SHORTLANDS PARISH NEWS

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

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April 2010. Year 30 Number 4

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by Canon Paul Miller

The frenzy of the forthcoming General Election is about to reach optimum speed. We shall be inundated with literature, television and newspapers will be covering 'who' is saying 'what' and opinion polls and bookmakers will be offering us insights into who is going to win.

Some people will be voting for the first time and will have a sense of 'I have a say' in the proceedings. Others will be voting, having voted many times in the past, and will feel 'I have seen it all before'. It has been long established that everyone who is registered to vote has a vote. I hope therefore that you will vote because you have a responsibility to vote.

There are criteria which should help you to decide who to vote for. These criteria will depend on what shapes and drives your values. For the Christian they should certainly look carefully at the manifestos of the parties and people

who are standing to see how what they are 'offering' matches up with what you believe. There is no doubt that our country faces serious challenges. The reality of debt and deficit, family breakdown, immigration, climate change, education and the National Health Service to name but a few, will be high on many people's checklists to see how our next elected Government will direct us.

I am pleased the Roman Catholic Church has nailed its colours to the mast over marriage and family life. This is, for example, one area in which Christian values need to be reaffirmed.

It is a privilege to be able to vote, so do vote. And the church will be offering prayers for all those to be elected that we might live in security, with purpose and help to create an environment which our grandchildren can inherit of which we can be proud.



by Tim Aldred -Shortlands resident and member of St. Mary's Soon after January 12th, I found myself crossing the border into Haiti before dawn, in the midst of a vast convoy of lorries carrying relief supplies. It is just a two hour drive from the border to Port au Prince, and the outpouring of support from the public around the world for the worst natural disaster since the 2004 Tsunami was evident.

Staff from my charity, Progressio, had been working in support of local charities in Haiti and the neighbouring Dominican Republic before the earthquake happened. They immediately switched from long term work to emergency relief. Indeed, a hidden story of this emergency is the huge response made by such local organisations to the emergency: within the first week of the emergency, our partners had distributed emergency food to over 50,000 people, and treated thousands of medical cases. Because they were so close to the scene, they reached communities before many other major aid agencies.

I travelled out to the grounds of a ruined hospital in Leogane, at the epicentre of the quake, and met my colleague Raquel Casares and her health team. Working this way. And yet, we did. from tents, and with equipment salvaged from the ruins, they were treating hundreds of injuries every day. To get there we had driven through some thirty miles of flattened concrete buildings. Then on to a nearby school compound, where around thirty to forty children were sheltering under makeshift tents, assisted by church officials, without, at that stage, outside assistance, some ten days after the quake. We left them with some large tents, and agreed to send more supplies quickly from our distribution centre.

Discussions are now taking place about the future: how can Haiti be rebuilt, and how can this future be one that leaves Haiti stronger, less vulnerable, less poor? As these discussions develop, I am hearing one consistent message from Haitians themselves - that aid agencies need to be involving Haitians fully in decisions about the way forward. This is far harder than it sounds - in the face of such a catastrophe, our instinct is to work quickly, and consultation can feel overly time-consuming. And in Haiti,



both government and the voluntary sector were never strong, and have now been decimated. But if we do not invest time and energy in consultation, we can quickly waste money; providing well-meant white elephants that won't last, because they aren't really what is

wanted or needed. Fortunately, experienced aid agencies know that if we have the humility to ask questions, then we stand far more chance of helping Haiti find a sustainable future.

Staying in Port au Prince, the Haitian head of the Jesuit seminary where we were staying (by necessity, in tents) held an evening meeting for those of us staying in the compound, aid workers, seminarians, and families of Haitian relief workers. As we stood together in the garden, in the dark, he asked us to hold hands, and say the Lord's prayer, each in our own language. What a challenge, in the midst of such meaningless horror, to be asked to pray in





Easter Services and Forthcoming Events

Maundy Thursday I April	8.00pm	Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch
Good Friday 2 April		Family Service led by Reverend Jane Peters 'An Hour at the Cross' led by Canon Paul Miller
Easter Day 4 April	10.30am	Sunrise Eucharist Eucharist of the Resurrection including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt Evening Prayer in the Chapel
Sunday 25 April		The Friends of St. Mary's Annual General Meeting in the Hall Choral Evensong for the Friends of St. Mary's followed by drinks and nibbles at the back of Church
Wednesday	8.00pm	The Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Hall



At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

29 Jan Dorothy Walker, aged 94 10 Feb David Essery, aged 44 10 Feb George Longbottom, aged 81



Remembering

Dorothy Walker

Dorothy was born in Worcestershire where she grew up, the eldest of four children.

