

Mystery Tour

I caught the bus home from Bromley the other day. The 367 is a convenient route as it stops very close to my house.

I was reflecting on the route: while in many areas we give directions by pubs, the 367 bus route between Bromley and Beckenham is a church route. The named bus stops are St Mark's church, St Mary's church, St George's church and St Edmunds church. It also goes past Beckenham Methodist church and Christ Church, Beckenham - rather than a pub crawl we could do a church crawl...

We all take journeys in our lives, from the very short ones to the long ones ("Are we there yet?" is a question familiar to those who have travelled with children). Whatever distance we travel each journey begins where we are and has an end point somewhere in the distance.

We also journey through life, from one stage to another. I believe that God is with us on our journey and is close to us at all times.

In the letter to the Philippians, Paul tells us that life is like a race. Paul is under house arrest and is therefore limited in where he can go and the things he can do but he never loses sight of the fact that he is on a journey.

For Paul this journey is a spiritual one, a journey of faith. On his journey he receives great joy from his relationship with Jesus. For some of us our spiritual journeys play an important part in our lives while others may feel less need to focus on this. At your local church there are always people willing to have a conversation with you about your journey if you think this may be helpful.

Unlike on a bus journey with a planned route and timetable, we do not always know where life will take us or what to expect. The child in each one of us may ask are we there yet?

Rev Morag Finch

Consultation update

Thank you to all those who shared their thoughts on our church hall and meeting rooms. This has helped us to understand better the needs and interests of everyone associated with the site, as we consider what these should deliver in the future and whether any replacement buildings are needed.

We know that our halls and meeting rooms are an important resource for the whole community in Shortlands, including our own church activities.

Some of our buildings will need costly repair work in the coming years, and so it is right to take this opportunity to think about whether there are alternatives to continuing to repair our current hall. If we did decide to pursue a major building project, it could take a long time to fundraise for, so we're thinking well in advance.

The architect is now preparing some options for us, informed by what he heard, and we expect to consider these in the Autumn.

We haven't taken any decisions or made any assumptions, and we will continue to keep local residents and hall hirers fully informed - watch this space!

If you have any comments at any time, please do contact me via the church office.

Rev Morag Finch



HAVING AN ICE TIME: Lloyd Maurel enjoyed St Mary's parish picnic in June

Special Events and Services

Sunday 16 July

6.30pm Choral evensong

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Stanford in B flat

Anthem: The Secret of Christ - Shepherd

Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is office@stmarysshortlands.church

To keep up with news from St. Mary's in between editions of SPAN, you can like our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter - search for 'St Mary's Shortlands'.

Don't forget our website

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk





From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

21 May Calum Mowat

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Richard Sinclair 16 May aged 86

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Jessie Pell 7 June

Richard Sinclair

Richard was born in Bydgoszcz, Poland in 1930. His father was a Polish Air Force officer and pilot who would go on to reach the rank of Wing Commander.

Richard had an idyllic childhood, but that all changed in September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. The nine-year-old Richard and his mother crossed into Romania. In later life, Richard would give talks about his escape with his mother through Romania, Italy and France.

In June 1940, Richard finally arrived in what was to become his second home – Britain. After the war, the family settled in London where Richard attended various schools and the London School of Economics.

Richard had a lifelong love of tennis: and met his wife, Margaret, at the Blackheath Tennis Club. He integrated well into British society – something he felt was very important. In 1960 Richard made the very difficult decision to change his surname to Sinclair – a name from his own family history.

His career covered a long line of jobs in the financial industry.

Sadly Richard lost his mother at the age of just 52: the loss affected him greatly since they'd been through so much together all those years ago in war-torn Europe. She was never to meet Richard's twin sons Julian and Andrew, born only two days later. Six years later, Margaret gave birth to a daughter, Halena.

In 1993 Richard took early retirement and was able to enjoy life to the full. Tennis remained his greatest passion but he also found time to join local groups and societies with Probus being especially important to him. He was proud to take his turn as Chairman of the local branch, in which capacity he was known to many in Shortlands.

Over the years, Richard and Margaret enjoyed many holidays. One trip was to stand out for him over any other: once the iron curtain had fallen he returned to Poland with Margaret to take a tour of the country.

