

## 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

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Aug & Sept 2008. Year 28 Number 8

## Major Project Launched! Patronal Festival, Prayer and Giving Weekend

A major project to provide additional toilet and washroom facilities has been launched at St. Mary's Church, Shortlands. The Church currently has only one toilet and that does not meet the requirements for disabled persons.

St. Mary's is a well attended Church and often at baptisms, weddings and funerals people have travelled some distance before they arrive. 'For a congregation of 200 or so, one toilet is entirely inadequate, so we are launching an appeal to provide for two more. One will have special facilities for the disabled,' reported Canon Paul Miller.

'The cost will be around £60,000.

That sounds a lot for what we are going to get, but it will provide long overdue facilities and enable us to comply with the Disabilities Act. It will also provide ramp access facilities to enter Church House.

'I hope the whole community will support the Appeal. We are holding a Day of Prayer on Saturday, 13 September to invite and encourage all to pray for the success of the Appeal. On Sunday, 14 September we shall provide an opportunity for all to give within the services that day, the occasion of our Patronal Festival (the day we remember our Patron, St. Mary, the Mother of Jesus).

'The easiest way to support the

appeal is to make a Gift. If you can Gift Aid, it will enable us to claim back the tax.

'Gifts may be sent direct to the Vicar at 37 Kingswood Road, Bromley, BR2 0HG, or placed in the special Gift Day envelopes available at the Church, and brought to the Church over the weekend of 13 and 14 September.

'It is a large sum but I believe we have the capacity to give this amount. We shall consider fund raising activities after the Gift Day has been completed. They are fun, but take time. Making a direct gift has the potential to raise the amount required most quickly. Actually in

one sense we have the money already – it's just a question of transferring it from peoples' pockets into the Appeal!

'There are 6000 people living in Shortlands. Many of them value the presence of the Church and the place it plays in the lives of people. We have 300 members on our Church Electoral Roll.

'To achieve our target would require £10 per parishioner, £200 per Church member, some very generous giving or a combination of all three! It may even be that someone who has left a legacy to us in their will might consider making the legacy over to us now and they could enjoy watching the result!'

### Saturday, 13 September - A Day of Prayer



### Sunday, 14 September - A Day of Giving



**Target: £60,000**

**Purpose: The Installation of  
Toilet and Washroom  
Facilities in Church  
House**

**Special Gift Day Envelopes will be  
available in the Pews from  
17 August**

**Please give generously to help  
fulfil our vision**



### Sunday, 14 September - A Day of Giving



8.00am Holy Communion

Celebrant: Canon Paul Miller  
assisted by Revd Jane Peters

10.30am Family Eucharist

Celebrant: The Archdeacon  
of Bromley and Bexley

Preacher: Revd Alison  
Newman

6.30pm Evening Prayer in the Chapel

Led by Ann Gimson

9.00am Church open for Prayer

10.00am Holy Communion in the  
Chapel  
Celebrant: Canon Paul Miller

12.00noon Prayers in Church  
Led by Revd Jane Peters

5.00pm Evening Prayer in Church  
Led by Revd Alison Newman

8.00pm Night Prayers in the Chapel  
Led by Peter Stotesbury

**We encourage you to come to pray for  
the success of our Gift Day**

### St. Mary's, Shortlands Advent Dinner and Dance

Friday, 28 November, 7.30pm for 7.45pm  
in the Garden Suite of the Bromley Court Hotel

Black Tie or Lounge Suit

Tickets £30, inclusive of three course dinner with coffee and all age  
Dance/Disco, available from 1 September from the Parish Office  
(8460 5682) or from Churchwardens.

### Harvest Lunch

The Harvest Lunch will take place in the Church Hall after the 10.30am  
Family & Parade Service on Sunday, 5 October.

Tickets (adults-£10, children-£5, family of 4-£28) will be available from  
the Parish Office or at the back of the Church after Sunday Services  
from 1 September.



## From the Registers

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

9 Jul Monica McKinnon, aged 83



## Remembering

### Monica McKinnon

Monica was born in Liverpool and spent an idyllic childhood there. She met her future husband, Paul, through a 'blind date' arranged by her close friend Audrey, on Christmas Eve 1949. They were married shortly afterwards in May 1950 just before Paul was sent to Malaya for three years with the paras.