She met her future husband, Eric, in the Midlands and they married at St Mary's Shortlands on 4 May 1940 – just before the church was razed to the ground by bombs, moving to what was to be their home in Farnaby Road, Shortlands throughout over 61 years of marriage. She and Eric went on to have two daughters: Pamela and Jennifer.

In the early years of their marriage Dorothy was a Tawny Owl with the Brownies and also helped with the 1st Beckenham Girl Guides. Dorothy was a very creative woman—enjoying flower arranging and knitting. She ran the Shortlands lunch club with her friend and neighbour. She enjoyed the WI to which she belonged for over 25 years and when Eric was Mayor of Bromley she embraced the role of Lady Mayor.

St Mary's was important to the family. Pamela and Jennifer were both married here and during the last couple of years when Dorothy was living at Durham House, she attended our services there whenever her health permitted.

They had four grandchildren – Pamela's 2 girls and Jenny's 2 boys - and were delighted when six great grandchildren joined the ranks.

The Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by the Rev Jane Peters, prior to cremation, took place at Beckenham Crematorium and was attended by family and friends.

David Essery

David was born in Pontypool and grew up in Wales. He read English at Birmingham University and qualified in Law at Law School in Chester.

He married Mary, living first in Herne Hill and moving to Durham Road in 2003. They had married in the Bahamas and had a Service of Blessing in the Chapel at Dulwich College. They have a son, Daniel.

David worked firstly with the British Tourist Authority and then 'in-house' as a lawyer for BT. He served as a Parent Governor at Highfield Junior School.

He was a deeply loyal man who was recognised as fiercely intelligent and very humorous. He had a great empathy with many people and was a man with a generous heart. His interests included reading, rugby, playing the piano and outdoor pursuits, especially with his son Daniel

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, and attended by a very large congregation took place at St. Mary's, Shortlands prior to a private commital at Beckenham Crematorium. David was 44 years old.

George Longbottom

George, known affectionately by many as 'The Bear' was born 81 years ago in West Croydon, one of 11 surviving children. He had four children, two step sons, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

He was passionate about golf and was rightly very proud of the display cabinet in his living room full of trophies - he won the Veteran's competition at his club three times after the age of 75.

About 9 years ago George and Pat moved to Franklin House where he was a very popular member of the community. It had been the custom there to have outside caterers come in to cook a Christmas Dinner for the residents. It seemed obvious to George to ask: why? Couldn't they do it themselves? And from then on that's what happened. He and the

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 Peter May: 8460 8828 Manager did it all themselves, and not just at Christmas but at other times too, George arranged gettogethers for the people who lived there so they could enjoy each others company and good food.

George was a real 'people person', a steady man having the same job as a meat porter in Smithfield for 48 years, and two long marriages of 30 years and very nearly 25 years.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by the Rev Jane Peters, prior to cremation, took place at Beckenham Crematorium and was attended by family members and many friends.

St. Mary's Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll will be revised between 28 March and 11 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).

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, 28 April at 8.00pm in the Church Hall.

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.

Mission of the Month

Bromley Welcare - help and advice for families in need
Bromley Welcare is a socialwork and family support organisation
specialising in work with families in need in the London Borough of
Bromley.

They work with parents and children, and in partnership with other agencies to improve the quality of family life and outcomes for children.

They help children and families affected by family problems, isolation and poverty. Bromley Welcare offers a holistic service and works with families in a non-judgemental way.

Bromley Welcare is a registered charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee that receives partnership funding from the London Borough of Bromley and the local Anglican Churches.

St Mary's has always been a stalwart supporter of Welcare and all contributions would be really appreciated especially in this economic climate. Forthcoming events: Special Charity Preview at Bromley Little Theatre on Thursday, 15 April: Macbeth. Tickets £10 available from Gillian Scales (8663 3173). Also watch out for details of the legendary Welcare Quiz Night in the autumn

Bromley Welcare 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.bromleywelcare.org.uk

Never to be seen again!

A few years ago a small village in the Cotswolds was plagued by a gang of youths. They came in on their motorbikes every weekend, and were everywhere, causing trouble.

A village meeting was held about how to get rid of them. The folk who used to go fox hunting were for luring them into a field and then chasing them off on horseback. The town's solicitor was for beginning a legal action against them. The town's policeman was for arresting them.

Then the local Vicar had an idea. With the help of some take-away pizzas he lured the gang into his church one Saturday evening and shut the door on them. Early next morning he and the bishop went in, and together they baptised and confirmed the lot. Several of the more difficult ones were even made to sign the electoral roll.

