

The death of a hero

A hero of mine died in February, he was 99 years of age, and I saw him at Wembley Stadium in the 1950s. I was a young boy in an estimated crowd of 120,000 people! He wasn't a football legend, but in his lifetime he appeared before over 200 million people. His name was Dr Billy Graham and he was a renowned preacher and evangelist.

Some while ago he made this comment: 'If one day they tell you Billy Graham is dead, don't believe a word of it... I will be more alive than ever'. This is of course at the heart of the Christian faith, the belief that death is not the end of life, but a new beginning. We believe it to be true because Jesus was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago - Billy Graham's and every Christian's hero. This is our Easter faith.

Billy Graham was also a very humble man. His son once asked him what he would like inscribed on his gravestone. His reply was just the one word 'Preacher'. He was proud to be a preacher of Good News.

I seem to remember that day long ago when he was preaching at Wembley Stadium and he repeated over and over again the words 'God loves you!' He meant everyone there, individually and personally. Now this is the best news!

I wonder what one-word inscription you would like on your gravestone? This is a difficult one, so I will close with a longer inscription that I saw on holiday some years ago. It was on a memorial to the "Ash" family:

*Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
In God alone the Ashes trust.*

A happy Easter Faith to you all.

Rev Paul Fiske

FUN WITH FRIENDS

Junior Church runs on most Sundays during the 10.30am service and offers groups for children and young people from babies right through to 18 year olds. We are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you would like to give it a try please come and join us one Sunday.

For more information, including dates, please look at the 'Children and young people' section of our church website, or contact our Junior Church Co-ordinator, Sally Aldred on 0208 460 3978 or 07741 283295.



Some members of St Mary's Junior Church gathered together on a recent Sunday morning

St Mary's comes to you

The pastoral team at St Mary's often visits members of the congregation or parish at home, or in nursing homes, hospitals and St Christopher's Hospice. We can only visit if we know you are there and would like a visit!

If you find yourself in hospital unexpectedly and need a visit please ask a family member or friend to contact us. We regularly take communion to members of the congregation who are unable to get to church, either on a temporary or a longer term basis.

The PRUH and Orpington Hospitals both have a good chaplaincy service. If you wish to see a chaplain you need to ask either a friend or the ward to contact them. They can be contacted by leaving a message at the chapel or office, by phoning the main switchboard or emailing (addresses are on the hospital websites).

Special Events and Services

Sunday 1 April - Easter Day

8.00am Easter Communion

10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection

*Including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and
the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt*

Sunday 15 April

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Smith 5 Part

Canticles: Stanford in G

*Anthem: Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence -
Bairstow*



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Geoffrey Sewell 28 Feb aged 89

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Edna Purslove 25 February

SPAN - St Mary's Parish Newsletter – aims to reflect news and topics of interest from St Mary's church, and the parish of Shortlands. If you have any ideas for articles, please let the Parish Office know.



Remembering

Elizabeth Walker

We were sorry to hear of the death of Elizabeth Walker, for many years a faithful member of St Mary's congregation. Elizabeth – or 'Wizzie' as Canon Doug Redman called her – sang in the choir and was a PCC member and a churchwarden.

She taught typing at the English Language School and briefly at Baston School and was a member of the Beckenham Chorale.

When she left St Mary's to move to Dorset, she donated the lamps which now appear on the choirstalls.

Having moved to the parish of Canford Cliffs and Sandbanks, she again sang in the choir and was a PCC member and churchwarden. She also sang in the Bournemouth Symphony Choir and was President of the Inner Wheel (Ladies Rotary) in Poole and District President. She was also a keen sea swimmer.

Married to John, she had two sons and two grandchildren.



SAY IT WITH CAKES

Oliver Wright-Jones would like to thank everyone involved in the Mothering Sunday cake sale for his World challenge expedition to Nepal in July. The total amount raised was an amazing £421.25.

Everything I needed to know about life I learned from a jigsaw puzzle

1. Don't force a fit – if something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back later (see #4).
6. The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
7. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colours and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
8. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
9. Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
10. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
11. Take time often to celebrate your successes (even little ones).
12. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.
13. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

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Celebrating God's love

A good crowd of people braved a cold evening on Sunday 25th February to come to St. Mary's. They were attending one of our informal services led by the music group, this time focusing on God's love, as February is the month when we celebrate St. Valentine.

Through a mixture of readings, poems, prayers, hymns, worship songs and candles, we reflected on God's loving kindness to us and responded with our own commitment to care for each other.

The message of the service was summed up in the verse 'A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you'

Look out for future informal services!

What is Fair Trade?

In short, fair trade is about doing things right, addressing the global imbalance of power and treating growers and artisans as equals. Fair trade stands for paying them a fair price, giving them decent access to markets by bypassing corrupt local businesses and shady government officials.

