

Dying leaves and new growth

I remember once, standing absolutely transfixed, looking at the beautiful golds, oranges, reds and browns of the autumn colours. How long this sight lasts each year varies depending upon the autumn winds. All too soon, on looking up we see the starkness of bare branches and looking down see muddy, slippery, tattered dead leaves; becoming aware that winter is almost upon us again.

My feelings can be touched by a poetic description of a whole palette of warm colours and the evolving process of leaves dropping. My mind can be informed by the scientific explanation that the rich colouring of the leaves is created by the waste products that the tree needs to shed to prepare itself for winter; that these dead leaves can enrich the soil and nurture new life and new growth the following year.

On this occasion, my spirit was lifted. Not just by the colourful sight, but it was as if the scene was communicating with me. I made the connection that in dying, the leaves save the trees; in dying, the leaves nurture new life, new growth. My spirit acknowledged that the God, who formed the beauty of creation, is the God who

sent his son, Jesus, to die like the leaves; offering new life. Like the leaf taking away the waste products of the tree, Jesus died to remove the poison and sin of the world and offers to take away our poison and sin, allowing us to live life in all its fullness. Like the leaf mould enriching the soil for future growth, Jesus can enrich my soil and encourage new growth in me.

Annually, in a world that appears increasingly confused, divided and hurt, I eagerly anticipate the

beauty of the autumn colours. They are a reminder of the beauty of God's creation and his power to redeem that creation. They are also a reminder that I, too, need to try to find ways to help remove some of the pain and poison in the world and encourage new growth.

Stuart Buchanan



ON TOUR: St Mary's Choir sang at Exeter Cathedral in July

Special Events and Services

Sunday 14 October - Harvest Festival

10.30am Family and Parade service

Harvest gifts will be given to Bromley Women's Aid

Followed by Harvest lunch – all welcome. Details from Parish Office

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Spicer

Canticles: Sumsion in A

Anthem: O Lorde the Maker of al thing - Joubert

Sunday 4 November

4.00pm Memorial Service

We give remembrance and thanks for the lives of those we love but no longer see

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:

12 August Freddie Spence
19 August Rosealin Allerdyce
16 September Flora Goakes

Remembering



Geoff Webber

Geoff was born and brought up in Lewisham. When he was 12 the family moved to Eden Park Avenue where they lived until the mid-1990s, when they came to Shortlands and entered life at St Mary's.

On leaving St Olave's School, Geoff became the first Webber to go to University: he went to Hull, where he studied South East Asian Politics.

His first job was as a Manager for Mecca Entertainments but later, more suited to his intellect, he joined a Government Quango known as Neddy – the National Economic Development Council. He later became a 'headhunter'.

Geoff was talented musically: along with two of his brothers, Geoff had been a chorister at Southwark Cathedral as a boy, and he also achieved Grade 8 on the French Horn.

Geoff showed unstinting love, respect and dedication in caring for his parents, Reg and Gladys, at great personal cost to himself. Tragically, he is the third of their five sons to die comparatively young.

Learning about other faiths

Dussehra 18/19 October - Hinduism

Hindus observe Dussehra through special prayer meetings and food offerings to the gods at home or in temples throughout India. They also hold outdoor fairs and large parades with effigies of Ravana (a mythical king of ancient Sri Lanka). The effigies are burnt on bonfires in the evening. Dussehra is the culmination of the Navaratri festival.

There are many local celebrations in some areas in India that can last for up to ten days. Local events include the blessing of household and work-related tools, such as books, computers, cooking pans and vehicles in the state of Karnataka.

Many Hindus believe that it is lucky to start a new venture, project or journey on Dussehra. They may also exchange gifts of leaves from the Shami tree as a symbol of the story of the Pandavas brothers' exile in the Mahabharata stories.

Dussehra celebrates the Hindu god Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana and the triumph of good over evil. The epic Ramayana tells the story of the Lord Rama who wins the lovely Sita for his wife, only to have her carried off by Ravana, the demon king of Lanka.

Ravana had a sister known as Shoorpanakha, who fell in love with the brothers Rama and Lakshmana and wanted to marry one of them. Lakshmana refused to marry her and Rama could not as he was already married to Sita.

Shoorpanakha threatened to kill Sita, so that she could marry Rama. This angered Lakshmana who cut off Shoorpanakha's nose and ears. Ravana then kidnapped Sita to avenge his sister's injuries. Rama and Lakshmana later fought a battle to rescue Sita, helped by the monkey god Hanuman and a huge army of monkeys.

The Mahabharata is another series of Hindu stories that play a role in the Dussehra festival. The Pandavas were five brothers who fought evil forces with a set of distinctive weapons. They went into exile for one year, hiding their weapons in a Shami tree: they found them at the same place when they returned from exile. They then worshipped the tree before going to a battle, which they won.

SAVE THE DATE!
St Mary's
Christmas Fair
Saturday
24 November

In memoriam

The memorial service, at 4pm on Sunday 4th November, is an opportunity to remember those we love but no longer see.