The youths were then let out of the church, and quickly departed. Now full-fledged members of the Church of England, they were only ever seen again at Christmas and at Easter.

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for recent donations of £3.00



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2011 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Canon Paul will be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 28 May to

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit the places of the Bible and those associated with the mission of Jesus. We shall fly from London Heathrow to Tel Aviv, stay four nights in Jerusalem and three by the Sea of Galilee.

The trip will include:

- a day in the desert, the highlight of which will be visiting the desert fortress of Masada and relaxing by the Dead Sea.
- a day in Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives and in the Old City.
- a day in Bethlehem visiting the Church of the Holy Nativity and seeing the music therapy project which Claire Tillotson is overseeing at the SOS Children's Village.
- a visit to Nazareth, the archaeological site of the major city of Sepphoris, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the River Jordan, a Kibbutz and the ancient port of Caesarea Maritima.
- opportunity to relax by the Sea of Galilee.

All in all it is very much the journey of a lifetime.

Brochures are available from the Church Porch. Booking forms should be returned to the Parish Office.









Charity Concert raises £700 London Marathon





A Children's Charity Concert held at St. Mary's, Shortlands raised over £700 in support of the SOS Children's Village, Bethlehem and the Friends of St. Mary's.

Apart from over 30 individual contributions, the Highfield Infants' School Choir (pictured), the Bromley Boys Singers and St. Christopher's School Choir sang. Also pictured are Eliza Beecroft (above) and Sophie Vandesper (left).

The event was co-ordinated by Victoria



As always, this year will see plenty of famous faces, charity fund-raisers and club runners joining in with the elite racers - on foot and in wheelchairs - on the 26.2 mile cross-city course. Thousands will set out on what has become the traditional route from Greenwich to Westminster, passing some of London's most famous landmarks, including Tower Bridge, Canary Wharf, and the London Eye, before finishing on The Mall.

But for the runners, the scenic route is not the important thing. Landmarks might remind them of how far they have run – or how far they still have to go - but they for sure won't be pausing for any sight-seeing. They can't afford to be distracted from their big goal: that distant finishing line.

It is not just long-distance runners who need to keep in mind what they're aiming for. The same applies to whatever our goals are in life. If we want to achieve something, we have to stay focused on it. Jesus said that if we want to win the ultimate prize – a relationship with God and an eternity in heaven, we cannot afford to be distracted by anything. He said that the only way to Heaven was to follow him. St Paul compared the dedication required of those who are thinking about following him to runners in a race determined to win the prize!

Spring alarm for hedgehogs

If you see a hedgehog now, it will be hungry. They are just waking up from a long hibernation, and will be needing food and water to replenish lost fat reserves in time for the breeding season. Offer them meat based pet food and fresh water and they will repay you by keeping down your snail and slug population. PLEASE TAKE CARE when tidying up your garden from winter mayhem - many hedgehogs suffer terrible injuries each year from strimmers and garden forks, etc. Why not join the British Hedgehog Protection Society?



It costs only £7.50 a year, and you will be helping hedgehogs survive. For details visit:

www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk If you find a hedgehog in need of help, call 01584890801.

Accessible Toilet - update

Good news!

Building work on the new accessible toilet extension will start on 5 July and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer holiday period.

The extension will provide one accessible toilet, one ambulatory toilet and two nappy changing stations.

Enough money has been raised to enable us to commission the building, but we still need to raise a little more and events are planned to achieve this.

Thank you for your fantastic support in bringing this important project to fruition.

The cost of dementia

Dementia is the greatest health challenge this generation will face. In the UK, now more than 820,000 people have the condition. It is costing the economy £23 billion a year, affording to a report from Oxford University. In fact, dementia costs more than heart disease and cancer combined, according to the Alzheimer's Research Trust. Cancer costs £12 billion per year and heart disease £8 billion.

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WORSHIP

10.30

Every Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion

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.

All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time). 10.30

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.

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SIMIT					
Vicar	Canon P. Miller	84604989			
Honorary Curate		53 6 7302			
(Sunday, Monday and Wednesday)					
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Priest	Wright				
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	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259			
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	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178			
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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.

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Beavers	િ						
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Brownie	es (Mon.)	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951				
	es (Wed.)	Ms. H. Preston 07					
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		or 079	960 988552				
	O 'W's'	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537				
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8789 7893 LOCAL NUMBERS Highfield Infants' School 8464 7804 Highfield Junior School 8460 2597

Residents' Association 8460 4060 Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood 07920 233848

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