Richard loved being a grandfather, and was well loved by all his family.

South Hill Wood update

On 6 May, some 40 people took part in the inaugural guided walk around South Hill Wood. Participants learnt about the wood's history, flora and fauna: it is a semi-natural ancient woodland which at one time was used for hunting (supposedly by Henry VIII) and the trees have in the past been used for shipbuilding.

Thomas Dewey purchased the land in 1887 for £1,581 and he built a large family residence with gardens, stables, a music pavilion and a fountain. In 1952 the council compulsorily purchased the land and a public park was created which opened in 1959.

The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen are currently raising money to clean up and restore the fountain, and have been awarded £2,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme.

If you would like to join the Friends or help out (they hold gardening mornings on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10am), contact Bill Fairhall (bill@curiousferret.com). Everyone is welcome.

Holey Roses!

An exhibition entitled 'Holey Roses' at Rochester Cathedral last month included a floral arrangement by Marian Parr from St Mary's. The exhibition celebrated the cathedral and its treasures through a number of floral art displays.

'Holey' refers to Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole, who, as well as being Dean of the cathedral in the late nineteenth century, was known for his expertise with roses, and was an inaugural recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour. He founded the National Rose Society, and Lord Alfred Tennyson called him 'the Rose King'.

There is a memorial to Dean Hole in Rochester Cathedral, and he is also remembered on an inscription on number 3 bell in the cathedral.



Remembering

Rev Jim Medcalf

We were sorry to receive news of the recent death of Rev Jim Medcalf, who served as a non-stipendiary priest at St Mary's for nine years.

Jim had held a senior post in the legal section of the Department of the Environment, and studied via 'night school' for the priesthood. Following his retirement from Whitehall, he was made a Deacon in July 1990: one year later he was made a priest as is the custom in the Church of England.

In 2000, Canon Doug Redman, who was then Vicar of St Mary's, described Jim's contribution:

'Well loved for his friendliness and great sense of fun, he entered very naturally into the role of a priest and provided a first class pastoral and sacramental ministry for this parish. Bereaved families, the housebound and the patients of the Sloane hospital, will all pay testimony to his particular caring skills. It is never easy to be a 'No 2' and to work at the direction of another person, especially in the caring professions, but Jim Medcalf has carried this off with courtesy and wisdom which are parts of his natural personality. I, as Vicar, could not wish for a better assistant and colleague and thank him on behalf of the whole community for his service among us'.

Jim's wife Jean was also a Lay Reader at St Mary's. When in 2000 Jim retired from his role as priest he moved with Jean to Lincolnshire, to be nearer their children and their families.

Sanita Seth

Sanita Seth was a regular member of the congregation who meet weekly at Durham House.

A gathering with her daughters Anita and Anila and other family members to celebrate her life after her funeral service shared memories of her ruby red lipstick and perfumes; the time when Sanita left behind her zimmer frame and danced when 'Elvis' came to Durham House; her love of spicy curries and the Bollywood channel.

Her good humour and smile were remembered, her friendly nature and interest in and concern for others, her thankfulness and her gracious nature. Thanks were given for her strength of faith and the role prayer played in her life.



THANK YOU to the band of mowers who keep the grounds of St Mary's looking so beautiful. Pictured: Tony Chase in front of the Memorial Garden.

Mission of the month

Mines Advisory Group



MAG

saves lives builds futures

Wars and conflicts erupt, subside and end, leaving behind millions of landmines, unexploded bombs and unsecured arms. These pose a long-term danger and disrupt the daily lives of communities for generations. Such indiscriminate killers don't obey peace accords or ceasefire agreements: they can lie in the ground for decades after a conflict is over, killing or maiming those trying to re-establish their lives and livelihoods.

They also trap people in danger and poverty, preventing them from using their land. By instigating a raft of proactive and preventative programmes, Mines Advisory Group ('MAG') is able to make land safe, freeing people from danger and fear.

MAG's work in some of the world's poorest communities makes a long-lasting and permanent difference: it enables children to go to school in safety, gives better access to health services, and empowers people to make a better living. Cleared land is used to build hundreds of houses, schools and clinics. It also enables subsistence farming and facilitates projects which give communities access to safe water. Crucially, it enables other organisations to safely deliver humanitarian aid and development projects.

