

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 November 2008. Year 28 Number 10

November is a month for remembering people – Guy Fawkes, All Saints, All Souls and of course Remembrance Day. Maybe at times we take remembering and memory for granted – in fact it's only when we start to forget things that we realise how important remembering is!

All Saints and All Souls reminds us of all those who have been an inspiration to us, many of whom may no longer be living earthly lives. Death is not 'nothing at all' as one popular poem says. Death is an end to any direct relationship we can have with someone, and it is painful. Yet as Christians we believe in life after death. Our remembering is therefore tempered with the hope that those we love may be sharing in eternal life.

Remembrance Sunday is the time to recall and give thanks for those

who have given their lives in war. It has been said that if all the people who died in the First World War matched four abreast, when the head of the column reached the Cenotaph, the end would be in Durham; at the end of the Second World War, at Edinburgh. Who knows where it would be now?

These people believed that their actions would make a huge difference for the future, but it is up to us to ensure that their dreams of peace, freedom and justice for all are realised. After all, what's the point of remembering if we don't learn from what we remember? What can we do to make the world a better place?

Remembering is important and I'm sure we can all think of people we will never forget. I shall be leaving Shortlands during November and I

take with me many happy memories of people I have met over the past few years. The bible is full of phrases about remembering, especially remembering all that God has done for us.

This verse sums up my feelings as I leave - 'I thank my God every time I remember you'. (Philippians Chapter 1 verse 3).

I would like to thank everyone who has made my time in Shortlands so special. **Revd Alison Newman**

Alison Newman's last Sunday will be on Sunday, 16 November when we hope many will come to say 'Thank you' to Alison for her ministry amongst us and to wish her and her family our prayerful good wishes as they move to Farnborough. She will preside at the 8.00am and 10.30 am

services and this will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch (full details in the Church porch).

We want to also make a presentation to Alison and anyone who would like to contribute towards this should send their gift to the Parish office - cheques payable to 'St. Mary's Shortlands PCC'.



New appointment of Junior Church Coordinator



We are pleased to announce a new appointment to an important area of the church's work at St. Mary's, Shortlands.

Fiona Bratt (pictured left) has been appointed Junior Church Coordinator. She will oversee all the organisations and teaching of children and young people on Sundays. She takes up her new role on 1 November.

Canon Paul Miller commenting on this appointment said: 'I am delighted to announce this excellent appointment. Fiona is already very much part of the community in Shortlands and well equipped to take on this responsibility.'

Remembrance Sunday

The Shortlands Annual Service of Remembrance will take place at St. Mary's on Sunday, 9 November at 10.15am. The Service will commence in Church before moving out to the War Memorial.

Attending the Service and laying wreaths will be Karen Bigg and Ann Golding on behalf of Highfield Junior and Infant Schools, Mark Dempsey on behalf of the Residents' Association, Sgt. Dave Harvey on behalf of the Police, Councillors George Taylor and Ernest Noad on behalf of the London Borough of Bromley, and the young people of the 13 youth and uniformed organisations of Shortlands.



Special Services for the weeks to come

Sunday, 2 November

4.00pm - Service to Remember Departed Loved Ones

A book will be placed in the church porch for you to enter the names of those you would like to be especially remembered at this service. Candles will be lit during the service in memory of our departed loved ones.

Sunday, 9 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.15am - Family Communion and Parade Service

to include the traditional Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes' Silence and the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial.

6.30pm - Choral Evensong for Remembrance Sunday

Responses: Sanders (RSCM). Canticles: Walmisley in D Minor
Anthem: Turn back O man - Holst

Sunday, 30 November - Advent Sunday

6.30pm - Advent Carol Service

Readings, Anthems and Congregational Hymns.

Sunday, 7 December

10.30am - Toy Service

3.00pm - Christmas Concert by XBY Concert Band

St. Mary's 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 the Parish Office (8460 5682)
or from Churchwardens.**

St. Mary's Annual Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 6 December, 2-4pm

Stalls, fun, games, prizes, refreshments, raffle etc., and Santa Claus!
Proceeds will benefit Bromley Welfare and St. Mary's, Shortlands.
Any goods for stalls can be left in the Parish Office.