Monica and Paul came to live in Sidcup and then Bromley. They had five children. Monica not only brought up her large family but also helped her husband with the family company; her great business sense proved to be invaluable. Monica was a loving wife and cared for her family selflessly. Her zest for life and great sense of humour ensured Monica made many close and enduring friendships. She was compassionate and supportive. She enjoyed travelling, meeting new people and exploring new places. She loved nature and the countryside, the theatre, music and paintings.

A service at Beckenham Crematorium conducted by Father Tim Nolan and Revd Alison Newman was followed by a service of thanksgiving at St Mary's, Shortlands. Family and friends came to celebrate her life, and release balloons afterwards. She will be greatly missed.

### James Roberts

We were saddened to learn of the death of James Roberts, Quartermaster of 7th Bromley Scout Group. A full tribute will appear in the next edition of SPAN.

## SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for donations during the month of June of £21

*Shortlands Golf Club*  
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8460 2471/8828 or

Peter May: 8460 8828



# Alpha

**Ever wondered what it's all about?**

Over 2 million people in the UK and 11 million worldwide have now attended an Alpha course, an opportunity to explore the meaning of life, running in tens of thousands of churches of all denominations across the world.

St. Mary's will be running a course starting on Wednesday, 17 September.

Further details from Revd Alison Newman (8658 7784)

## St. Mary's Shortlands

**Men's Dinner  
at**

**Shortlands Golf Club**

**Friday, 26 September**

**at 7.15pm for 7.45pm**

**Guest Speaker:  
David Dryer**

**Tickets £15 from  
Mark Newman**

**Tel 8658 7784 or**

**newmans52@btinternet.com**

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# To be ordained....



6 September will be a red-letter day for St. Mary's Shortlands and for Jane Peters. Jane, having completed a 2 year intensive training course at the South East Institute for Theological Excellence, will be ordained in Rochester Cathedral. She will serve as Honorary Curate in Shortlands.

A full coach of supporters will make the journey to Rochester and Jane will be welcomed to the Parish as Honorary Curate on Sunday, 7 September.

## Special Services for August / September

**Sunday, 24 August at 10.30am - Holiday Club Service  
led by the Revd Alison Newman and Mark Newman**

**Saturday, 6 September at 3.00pm - The Ordination of  
Jane Peters as Deacon in Rochester Cathedral**

**Sunday, 7 September at 10.30am - Family Eucharist and the  
welcome of the Revd Jane Peters as Honorary Curate of Shortlands**

**Saturday, 13 September - Gift Day Weekend  
as already advised (see page 1)**

**Sunday, 21 September at 10.30am  
Family Communion and the  
Admission of Children to Holy Communion**

**Sunday, 28 September - Back to Church Sunday  
10.30am - Family Communion**

**Sunday, 5 October - Harvest Festival  
10.30am - Family and Parade Service  
followed by the Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall**

## Rush hour drowns out dawn chorus

If you don't like the noise of heavy traffic, you are not alone. Neither do the birds. These days they are struggling to make themselves heard above the racket.

They are doing their best: many robins in Sheffield now sing more at night than at dawn. A study of nightingales has found that the birds of Berlin sing up to 14 decibels louder than their cousins in the forest. Great tits in some European cities sing at a higher frequency than birds in the country, so that they can be heard above the low-frequency rumble of cars, lorries and industry.

Birds sing to warn of danger, to attract a mate, and to mark out their territory. Sadly, some of them can't communicate above the urban clamour. Perhaps this explains the drop in the number of orioles, cuckoos, great reed warblers and even the house sparrow.

# Children to be admitted to Holy Communion

Eight children are to be admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation at a special service on Sunday, 21 September at 10.30am. St. Mary's has been given permission by the Bishop of Rochester under the 2006 regulations.

The admission of children to Holy Communion before Confirmation has been widely discussed in the Parish and the Parochial Church Council approved the proposal last year.

