## **SHORTLANDS PARISH NEWS**

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



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

meet the requirements for disabled to enter Church House. persons.

Church and often at baptisms, Day of Prayer on Saturday, 13 weddings and funerals people have September to invite and encourage all travelled some distance before they to pray for the success of the Appeal. arrive. 'For a congregation of 200 or On Sunday, 14 September we shall so we are launching an appeal to within the services that day, the provide for two more. One will have occasion of our Patronal Festival (the special facilities for the disabled.' day we remember our Patron, St. reported Canon Paul Miller.

'The cost will be around £60.000.

A major project to provide additional That sounds a lot for what we are appeal is to make a Gift. If you can one sense we have the money toilet and washroom facilities has going to get, but it will provide long been launched at St. Mary's Church. overdue facilities and enable us to Shortlands. The Church currently has comply with the Disabilities Act. It only one toilet and that does not will also provide ramp access facilities

'I hope the whole community will St. Mary's is a well attended support the Appeal. We are holding a so, one toilet is entirely inadequate, provide an opportunity for all to give Mary, the Mother of Jesus).

'The easiest way to support the

Gift Aid, it will enable us to claim already - it's just a question of back the tax.

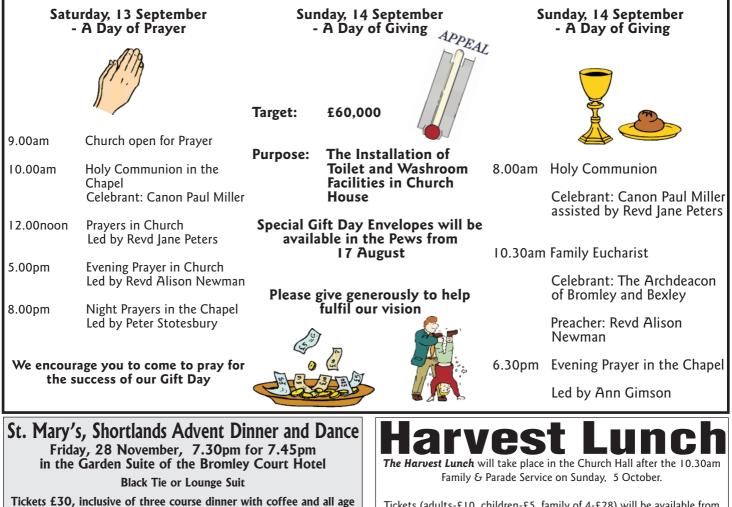
'Gifts may be sent direct to the into the Appeal! Vicar at 37 Kingswood Road, Bromley, BR2 OHG, or placed in the Shortlands. Many of them value the special Gift Day envelopes available presence of the Church and the place at the Church, and brought to the it plays in the lives of people. We Church over the weekend of 13 and have 300 members on our Church 14 Sentember

'It is a large sum but I believe we have the capacity to give this require £10 per parishioner, £200 per amount. We shall consider fund Church member, some very generous raising activities after the Gift Day giving or a combination of all three! It has been completed. They are fun, may even be that someone who has but take time. Making a direct gift has left a legacy to us in their will might the potential to raise the amount consider making the legacy over to required most quickly. Actually in us now and they could enjoy

transferring it from peoples' pockets

'There are 6000 people living in Electoral Roll

'To achieve our target would watching the result!'



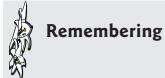
Dance/Disco, available from 1 September from the Parish Office (8460 5682) or from Churchwardens.

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 I September.



We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

9 Jul Monica McKinnon, aged 83



### 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 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



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

## **OSTEOPATH**

Fully qualified and registered Andreas Jochim D.O. Msc

50 Scotts Lane, Shortlands Tel: 020 8650 0509

#### LOCAL PLUMBER

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE fully insured - free estimates & advice bathroom/shower installations, central heating pumps/radiators etc. Big enough to cope, small enough to care. Phone Michael on 0800 183 0063

#### PAUL ARTHURS - Roofing specialist

New roofs, flatroofs, chimney stacks, repairs, all lead work, velux windows, UPVC guttering/fascias. All work insured - fast response Phone: 8249 5903 <image>

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.



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!

"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 II.

- 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, I 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)

## **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.

