

Antiques, Collectables and Promises Auction

The Friends of St. Mary's are holding an Auction on Saturday, 20 June in the Church Hall from 2.00pm - 5.00pm (viewing 10.00am - noon).

Are you moving house?

Do you need to make more space?

We need your antiques, collectables and promises!

Please bring **antiques and collectables** to the Vicar's Vestry in Church on Saturdays, 16 or 23 May, between 9.00am and 11.00am so that a brochure can be prepared - or to the Parish Office between 16 and 23 May.

For further details contact Richard Vickers, Parish Office (8460 5682).

On 25 June we are holding an Antiques, Collectables and Promises Auction in aid of the Accessible Toilet Fund.

Despite large attendances at Sunday services (over 400 on Mothering Sunday!), we still have only one toilet and that has no access for those with disabilities.

We have so far raised about £27,000, and so we have arranged a high profile fundraising event to boost the fund. We hope everyone who values the presence of the Church in the Community will support it.

Search those hidden coves, attics and lofts for something of value for which perhaps you no longer have any use. If we could gather 100 antique items, that would be great.

We are also holding alongside this an auction of promises. Perhaps you could offer a lift to airport or to valet a car ... whatever you could or can offer would be gratefully received. Let the Parish Office know the details.

And do come - it will be fun and you might pick up a bargain.

Special Events and Services

Sunday 10 May	10.30am	All Age Eucharist and Parade Service
Sunday 17 May	6.30pm	Choral Evensong Responses: Neary. Canticles: Wood in D Anthem: The day draws on with golden light (Edward Bairstow)
Ascension Day Thursday 21 May	8.00pm	Holy Communion with hymns followed by drinks at the Vicarage and the lighting of the Ascension Day Rocket
Pentecost - The Birthday of the Church		
Sunday 31 May	10.30am	All Age Family Eucharist
Sunday 7 June	6.30pm	Three Choirs Festival at Bromley Parish Church
Sunday 14 June	10.30am	Parade Service followed by the Parish Picnic and Barbecue

Holy Week - Palm Sunday



Holy Week in April began with Palm Sunday with the traditional Blessing of Palm Crosses and Procession. Although there was no donkey, we did call to mind the animal on which Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem and thought about some of the stories associated with the cross on the donkey's back.

Pictured with their Palm Crosses and with Canon Paul Miller after the service are William Eade, Freya Sloane and Christopher Bingham.

Parish Picnic & Barbecue, Fun & Games

Sunday, 14 June 2008

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!



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

8 April Agnes Stephen, aged 95

9 April Betty Lampard, aged 75

Interment of Ashes

27 Mar Connor McKinnon

12 April John Greenwood



Remembering

Agnes Stephen

Agnes was born in 1914 to John and Robina Cowen, the youngest of four children. She spent most of her childhood and adult life in and around Glasgow marrying George in 1947 after working as a tracer – a job which no longer exists. George and Agnes had one son, Jack and Agnes came south to live with him at the age of 80 when she could no longer live independently.

She was a woman of deep faith all her life and – at the time of her death – still had her certificates of catechism, and other documents relating to her faith journey, kept neatly and safely in a little box.

Agnes' life was not an easy one. Her husband suffered from an illness for much of his adult life; she herself was registered blind and latterly lost much of her hearing as well, but she was a very stoical person, very determined, and met difficulties head on. She lived a full life until relatively recently when she became house-bound.

Agnes was determined she would not 'go into a home' and, thanks to Jack, she had her wish.

When her son was asked what was most important to his mother, he replied: family, friends and her faith – but she did especially enjoy gadding about with her sister Nell (who predeceased her).

The funeral service, conducted by Rev. Jane Peters, which took place at Beckenham Crematorium reflected her deep faith and was attended by those she numbered among her family and friends. We remember her and her son Jack in our prayers.



Betty Lampard

Betty was born in Lambeth, the elder of two. At the age of 6 she was evacuated to a farm in Devon and after returning to London the family moved to Clapham. Leaving school at 14, Betty went to work in an office, eventually becoming a bookkeeper, always up for a new challenge with the added bonus of meeting and making new friends on the way.

In the late fifties Betty met her first husband and had a son, Alan. Betty became a devoted carer as an illness overtook her husband which unfortunately he did not survive. During this time Betty took on a part time job to make ends meet at Lampard's Bakery – little did she know! A relationship blossomed and in 1971 Betty married Ralph. Two years later John was born, and soon after they moved to Durham Road where they remained very happily married for 37 years, surrounded by good neighbours and friends. Betty carried on working for Sweet Bread in Bromley, while continuing to do the bookkeeping for Lampard's Bakery and Bingham Builders, Alan's company, until she retired.

