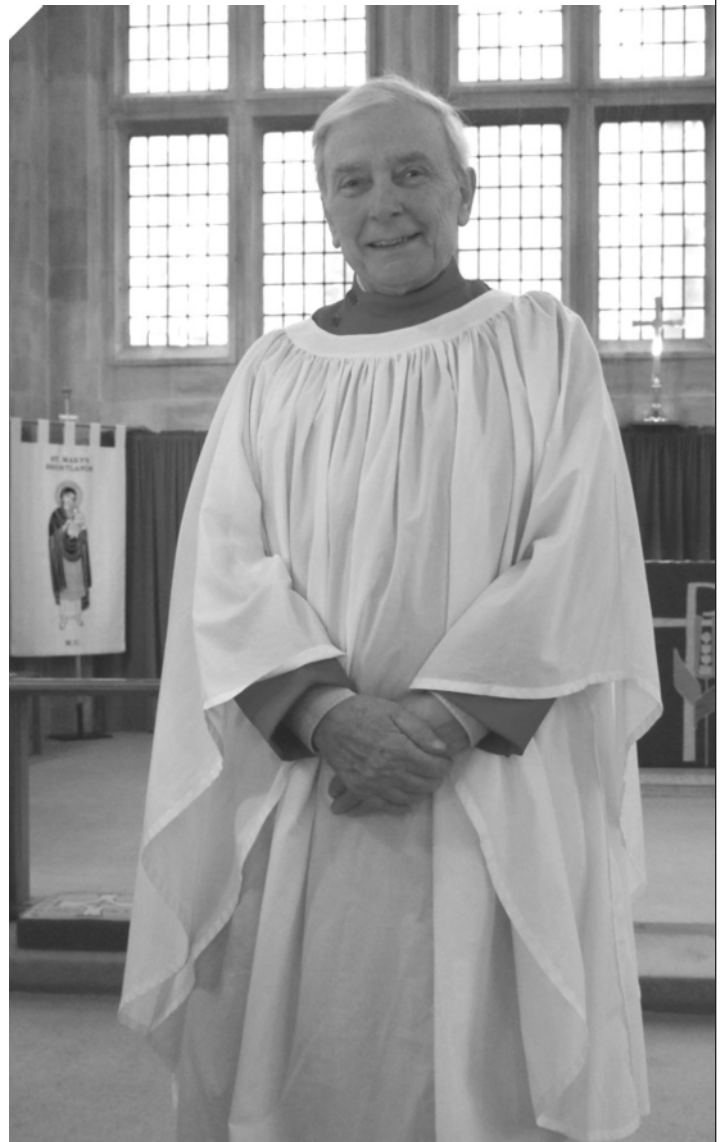
In 1954 he married Carol having met at Beckenham Art School in the 40's. They now have three children, five grand-children, and a great grand-daughter, who enjoyed her first Christingle service at St. Mary's, Shortlands in 2010!

In 1961 Leslie Ellis accepted the post of organist and musical director at St. Mary's, Shortlands and asked Colin and a tenor, Trevor Blackburn, if they would join him. Church choirs in those days were mainly an all male affair, eight boy sopranos and a full set of altos, tenors and basses on each side. There was a separate ladies choir at Shortlands, distinguished by their blue robes with a uniform hat, creatively worn in many different ways! They would join the men for special services, one of which was a B.B.C. World Service service transmitted from St. Mary's.

After two years national service in Germany as an education instructor and a degree course in Graphic Design at The Royal College of Art London he became an Art Director in the advertising industry. A career change came thirteen years later, to teaching. He left a London office on a Friday and was standing in front of a class of thirty fourteen year olds on Monday! He became Head of the Arts department at a south London boys comprehensive school, the department included music drama and later dance. He stayed there twenty years with a short break for cancer!

Colin and his wife had enormous pleasure in running residential art courses for adults at West Dean College West Sussex, sharing their love of graphics and printmaking with all ages and experience.'

There will be a special presentation to Colin at the 10.30am morning service on Sunday, 8 May. Colin will read a lesson, choose his favourite hymn for all to sing and choose the anthem for the choir to sing. There will be celebratory drinks after the service.



**The Parish Church
of St. Mary,
Shortlands**



Link Parish

St. Francis of
Assisi, Douai, France

WORSHIP

Every Sunday

- 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 2½-14.
- 10.30 All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time).
- 18.30 Evening Service

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

Vicar	Canon P. Miller	8460 4989
Honorary Curate	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302
(Sunday, Monday and Wednesday)		
Honorary Assistant	Archdeacon P. Wright	8467 8743
Priest		
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
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	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989
	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Mr. R. Vickers	8460 5682
Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
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	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	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 &	Mr. F. Roddy	01689 877025
Director of Music		
Assistant Organist	Mrs. 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 9.00 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	8285 3968
Beavers &		
admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07825 648472
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Brownies (Wed.)	Ms. H. Preston	07754 444453
Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8650 1720
Brownies admissions	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 8120
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		or 07960 988552
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Cllr. G. Taylor	8289 7893

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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