

New beginnings...

How were Lent and Easter for you? Did you succeed in whatever commitment you made for the forty days of Lent, perhaps abstaining from chocolate or alcohol? Perhaps committing time to help friends and neighbours, or working with a charity? Whatever you chose to do, I pray that some time was also created to spend in quiet reflection on your life, and perhaps your relationship with God.

Whatever personal outcome that might have been achieved for you, I hope that you gained something from it, and for many people I trust that the journey into Easter and the celebration of the risen Christ on Easter Sunday, has enabled you to feel refreshed and renewed. This is what Lent and Easter provide us with... a chance of being refreshed, a time of renewal, a chance for a new beginning.

There is a popular expression, 'today is the first day of the rest of your life', and that is how we should view the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that every day is a new day, a day when we can start afresh. Whatever regrets we may have, or whatever mistakes we may have made, Jesus Christ gives us an opportunity to make a fresh start today, to experience a new beginning.

Twelve years ago I began a journey, an incredible journey for myself and my family as I allowed Christ into my life, and through my relationship with Him each day is like a new beginning, and now as I settle into life in Shortlands another new beginning is upon me as I become the Vicar of St. Mary's. I often try to find a word or words that sum up how I feel, and there is none better than 'extraordinary'.

Thinking of the film *Dead Poets Society*, the teacher John Keating (Robin Williams) encourages the boys whom he taught 'carpe diem'. Seize the day boys. Make your lives extraordinary'. Keating challenged the boys to be brave enough to be whatever was in their hearts to be, and that is the incredible power that I felt on allowing Christ into my heart, into my life...extraordinary. I felt brave enough to become a follower of Christ, and I know that He has plans for me, greater than I can imagine, and it is for me to seize the day.

As I begin my ministry here in Shortlands, could I ask each of you to 'seize the day', to look at each day afresh, and to think of the wonder that each day presents for us, each day that offers the opportunity of a new beginning?

With love and blessings,

Revd Gary Best



Special Events and Services

Sunday 19 May

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Brewer in E flat

Anthem: Blessed be the God and Father - Wesley

Thursday 30 May - Ascension Day

8.00pm Holy Communion

followed by the lighting of the Ascension Day rocket

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





Remembering

Molly Tout

Molly was born in Hendon in 1921, and attended Camden School for Girls and City of London College.

Molly's first job in June 1937 was for Wiggins Teape, paper makers in Mansell Street, London E1, where she was employed as a junior short-hand typist.

In January 1940 she started as a typist in the Office of the Superintendent of Women Clerks at the Bank of England. Promotions followed resulting in her working in the Governor's Office and later in the Chief Cashier's Office. During the war she continued to work at the Bank and was a voluntary worker for the American Red Cross in Great Britain. In April 1977 Molly took early retirement after 37 years' service.

Whilst at the Bank, Molly made many lifelong friends and also met Jack. They saw a lot of each other, went on holidays together and attended many social functions. Although they never married they went on to spend many years enjoying each other's company.

Following the death of her relatives in Hendon, Molly decided to move south of the river. After a short period renting in Oakwood Road, she bought a new flat in Maplehurst on Park Hill Road in 1974.

Molly participated in the life of the local community with great enthusiasm. She attended St Mary's, where she was a sidesman, served on various committees and helped at the Wednesday coffee mornings. She was a member of the Townswomen's Guild and the local Conservative Association.

Molly enjoyed reading, the theatre and visiting art exhibitions. Probably what she liked best was to travel. She travelled extensively throughout Europe, her favourite being Italy and Florence in particular.

Molly liked to entertain, either in her flat or in local restaurants. Her particular favourites were the Bromley Court Hotel and her London club, the Royal Over-Seas League where she was a member for many years.

As life became more difficult at home she moved to Merlewood care home in Surrey.

Molly was a very individual person and a real character who will be fondly remembered.

Jenny Linstead

Jenny was born in Liverpool and had an idyllic childhood there. She was very involved with her local church, was a keen Guider and had the distinction of becoming a Queen's Guide.

Tragically her early twenties were marred first by the death of her father from an unexpected heart attack and, not long after, her mother in a car crash in which Jenny herself was very badly injured. She was lucky to survive and often said she had been blessed with a second life.