Betty loved to travel and she enjoyed countless family camping holidays in Europe and holidays in Cyprus with friends. Betty's hobbies included photography, listening to jazz, being part of The Langley Park Rotary for 33 years and enjoying family gatherings. She was a great animal lover, especially cats.

Betty had the most caring and loving nature and a great sense of fun, always with a smile to see the funny side, no matter what. Always there for her children and grandchildren, she played a major part in all their lives with her guidance and fair play. Never one to complain, though plagued with heart problems, she always remained positive and upbeat.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at St. Mary's, Shortlands at which husband Ralph, sons Alan and John, two grandchildren Ajai and Jobi, her brother Ray, family and numerous friends joined to celebrate her life. A family cremation followed at Beckenham Crematorium.



THIRTEEN MILLION red envelopes, 300,000 volunteers, thousands of sponsorship events - can only mean one thing:

Christian Aid Week has come round again!

Launched in 1957, Christian Aid Week is famous for the distinctive red envelopes dropping through millions of letter-boxes.

Last year an amazing £14.7 million was raised to fund work with some of the World's poorest communities.

Christian Aid's work in support of families torn apart by poverty, conflict, disease, lack of healthcare and the consequences of climate change will, hopefully, inspire you to donate both your time and money.

Please contact Sarah or Tricia to offer assistance with this year's collection.

Sarah Craggs (020 8464 4379), Tricia Braithwaite (020 8460 4152)

'Pennies from Heaven'

Calling all Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts!

Calling all Mothers and Toddlers, Pre-School and Junior Church!

Let's see how much we can collect this year for others who have so little.

We hope you will place your coins in an **enormous circle** around the inside of St. Mary's, to remind everyone that we all belong to one big family - rich and poor alike! We've had such fun in previous years, raising hundreds of pounds so far! Congratulations to everyone involved.

Please bring your 'Pennies from Heaven' to Pack Night (or your next meeting) in the week starting 11 May, so that you can place your coins in the circle.

Thank you and bless you all.

Tricia Braithwaite and Sarah Craggs



Flower Festival

"In the Footsteps of Jesus"

3, 4 & 5 July 2009

Date for your diary - there will be a Flower Festival at St. Mary's on 3, 4 & 5 July 2009.

We acknowledge with gratitude a bequest of £5,000 from the late Daphne Levett. Daphne had been a long standing member of St. Mary's and was always very supportive of our mission and ministry. We give thanks for her generosity.

Shortlands Golf Club
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Peter May: 8460 8828

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at Unit 3, Albemarle House,
Albemarle Road,
Beckenham.
between 3.00pm and 4.00pm

These meetings provide an opportunity for you to speak to the local Police team about any issues or problems.

Next meeting dates:

2 May, 13 June & 4 July

No need to panic!

People who are religious are less likely to panic under pressure than people who don't believe in God. Recent research, published in the journal Psychological Science, has also found that the stronger your belief in God, the calmer you remain. And even

though you may make a mistake, you are not so flummoxed. Researchers found that the best performers of tasks under pressure are neither atheists nor fundamentalists, but instead those people who feel that God has "given them meaning in life".

For the young at heart!

Anyone who has attended a Parade Service at St Mary's cannot fail to be impressed by the number of uniformed organisations. Few churches anywhere have so many thriving groups offering exciting opportunities to the young people of our community: 2 Rainbow units, 3 Brownie packs, 2 Guide units, a Beaver colony, 2 Cub packs and a Scout troop. Apart from parading their flags in church, each group meets weekly in term time to enjoy a wide range of activities suitable to their age and ability.

Such activities are however only possible if people are willing to give up their time to train as leaders. Running a unit is a rewarding and enjoyable experience, with the knowledge that you are helping the young people in your care grow into responsible adults. From time to time leaders retire for a well-earned rest, and vacancies occur ... now is just such a time for Brownies and Rainbows. At the time of going to press, the Wednesday Brownies have reason to feel optimistic that they will be able to continue in September as people have come forward to save the pack from closure. Sadly, the same cannot be said about the Rainbows, and it seems likely that both Rainbow units will have to close in July. This will be so disappointing for the 30 little girls aged 5 and 6 who are currently Rainbows, and countless others on the waiting list.