All Welcome!



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

- 14 Sept Paige Carroll
Lucy Hackett
Matthew Thomson
Benjamin Thomson
Nina Tulloch
- 21 Sept Kate Allen
James Allen
Jonathon Eade
- 28 Sept Evie Wilcox

Children Admitted to Holy Communion

We welcome to God's table:

- 21 Sept Kate Allen
Abigail Bailey
Christopher Bingham
Isobel Eade
William Eade
Freya Sloane
Annabel Stafford
David Tillotson

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

- 2 Sept Robert Jones, aged 88
7 Oct Terence Cole, aged 80
9 Oct Violet Oliver, aged 94

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Remembering

Robert Jones

Robert was born in Wandsworth in 1920 and attended Ardingly boarding school. During the Second World War he served in the Lovat Scouts, a mountain and skiing regiment. He was part of the campaign which liberated Italy. After the war Robert worked in Insurance where he travelled widely. His first wife Dorothy died relatively young. Robert was very keen on all sports and was captain of the Langley Park Golf Club in 1976. He met his second wife Ruth there in 1973. Golf remained an important part of their lives, along with travel, and bridge. They had a rich social life. Robert was also part of the St Mark's Lodge for 59 years.

Robert was greatly loved during his life. A polite and generous man who always wanted to help others. His funeral was conducted at Beckenham crematorium by the Rev'd Alison Newman. A large crowd of family and friends attended.

Terence Cole

Terry was born in Plymouth in 1928. He was a twin and was survived by his twin sister Jean, brother Brian (who both live in Australia) and Dave.

As a young man he joined the Coldstream Guards and saw active service in Tripoli and Palestine. After the army he joined the airline business and worked for 38 years for SAS, the Scandinavian Airline Company. He loved travel, visiting English pubs, and enjoyed owning cars.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium at which friends and colleagues joined Jenny, his wife, and Tim and James, his sons.

Violet Oliver

Vi was born in 1914 in Penge, the youngest of 3 children. She attended Melvin Road School.

She trained as a Pitman's Shortland Typist and for many years worked for Suretools as an Office Administrator and Shorthand Typist. For the past 20 years she has lived at Foxes Dale, Shortlands from where she spent much of her time caring for relatives and friends.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium at which her 4 nieces and nephew attended.

Shortlands Residents' Association

SRA's new website - we want local groups to get involved

The SRA launched its own web site just last April. It already contains useful information about local services and information on the SRA and Shortlands and can be found at www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk.

We want it to be a genuine resource for the community of Shortlands, so we are very happy if local groups would like to use the site to draw attention to their own activities or events.

If you would like to be listed, please contact Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395 or email to info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk.

Church welcomes tenth annual increase in GCSE Religious Education entrants

Religious Education has grown in popularity among GCSE students again this year. Among subjects with more than 100,000 entrants, RE has remained at the top of the charts for increasing entrants (when changes to the science curriculum are taken into account), with a 4.7 per cent increase since last year, following a 7.2 per cent increase between 2006 and 2007. The number of entrants for the GCSE RE full course has now risen each year for the past decade.

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The sermon...

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him some money now, will he let us go?"

Ten Commandments...

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she said: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: "Thou shalt not kill."

Highfield Infants' School

is in need of a new Clerk to the Governors. This is a paid position involving attendance from time to time at evening and very occasional daytime meetings, taking and producing minutes, circulating papers for meetings etc. Anyone interested can find out more about the post from Carol Collins, Chair of Governors (07845 705855) or Tony Chase, Vice Chair (020 8464 6188).