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.

Lest we forget

To commemorate the Armistice at the end of the Great War in 1918, we are placing a poppy 'tree' in the church porch. This will be decorated with card poppies, each inscribed with a name from our parish register of the fallen.



However, as families have, inevitably, moved on, it is unlikely that many relatives of the fallen still live in the parish. Therefore to make this memorial more relevant to our current parishioners, we will also be providing blank poppies for those who wish to commemorate their own family members who died in, or as a result of, the Great War. These can be inscribed with a name and placed on the tree.

The tree will be in the porch from the 31st October and will remain in place throughout November. Do please remember your family's sacrifice for us all.



FOND FAREWELL: Peter Stotesbury made a presentation to Jean Jackson on behalf of the parish when she moved away this summer.

Once every ten years...

Ever wanted to experience the Passion Play in Oberammergau? Thought it might be good to get to know other people locally through the experience of travel? This is your chance!

A Beckenham Deanery holiday to Austria and Oberammergau is being organised from 22 - 29 July 2020. Staying in a beautiful 4* hotel by Wolfgangsee, half board, with some included excursions and some free time, top price tickets for the play with a stay in Oberammergau, flights and return transport to the airport are all included.

For more information, please contact Ann-Marie Jefferys (0208 460 6030 or annmarie.jefferys@btinternet.com)

Happy big birthday!

Both of St Mary's Guide Units celebrated big birthdays this year: 2nd Shortlands (Friday) Guides was started back in 1948 so is now 70, and 3rd Shortlands (Tuesday) Guides was started in 1968, so is 50 this year. It was decided to roll these two landmarks into one big birthday, and celebrate our 120th joint birthday!

The Guides all worked during the summer term on a Big Birthday Challenge created by leaders Louise & Becca, for which they will gain a Big Birthday Badge. The culmination of celebrations was a Big Birthday Sleepover for 30 girls and 7 leaders at the Church Hall with popcorn and a film night. The following morning, they buried a time capsule in Church Gardens to be discovered by Guides some time in the future, maybe in another 120 years' time!

During the evening one of the Tuesday leaders, Colette, was presented with her Going Away With (Camp) Licence, and Rusty was presented with her 40 years' Service Award by Division President Lynne Silverthorne.

Gill Dawson (Rusty)



Pictured: some of the Guides from both units with their 120 cake they created out of giant Swiss rolls, with 12 candles, one for every decade of Guiding!

Mission of the month

Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich MIND

Mind is a mental health charity in England and Wales. Founded in 1946 as the National Association for Mental Health, it celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2016.

Every year one in four of us will experience a mental health problem: hundreds of people are still struggling. MIND believes that no-one should have to face a mental health problem alone: it will listen, give advice and fight your corner.

MIND campaigns to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding, providing help and support directly to those who need it most. The network of around 135 local MINDs offer specialised support and care based on the needs of the communities they support. Bromley, Lewisham & Greenwich Mind is one such local organisation.

In Bromley they provide: Recovery Works for individuals recovering from mental health problems; peer support for adults with experience of mental health problems; support for mothers experiencing mental health problems whilst raising dependent children; dementia support centres in Beckenham and Orpington and respite at home, the Bromley Dementia Support Hub and Mental Health Employment Support. Bromley Well provides support when excessive stress, worry or feeling low about everyday life, housing, money or health makes life harder.

Please look at the display at the back of the church for more information or visit www.blgmind.org.uk/bromley.

Now is an exciting time to join Girlguiding as an adult with a new programme being introduced across all sections (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides). All of the Units that meet at St Mary's Church Hall are thriving and in great demand, but they could all benefit from more adult helpers (male or female) in order to keep things running. This is especially vital for Tuesday evening Guides whose present Leaders will be leaving at Christmas.



If you would like to join a team or know of someone else who may wish to volunteer their time with us please do look at the www.girlguiding.org.uk to find out more and follow the links to the volunteering pages. You could also talk to any of the present unit leaders or call 07773 986337 for an informal chat.

Adults will be well supported in their chosen roles and there are many opportunities for an adventure of your own!



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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	8460 5682
office@stmaryshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay Ministers	
Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Readers	
Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
Mr. S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	
Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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Assistant	
Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	
Mr. A. Williams	07914343495
Mrs S. Leonard	07725313432
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Mrs S. Maurel	01689 331793
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Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
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Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	
Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	
Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	
Mrs Kay Coleman	07879337567
Electoral Roll	
Mrs S. Maurel	01689 331793
Junior Church	
Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978
Stewardship	
Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178

PARISH OFFICE Tel: 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8650 4553
Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
Mrs. P. White	8460 9357	
Friends of St. Mary's		
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. Hav	07932758801

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

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. M. Bowman	07885604457
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Kateswaran	8249 0984

Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	

The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
Mission Chairman	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. M. Cooke 020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)

Cllr A. Cuthbert
(Email: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)

Residents' Association 8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood 8721 2614

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