MAG believes that whenever and wherever wars happen, ordinary people should not be the ones who pay the price. Your generosity can help MAG get to an unexploded bomb before a child does!

For more information, see www.maginternational.org or the display at the back of the church.

THANK YOU: to everyone who responded to the Christian Aid Week appeal in May. The collections house to house and at Shortlands station together raised around £2,060 towards the total of over £2,900 that St Mary's has sent to Christian Aid. Thanks also to the children from the scout and guide groups, pre-school and toddler groups who all put 'Pennies from Heaven' around the Church during the week: these added about £110 to the collection. The money raised will support Christian Aid's work to tackle the effects and root causes of poverty around the world.

The glory of the garden

About four years ago, I was asked by the church for some help with the memorial garden, which is to the left of the church's main entrance, facing towards Church Road. I had recently finished volunteering as a guide leader but still wanted to help the church, so this was the perfect challenge.

In the summer, I try to visit daily. This is because the soil is shallow and dries out quickly and unless the rain is extremely heavy it doesn't receive the soaking necessary to keep the plants looking good.

At this time of the year, the border requires about four cans a day and this plus the maintenance takes about 15 minutes. Other maintenance duties involve weeding, feeding, pruning, deadheading and pest control (I select slug- and snail-proof plants as much as possible, I don't like using pellets because of the risk to our resident birds).

During the winter, the work is reduced to about half an hour a week.

Friends of St Mary's Summer Soiree

Saturday 15th July

6.30pm onwards

In the Church Grounds

Entertainment provided by 4 Play Sax

£2 per ticket per person - tickets on sale after 10.30 services

from 4 June or from the Parish Office

Bring your own picnic supper

Drinks including Pimms and desserts

including strawberries will be on sale

In the church hall if inclement!



My day job

I work as a Headteacher in a Primary School and Children's Centre in Brixton. The job is a varied one - as Head you are responsible for absolutely everything from the standard of teaching to the drains and plenty in between!

I spend my days with staff and children ensuring that the education we offer is the best it can be. I am also responsible for the welfare and well-being of over 400 children and 60 adults. In addition I have to manage the school building and am responsible for the school budget.

I have been in teaching for 29 years and still believe it is the best job in the world. We may have seen many changes in education policy and practice over the years (and believe me they still keep coming) but there is something timeless about the routines and rituals of school life - sports days, school trips and celebrations, the start and ends of terms, parents' evenings and performances all make up the school year wherever your school is.

In my experience however it is the children which are the best thing about the job. Not a day goes by without someone making me smile and it is children's curiosity, zest for life and humour - not all of it intentional - that keep me going when things are tough. And things are tough for many of the families we serve and this means that the children we teach come with challenges and barriers.

As Head it is my job to lead the staff team to help our children overcome these barriers and become independent learners who are happy, confident and have a love of school life.



Jo Eade

Replanting occurs twice a year (May and October). I source the plants from local supermarkets but any contributions would be gratefully received.

I was asked why I think my work on the memorial garden is important? My reasons are as follows:

Firstly, the church together with local schools represent the hubs of our community. To contribute to my community and for that work to be respected and appreciated is important to me

Secondly, I (along with a number of others who spend time working on the garden) are helping to create a pleasant and relaxing environment for those visiting the church and especially for those remembering their loved ones.

Finally, I absolutely love working with the church team and meeting the parishioners.

If anyone is interested in looking after a small section of the church garden, please contact the church office.

Anna Martin

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WORSHIP

Every Sunday

- 08.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Communion, except when notified. During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18.
- 18.30 Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday in the month)

Every Monday

- 17.30 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 Holy Communion

Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. M. Finch	8464 8065
(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/
(Sun, Mon, Wed)		8460 5682
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	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
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Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
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e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.church
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Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

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Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
Friends of St. Mary's	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357

Miss J. Rambridge 8650 0947

For admissions to Beavers, Cubs & Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
Cubs (Tues)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers	Ms E. Hay	07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides please tel: 08001695901 or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07516 650940
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Kateswaran	

Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
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Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
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LOCAL CONTACTS

Clfr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Clfr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

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