Christmas Fair

at
Franklin House
Mays Hill Road

on
Saturday, 29 November

10.00am - 1.00pm

All welcome

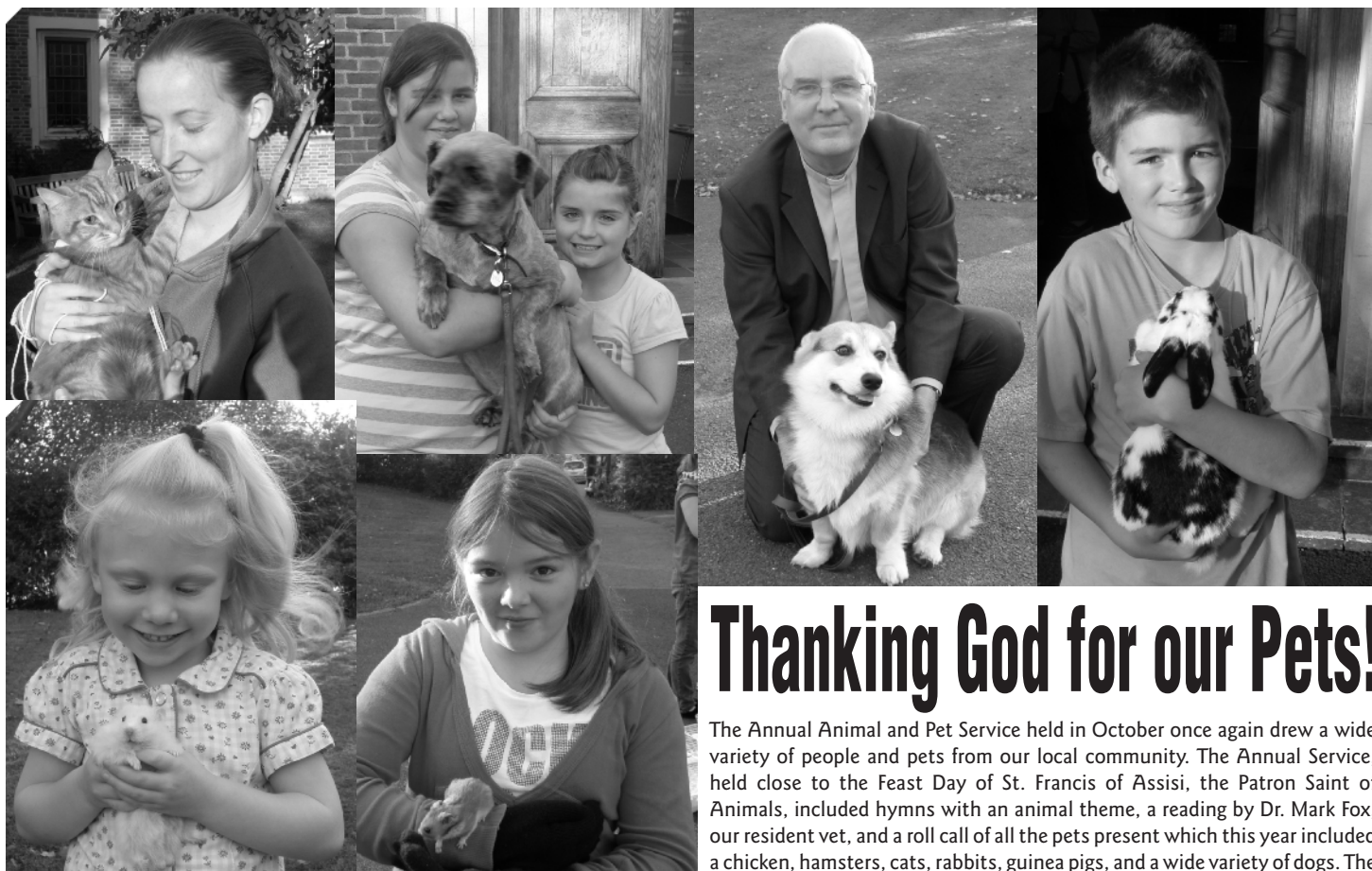


Harvest Festival drew in a large congregation at the beginning of October.

The Church was magnificently decorated under the watchful eye of Cecilia Willatt and Patrice Cooper (in the absence on holiday of Marian Parr) with considerable support from many others.

Pictured by the Font display is Barbara Page whose Harvest interpretation drew much admiration.

Barbara has been a member of Bromley and District Flower Club for over 20 years. She is being confirmed next February at St. Mary's.



Thanking God for our Pets!