Against the odds, she survived, recovered, walked, ran after her children, played her beloved violin again and got a degree at Birkbeck part-time, forging a career for herself as a dedicated, hard-working teacher always prepared to go the extra mile for her students.

She married David and the couple had two children: Richard and Peter to whom she was a wonderful mother understanding their different needs. She involved herself in the children's activities including Riding for the Disabled. She brought her family to St Mary's regularly and became very involved with church life.

When David retired early Jenny retired too and the couple were to have many adventurous holidays.

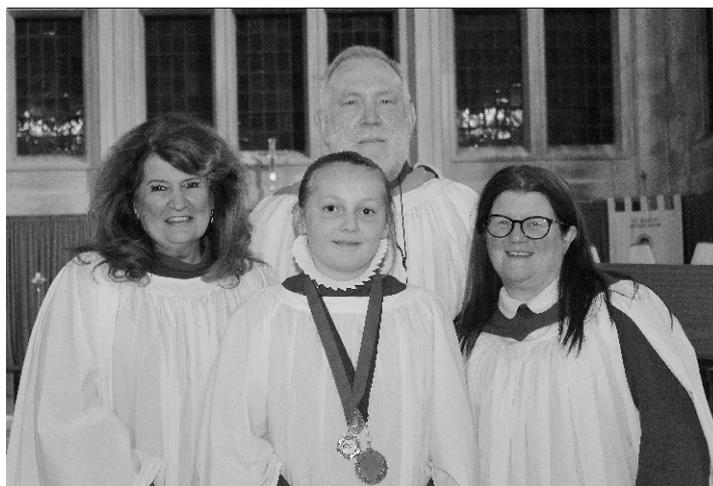
It was heartening to see the church full for Jenny's funeral with people representing many aspects of her life including very early childhood, through senior school, the university years, teaching at Langley Boys' School, Riding for the Disabled, RSPB and Foxbridge House (where she lived latterly) together with many of the regular congregation.

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Molly Tout

25 April



At the Friends' Evensong in March, Chorister of the Year was awarded to Annabelle Leonard. (PICTURED: Annabelle with Julie Fox and Robin Hogg from the Friends of St Mary's and Canon Claire Tillotson, Organist and Choirmaster)

Desert Island Discs

A series based on the Radio 4 programme featuring people from the parish with the eight tracks of music they would choose to have with them if marooned on a desert island, and why.

This month, Sarah Leonard, Churchwarden, chooses her music:

1. Dancing Queen (Abba) – happy memories of childhood, dancing with my sister to my mum's Abba collection. I love Abba to this day!
2. Sweet Caroline (Neil Diamond) - many an hour spent in the car when I was young, travelling up North to see my grandparents, singing our hearts out to this legend's music.
3. I'm Your Man (Wham) - first single that I bought... I remember feeling so grown up at the tender age of 10!
4. Take On Me (Aha) – hairbrush firmly in hand dancing around my bedroom, all the while convincing myself that one day I WOULD marry Morton Harket!
5. Reach (S Club 7) – I am almost embarrassed to admit to this one, but it still makes me happy! It was released when I was at a cross roads in my life and became my travelling anthem when I went to Oz.
6. Have I told you lately (Van Morrison) – first dance at our wedding.....not Morton Harket, but to Pete, who I love to the moon and back.
7. Hit the road Jack (Ray Charles) – I have always loved this song, but it has become a firm favourite of the Leonard family, and is featured in every car journey.
8. For the Beauty of the Earth (Rutter) – this is such an evocative piece of music, and I love it all the more when it's sung by our wonderful choir



Walk in the Wood

There is an opportunity to learn more about the history flora, and fauna of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen on Saturday May 11th at 3pm. This is the third such walk: Mike Ricketts of Shortlands Residents' Association will talk about the history, and Ishpi Blatchley about the flora and fauna.

Meet at the terrace of the Bowling Club in South Hill Wood for a 3pm start, and finish at the Club for tea and biscuits. To register attendance, or for more information, please contact Mike Ricketts on 020 8460 0395, or email info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk

Mission of the month

Christian Aid

For more than 70 years Christian Aid has been working to change the lives of people, of all faiths and none, living in poverty around the world.



This year's Christian Aid Week appeal (from 12th to 18th May, with the theme 'All mums should live') focuses on providing local health care to help mothers and babies in Sierra Leone, which is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum.