Baptism is now rightly seen as the entry point into the Church Family, as it is also stated in the Welcome of the newly baptised 'We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.' To make sense of that, baptised children are now, if they and their parents wish, to be admitted to Holy Communion prior to Confirmation. It is anticipated they will be confirmed in due course.

'The preparation classes have been great fun - the children have

been using a work book called 'God's Greatest Gift' which is excellent. It has reminded the children that they are very special people and has helped them to find out more about themselves, the world and the people in it. This is the first such group I have taken and it has been a wonderful experience for me too' said Canon Paul Miller. 'They are so looking forward to sharing in Jesus' special meal.'



## Church Mission Society

**St. Mary's Mission for August.** 200 years ago, a small group of people embraced a vision to see God's love transform lives worldwide, and CMS was born. CMS supports the work of over 800 people across 66 countries, including the UK. They focus on five contexts where the name of Jesus is rarely heard: with people on the margins; in cities; among people of many faiths; in secular cultures, and with young people and children. The CMS approach includes being a faithful presence in others' lives by building long-term relationships, sensitively sharing the gospel, demonstrating God's love in action, and showing the spirit and grace of God at work. A speaker from CMS will be addressing the congregation of St. Mary's on 17 August.

"Dear Vicar...

- I know God loves everybody but then he never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8.

- My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert. age 11.

- Please say a prayer for our school football team. We need God's help or a new goalkeeper. Thank you. Alexander. Age 10.

- I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. Loreen. Age 9.

### Concert by Opera Nova at St. Mary's, Shortlands in aid of Demelza

Saturday, 1 November

With excerpts from pairs of operas and musicals based on the same story.

Please put the date in your diary  
(more details in next SPAN)

## Missing you...



On Sunday, 28 September 2008 it's 'Back to Church Sunday' at St. Mary's.

On this day we are inviting anyone who used to come to church and has stopped - whether through moving house, a change in family circumstances, or whatever reason - to come to one of our services. This isn't just happening in Shortlands either - it's a worldwide venture involving thousands of churches of different denominations.

Our services that day will be at 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer), 10.30am Family Communion with separate children's and young people's groups and 6.30pm Taizé Service.

Perhaps you find the idea of coming along rather daunting but we can assure you there will be a warm welcome awaiting you. We've missed you!

## Demelza Hospice Care for Children

### St Mary's Mission for September

Most people know that Demelza looks after children with life threatening illnesses and offers support and respite to their families in a loving, peaceful, home from home environment.

At the beginning of July, the work at Eltham to build a new 6 bedded Children's Hospice is proceeding apace. The scaffolding has been removed (the satellite dish and TV aerial are up!) and the final work by the builders is in progress, painting, tiling, fixing baths, oxygen system etc and then the lift, telephones, computers, floors, before the building is finally handed over.

The Head of Care, Sarah Carter, has been appointed and it is hoped the Hospice will be opened officially in January 2009. Eltham will work very closely with the NHS, sharing some facilities (soft play and a multi-sensory room in an adjoining bungalow) and the four children having respite care in another bungalow (with complex conditions but not life threatening) will share some of Demelza's facilities, i.e. the playground.

The Appeal for £6.5 million is on going with about £4 million having been raised. Meanwhile care at Demelza House and the children receiving care in their own homes continues with special events organised - the Family Barbecue in July, and on 20 September an Open Day at Demelza House celebrating our 10th Birthday. A mini coach will be going from St Mary's and if anyone would like to visit, please contact Tricia White (8460 9357) who will know if there are spare seats. Thank you for your support.

## 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 4-14.
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
Associate Vicar	Rev. A. Newman	8658 7784
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
	Mrs. J. Peters	8650 5986
Reader & Evangelist	Mr. M. Newman	8658 7784
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. J. Jackson	8325 1972
	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989
	Mrs M. Westropp	8650 5178
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	Mrs. J. Peters	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157
	Mr. J. Swatton	8460 4765
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	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
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Assistant Organist	Mrs. C. Tillotson	8460 7368
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Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178

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. M. Parr	8460 3871
Mothers' Union	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Scouts GSI	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 5545
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. J. Adam	8289 5252
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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Cllr. G. Taylor	8289 7893

### 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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