

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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June 2011. Year 31 Number 6

Pearl wedding anniversaries!

On Easter Day, the festival of the resurrection, St. Mary's also celebrated the Pearl wedding anniversaries of The Ven. Dr. Paul and Mrs Jill Wright (pictured left) and Professor Mark and Mrs Julie Fox (pictured right). Paul and Jill were married at St. Georges, Beckenham where Paul and Jill met and where Paul was the Assistant Curate. Mark and Julie were married at St. Mary's, Shortlands the same day. Both couples had had their Banns of Marriage read at St. George's at the same time.

A reception was held after the Easter Day morning service where a large congregation of over 300 enjoyed wine and nibbles to celebrate the great Christian festival and two significant wedding anniversaries.

The Vicar of Shortlands, Canon Paul Miller, had arranged to display both marriage registers which showed Paul and Jill were married by the then Bishop of Tonbridge (the late Rt. Rev. Philip Goodrich) and Mark and Julie were married by the then assistant curate of Shortlands, the Rev. John Oliver, now Rector of Capetown, South Africa.



New Prayer Tree Dedicated



A new Prayer Tree has been dedicated at St. Mary's, Shortlands.

The Tree, which is widely used, was first introduced by Canon Paul Miller ten years ago. A Prayer Tree provides an opportunity to make a prayer request by writing an intention on a piece of card and tying it to the tree. All are welcome to do this, and at every service the intentions will be offered to God in the intercessions.

It was around a tree that we first became separated from God. It was around another tree that God was, in man, reconciling himself to us.

To hang a request on the Tree is to keep company with God - which is what prayer is!

The tree is made of oak by David Merritt, who is pictured by the tree after its dedication on Easter Sunday.



Parish Picnic & Barbecue, Fun & Games

Sunday, 12 June 2011

in the church grounds, following the 10.30am
Family and Parade Service in the church.

Bring your own picnic - barbecue food and
refreshments available to buy.

There will be a toddler play area, and many fun games for
adults and children.

Come and enjoy the Shortlands community!

Services and Events at St. Mary's

Ascension Day Thursday 2 June	8.00pm	Eucharist for Ascension Day followed by drinks and the lighting of the Ascension Day Rocket
Sunday 12 June	10.30am	Parade Service and Scout Centenary Service followed by the Parish Picnic and Barbecue
Sunday 19 June	6.30pm	The Three Choirs Festal Evensong Preacher: The Rev. Alan Mustoe



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
17 Apr Mia Smith

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
15 Apr David Pollard, aged 79



Remembering

David Pollard

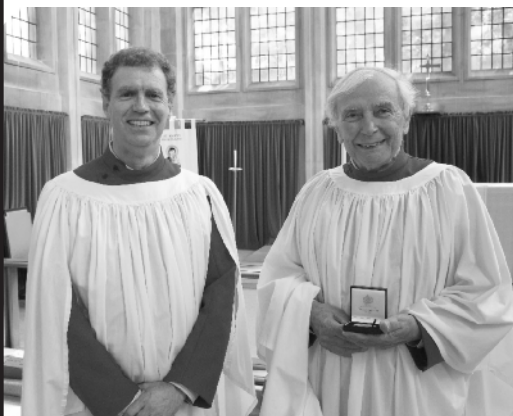
David was one of four and he is survived by his sisters Teresa and Jean. His brother Greg predeceased him.

David was married to Kay for 52 years and they have lived in the Parish of Shortlands since 1974. They had two sons, Mark and Neil, and three grandchildren.

His working life was spent in Covent Garden. His interests were his family and sport. He was a good cricketer and after he retired he loved watching cricket as well as horse racing. It was a nice touch that at his funeral service the BBC Grandstand theme tune was played at the end!

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Hither Green Crematorium, in which his son, Mark, grandson, Austin, and sister Teresa took part.

Colin and 50 years!



On Sunday, 8 May Colin Walklin achieved the significant milestone of having sung in the choir for 50 years at St. Mary's, Shortlands.

The main morning service was dedicated to Colin's achievement and at the service Canon Paul Miller referred to major events which took place in 1961 when Colin joined the choir, including the building of the Berlin Wall and the start of the Vietnam War!

Colin was presented with a Royal School of Church Music Long Service medal, a certificate, music voucher and a golden anniversary rose bush.

Pictured with Colin is Frank Roddy, the Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary's, and some of the children of St. Mary's who had made a special anniversary card and gave him 50 sweets!

Last minute

A minister waited in the queue to have his car filled with petrol just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

The significance of Ascension Day

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder, then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the good news to every nation on earth.

St. Mary's Pre-School Table Sale

Saturday, 2 July from 3pm - 5pm
in the Church Hall
To book a table (cost £10)
contact 8290 6704 (mornings)

Mission of the Month

SOS Village, Bethlehem

The Bethlehem Project has been set up to support the introduction of music as therapy in the SOS Village and School in Bethlehem and to enable a Palestinian musician, Basel Zayed, to qualify at the Guildhall School of Music as a Music Therapist.

Basel has nearly completed his first year of training. Canon Claire Tillotson has been overseeing Basel's training as well as providing support to the staff of the SOS Village to use music as therapy and to prepare for Basel's arrival.

Basel Zayed will be speaking at the main morning service on Sunday, 19 June at 10.30am.

This charity is St. Mary's Mission for the Month of June. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during June.

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Strengthening the Link



The Douai and Shortlands groups together after lunch

The annual exchange visit between Shortlands and Douai took place in early May when over 50 parishioners from Shortlands made the journey to Douai, Northern France.

The visit started with a stop at Vimy, the Canadian War Memorial, before the Guides linked up with the French Guides for evening games and overnight sleep (well a few hours at least!) in the hall in Douai, and the rest of the group divided up to enjoy the hospitality of French families.

On Sunday morning Abbe Michel Rimaux celebrated Mass and Canon Paul Miller gave the address. The visit concluded with a shared lunch.



Canon Paul Miller at the altar with Abbe Michel Rimaux



Mike Pearson and son, Tim, at the Vimy War Memorial



Catherine and Adrian Bingham at lunch in Douai



Hortense de Mereuil (left) and Jocelyne Hamez (right) the Douai coordinators for the Link



Canon Paul Miller and Pascal Mazy, a high speed TGV train driver. 45 minutes after the photo was taken Pascal was at the controls of the Lille to Marseille express train!



Cecilia and Gordon Willatt at the Vimy War Memorial



Annie Mazy (left) and Jane Green (right) leading the prayers at the Mass



Gill Dawson, who led the trip, not only coordinating the activities of the guides but also looking after the adults!



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
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Every Wednesday

10.00	Holy Communion
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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
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	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
Churchwardens	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
	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
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Assistant Treasurer	Mr. D. Weekes	8650 2950
Organist &	Mr. F. Roddy	01689 877025
Director of Music		
Assistant Organist	Canon 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
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admissions	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
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Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	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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