Jebbeh is now pregnant but is filled with fear about the birth. When her sister Fatmata went into labour, there were so few ambulances that she had to walk for three hours under the baking sun to the nearest hospital. Sadly both Fatmata and her child died. In Sierra Leone ten women die every day from giving birth.

Christian Aid is working through a partner agency RADA to build local clinics. In Sawula district one nurse works around the clock to help vulnerable mothers and children who need healthcare. However operations, deliveries and baby check-ups all happen in one small room, which has no electricity. Sometimes people have to be sent away and often there are not enough drugs. Children can be affected by diseases such as malaria and typhoid.

Please support Christian Aid and RADA as they seek to provide better local health care to make childbirth safe and help vulnerable children to live.

A red Christian Aid envelope will be posted through your letter-box and collected by an authorised collector during the week beginning 12th May. There will be collectors at Shortlands Station during the week, and the local Scout and Guide groups are also collecting money to support the appeal. Please give generously or donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk.

Journeying through Lent together

During Lent this year, a number of members of St Mary's congregation attended courses run by Churches Together in Beckenham, and hosted by St John's Eden Park.

On successive Tuesdays different groups used art as a way of exploring the story of Christ's temptations in the desert, reflected on the events that led Jesus to the cross through scripture and contemplation, gained an overview of the Bible and the themes that run through it, considered how to share our experiences of Jesus with others, and learned to sing Stainer's Crucifixion.

Pam Owen, the minister at Penge Congregational Church who led the worship one week, said that the Lent courses are all about our being Christians first and foremost, learning and sharing together with no denominations.

In the art course, imaginative ideas were shared on the theme of what is faced in the desert wilderness, informed by readings from the Bible. A final presentation of artwork included paintings, floral construction and a collection of found objects.

In the course, 'Talking Jesus', participants were encouraged to share their experience of the love of Jesus in their own lives with others such as family and friends. Can each of us be that person who invites someone else to find out more? We can trust that the Holy Spirit will give us the right words to say. Statistics suggest that one in five non-Christians are interested to find out more about Christianity; if we pray for five people and look for opportunities to speak, one of these might begin to explore Christianity.

On the last week of the course, all the groups shared with each other something of what they'd learned and explored over the previous weeks.

Susie Shelton said: 'I find the Lent courses immensely uplifting and encouraging, as they offer the chance to meet with Christians from many denominations. There is so much we can learn from each other'.

100 not out!

St Mary's hundredth Annual Parochial Church meeting took place in April, attended by over 60 people.

Catherine Bingham, Licensed Lay Minister, began with a prayer for unity, hope and vision. She reflected that it had been 'quite a year', during which the church had been without a vicar. The church was now delighted to welcome Revd. Gary Best.

She thanked all those who had worked hard so that St Mary's remained 'open for business'. People had pulled together, united by faith in God. There was now anticipation and excitement as a new chapter begins.

Mark Fox thanked Catherine and Sally Aldred who had made an enormous contribution, leading the church's spiritual development in 2018.

Robin Hogg, Assistant Treasurer, reported that while the accounts showed increased income, this was due to donations for heating repairs and a legacy: normal income had decreased. The legacy had been added to the buildings repairs and maintenance fund. Overall the church had made a loss of £16,000 in 2018. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will discuss with Revd. Best how to move the church to a more sustainable financial footing for the future.

Adolph Williams and Sarah Leonard were re-elected as churchwardens; Lynsey Grover, David Jefferys, Debbie Speller, and Tony Wright-Jones were elected to the PCC.

Kay Coleman, the safeguarding officer, explained her role: ensuring that all appropriate people have the necessary checks and training so that vulnerable people are protected from harm.

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks this month for gifts amounting to £10.00



Parish Picnic & Barbecue Everyone Welcome!

Sunday, 30 June
in the church grounds
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10.30am Family and Parade Service

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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	Revd Gary Best	8460 5682
	<i>Clergy day off - Monday</i>	
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
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mr. A. Williams	07914343495
	Mrs S. Leonard	07725313432
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Mrs S. Maurel	01689 331793
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	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

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. Hay	07932758801

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

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Blake	07773986337
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Wed.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Mon.)	Ms. E. Bingham	07947347068
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
Pre-School	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704
		or 07960 988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
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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)	
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Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

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