The Annual Animal and Pet Service held in October once again drew a wide variety of people and pets from our local community. The Annual Service, held close to the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals, included hymns with an animal theme, a reading by Dr. Mark Fox, our resident vet, and a roll call of all the pets present which this year included a chicken, hamsters, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and a wide variety of dogs. The oldest pet present, a cat, was 14 years old and the youngest pet was a hamster of 2 months. In the prayers we gave thanks for the companionship and loyalty our pets give to us and we also remembered all departed pets who had been part of our lives in the past.

90 years of age!

The number of people in the UK who celebrate their 90th birthday grows larger year by year. Nearly half a million people in the UK will be doing so in 2009! The actual estimated number is 460,000 men and women. This is up from 360,000 in the year 2000, itself an increase from 250,000 in 1991. The rate of increase in numbers was especially high in the 1990s, averaging 12,000 a year, but since the 21st century dawned we have still been adding 11,000.

Nearly three-quarters, 74%, of those who are 90 or over are women, a percentage which is dropping owing to the greater longevity of more and more men. The percentage of women was 81% in 1991.

It is possible that as many as 18% of those 90 or over have a Christian commitment, one in every 6, although many will not be able to get to church, as they will be living in residential homes, or needing transport.

In a survey of older Christians undertaken a few years ago, in which over 200 90-year olds participated, many said they still kept reading their Bible, and many watched the BBC Sunday programme Songs of Praise, finding it a spiritual experience.

Virtually half, 49%, of all 90-year olds went to Sunday School back in the 1920s, and many will still remember the hymns they sang then and the Bible verses they had to learn by heart.

St. Mary's Church House Flat will soon become vacant

The Parochial Church Council intend to seek a tenant

This is a 2 bedroom flat with a good sized lounge / dining room, study / office, kitchen and separate toilet and bathroom

If you know of anyone who would be interested, please speak in the first instance to the Parish Administrator, Richard Vickers on 020 8460 5682

XBY Band to play Christmas Concert at St. Mary's



A renowned concert band is to give a Christmas Concert at St. Mary's Shortlands on Sunday, 7 December at 3:00pm.

The XBY Concert Band has established a reputation as one of the foremost symphonic wind bands in the United Kingdom. Its success has emerged through repeated achievements at the National Concert Band Festival Finals by gaining two silver and five gold awards.

The band has also achieved acclaim for winning a first prize in 2001 and 2005 at the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland and a second prize in 1997.

Around 200 players have had some association with the band since its formation and there are currently around 40 regular players.

Its leader is Claire Tillotson, the Assistant Organist at St. Mary's

Shortlands. Some members have completed courses of study at music colleges and universities and are now professional musicians. However, the majority of members are either studying or pursuing careers in other areas and welcome this opportunity to keep up their music in their spare time.

Since 1989, XBY Concert Band has secured a valuable relationship with Musical Director Dennis Mycroft. Dennis is Head of Brass Teaching for the Bromley Youth Music Trust, being actively involved in the training of young musicians and conducting the XBY Concert Band. Admission will be by programme at £5. More information about the band can be found on their website

www.xbyconcertband.co.uk

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

Saturday, 1 November at 7.30pm

With excerpts from pairs of operas and musicals based on the same story. Tickets £8.00 available from Janet Whitlock (8650 8749)

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
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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
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
Reader & Evangelist	Mr. M. Newman	8658 7784
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	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Mr. R. Vickers	8460 5682
Assistants	Mrs. J. Fiddeman	8460 5682
	Rev. J. Peters	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157
	Mr. J. Swatton	8460 4765
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	Mr. C. Stokes	8460 0661
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Assistant Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Organist & Director of Music	Mr. D. Weekes	8650 2950
Assistant Organist	Mr. F. Roddy	01 689 877025
Electoral Roll	Mrs. C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Stewardship	Mr. N. Stoffel	8460 0063
	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 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 5545
Beavers & admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Miss G. Dawson	8249 1799
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Mrs. N. Blake	8460 7951
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. A. Bailey	8313 3745
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. J. Adam	8289 5252
Admissions	Mrs. N. Blake	8460 7951
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Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	07920 233848

SPAN

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