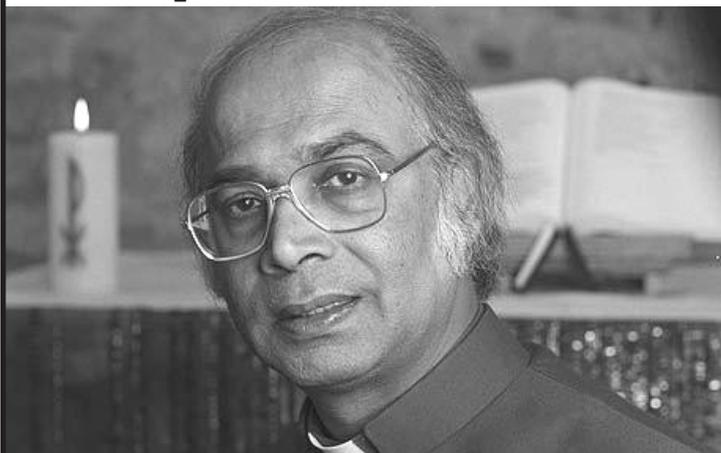
Rainbows started at St Mary's in 1990, and in 2002 a second Rainbow unit was opened. Three adult leaders are needed for each unit, so there are plenty of opportunities for people looking for a new challenge! You would work together as a team, with training and plenty of support provided. Adult leaders can be between the ages of 18-65, so you don't have to be a young mum, although you could well be. A handover period with the existing leaders would be ideal,

so there is no time to lose! If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office on 020 8460 5682 ... and make the Rainbows' day!

Here are some comments from existing leaders of various units on why they do it:-

- *I had a great time when I was a Brownie and Guide, so wanted to give something back.*
- *You are giving to the girls, but get such a lot back in return.*
- *It gives me a warm, fuzzy feeling!*
- *It's not all about running meetings, Guiders have fun too. Last year we dressed up as pirates and raced downhill in our pirate ship.*
- *White water rafting was the best thing I've ever done in my life.*
- *A chance to be silly and not grow up.*
- *I enjoy the friendship of fellow Guiders.*
- *My daughter says she's sure I only run Brownies because it brings out the kid in me, and I'm still a child at heart.*

Bishop Michael to retire



The Bishop of Rochester, The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, is to stand down as from 1 September 2009. He will have been Bishop of Rochester for nearly 15 years.

Writing to the Diocese, he says in his letter informing them of his resignation:

"I have valued my modest part in the life of the Church locally, nationally and globally.

I am hoping to work with a number of church leaders from areas where the church is under pressure who have asked me to assist them with education and training for their particular situation. Details of this arrangement are still being worked out.

We thank God for his blessings and for friends we have made in the Diocese in the past 15 years. I am so grateful to God for the friendship and loyalty of those around us and ask for your prayers as we take this step of faith 'not knowing where we are going' (Hebrews 11:8).

Although I will be around, my official engagements in the diocese will cease after I have completed the Visitations in June, giving time for handover, some holiday and moving. My farewell service for the Diocese will be held at Rochester Cathedral on 12 September 2009 at 3.15pm and further details will be circulated at a later date. Details about the process of appointing a new Bishop and the arrangements during the interregnum will also be published later.

Thank you for your fellowship in the Gospel these many years and I pray that God will continue to bless your own ministry as you proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit."

New Stoles dedicated



Two new Stoles were dedicated on Easter Day at St. Mary's, Shortlands in memory of Sally Harwood and June Khan-Panni.

Made by St. Martin Vestment in Spalding, Lincolnshire, one will be worn at Baptisms (pictured left) and one at Weddings (pictured right).

Commenting after their dedication, Canon Paul Miller said: 'I am delighted at these generous gifts. It will enable us to hold in our memory both Sally and June. The Baptism Stole in memory of Sally, and given by her husband Les, recognises the immense contribution Sally made to children's work at St. Mary's before her untimely death at the age of just 47 in 2007.

The Marriage Stole in memory of June who died at the age of just 54 in 1991, and given by her husband Phillip, is a thanksgiving for their marriage and will be a reminder at every wedding of the gift of love shared in the commitment of marriage.'

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



Link Parish
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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
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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	Rev. J. Peters	8460 5682
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	Mr. J. Swatton	8650 1114
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Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Junior Church	Mrs. F. Bratt	8460 6947

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. L. Swatton	8650 0397
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. D. Hope	8466 5454
Beavers & admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Miss G. Dawson	8249 1799
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. A. Bailey	8313 3745
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. D. Allen	8778 5257
Brownies admissions	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Rainbows	Mrs. L. Gregory	8325 5848
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The TWO 'W's'	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
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LOCAL NUMBERS

Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	07920 233848

SPAN

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