It's about fighting discrimination, looking out for child welfare and ensuring that the producers have access to safe working conditions and protecting their environment. It's about giving artisans and growers a voice and listening to that voice

By buying fairtraded goods you give the producers the dignity and justice they deserve so they can feed their families, improve their living conditions, send their children to school and above all have hope in the future.

As a Christian I find the opportunity to give this dignity and justice to my fellow human beings a very important part of living in a Christian way of life.

St Mary's Shortlands is a 'Fair Trade Church': this means whenever possible we serve fairtraded refreshments. We support fair trade fortnight: this year we had a lovely morning with the Craft and Chatter Group having a 'Big Brew' with home-made cakes, a quiz, videos of the work Traidcraft does and goods from the new spring catalogue.

We have a monthly Fair Traded goods stall at the back of the church after the 8am and 10.30am Sunday services (see the noticeboards for dates). There are also catalogues in the church porch that you can pick up any time with my details and how to make an order or you can shop at www.traidcraft.org.uk

We buy all our goods from Traidcraft plc: all their products are certified Fairtraded by The Fair Trade Foundation, an independent third party. We also support Traidcraft Exchange, the charity side of Traidcraft that does vital work lobbying governments, supporting and educating producers on improving their products and helping them gain access to markets.

Thank you for all your support over the last 12 years!

Cecilia Willatt

Mission of the month

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust

This is a life-saving charity which provides a Helicopter Emergency Service (HEMS). It operates twenty-four hours, seven days a week, responding to the needs of critically ill or injured people in the region. When necessary, the medical crews can provide emergency, specialised treatment by taking the Accident and Emergency facilities of a hospital to the scene. The patient can then be airlifted direct to hospital.

The Trust operates two helicopters, one from the Marden base in Kent during daylight hours and the other from the Redhill base in Surrey, operating a twenty-four hour service. These ensure that no-one in the region is more than twenty minutes away from its life-saving services.

In 1989 the South East Thames Air Ambulance Team became the Kent Air Ambulance and then, in 2007, it expanded to include Surrey and Sussex. The Sussex Police donated a traffic patrol vehicle in 2009 to operate as a rapid response car in the event of the helicopters being grounded. When the Trust took receipt of a new, night-capable aircraft, the Surrey and Sussex wing moved to their current base at Redhill. This was the first twenty-four hour HEMS in the UK.

As a registered charity the Trust relies almost entirely on donations. It has to raise in excess of £6.5 million per year to fund the service which, to date, has helped in over 25,500 incidents. The Trust is committed to being available to everyone living, working or travelling in its region.

More information can be found at the back of church or by contacting the charity at www.kssairambulance.org.uk

TALENT SHOW

St Mary's Church Hall

Saturday 12 May, 7 for 7.30pm

All welcome to admire the talent on show
or display their talents!

Tickets £10 for adults, £6 for under 16s -
includes fish and chip supper

If you're interested in performing, contact
Robin Hogg: 07769 976512; robin@gzcss.co.uk

On our doorstep

Have you seen what's happening at Beckenham Place Park recently?

For the first time in decades, the mansion house is open daily to the public as an arts, cultural and community centre. The building now houses artists' studios, arts and crafts classes, pilates and yoga classes and a café. There is a programme of special events throughout the year.

The park itself is also undergoing a number of improvements. Major landscaping plans have been developed, and tree felling and lake excavations have already started.

A successful bid has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project which will include rebuilding the stable block – you can keep up to date on progress and what's planned at the website of the Friends of Beckenham Place Park - www.beckenhamplaceparkfriends.org.uk. They also have a Visitor Centre in the mansion house, open from 1.30 to 3.30pm on Sunday afternoons.

For more information on what's happening and when at the mansion house, see www.beckenhamplace.org

Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is office@stmaryshortlands.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



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020 8460 5682
office@stmaryshortlands.church

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Link Parish
St. Francis of Assisi, Douai, France

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	Rev. M. Finch	8464 8065
(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
L. L. M.	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
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mr. A. Williams	07914343495
	Mrs C. Corbin	07973295134
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3365
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Electoral Roll	Mrs. M. Shaw	8460 9681
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

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

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

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07516 650940
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
Mobility Class	Mrs. Jan Boam	8460 7101

LOCAL CONTACTS

Clr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Clr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
Editorial Parish Office 8460 5682
Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 8464 0284
Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those supported by the publishers, and no responsibility can be accepted for accuracy. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for work carried out by advertisers.
ADVERTISING: £19.00 per column inch per issue. For details call 8460 5682 during office hours. Copy by the 5th of each month to SPAN, Church House, 39 Kingswood Road, Shortlands, BR2 0HG

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