

A sign of hope ...

After a wonderful service on 27th April I have had some time to reflect on all that had gone on, and WOW! what a service, and what a night. People were gathered together in St. Mary's for a wonderful service and then a bring-and-share buffet in the hall or, in my world, a bring-and-share banquet. And it is this idea of sharing, of welcoming, that got me thinking and reflecting upon hospitality.

It is easy to suggest that hospitality is just about food and drink, but it goes far beyond this. The Collins English Dictionary defines hospitality as 'kindness in welcoming strangers or guests', which suggests more than just providing food and drink... it is about the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors or strangers.

On the evening of the 27th, I witnessed a hospitality that I have not experienced too often in my life. It wasn't just about the food, there was a real welcome of the 'stranger'. Quite clearly, St. Mary's is a place of welcome. It is a place where a warm smile greets you as you arrive. There is a genuine welcome and a real sense of family as you enter the church or one of the many buildings around it...the same greeting awaits all people.

Collated, installed, inducted!

The church was packed on 27 April as over 300 people witnessed Revd Gary Best being made Vicar of St Mary, Shortlands.

Revd Best was 'collated' to ministry at St Mary's – the term used because the Bishop of Rochester, The Right Reverend James Langstaff, is the Patron of the parish. 'Induction and installation' by the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, The Venerable Dr Paul Wright, then followed, as Revd Gary was commissioned for his new ministry.

In his sermon, Bishop James spoke about Christ's commission to his disciples to 'Go...' We are called – and we are sent out, looking beyond our church buildings and activities as well as focusing within them. As God works through us in our community, we also seek God's presence through prayer.

At the end of the service Revd Gary stood alongside those who will share with him in ministry and leadership of the church, as they pledged to support him in service and worship.

PICTURED: Rt Rev James Langstaff and Revd. Gary Best.



Hospitality benefits both the guest and the host, and it is the process of hospitality that creates change in both the host and the guest, as it is mutually beneficial and covers spiritual and emotional needs as well as practical.

Hospitality is an antidote to loneliness and helps form community, where all are welcomed irrespective of age, gender, social class or ethnicity. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, living a servant leadership, welcoming the other and not seeking status. This formation of a hospitable community to which all are welcome is truly biblical.

Such communities are also signs of hope that love is possible in this world, and that is my prayer for the community here in Shortlands, and for St. Mary's, that we have shown and will continue to show that we are a church of hospitality.

With love and blessings,

Revd. Gary Best

Special Events and Services

Sunday 9 June - Pentecost

10.30am Family Eucharist

Sunday 16 June

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Smith 5 Part

Canticles: Harwood in A flat

Anthem: Greater Love - Ireland

Sunday 30 June

10.30am Family and Parade Service

Followed by the Parish Picnic



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

5 May Ciara Mowat

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Gloria Carpenter 20 May



Licensed!

It was a great privilege to be licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister at Rochester Cathedral on 18th May supported by family and friends from St. Mary's.

I have been studying for three years at St. Benedict's Centre, West Malling. The course covered understanding the history of the Church, its beliefs, mission and ministry. I completed assignments for each of the twelve modules on such subjects as Pastoral Discipleship, Interfaith Engagement, Leading Public Worship, Chaplaincy, Bible and Belief, Theology of Public Life and Christian Ethics.

The course has been fascinating, giving me the opportunity to try out practical things discovering things I knew nothing about, but more importantly developing my own spiritual life through prayer, Bible study and reflection enabling me to strengthen my relationship with Jesus.

I have met a range of people with different vocations within the Church which has been a humbling experience. Each encounter has helped me to discern what I will be doing within St. Mary's and the Diocese.

I am very much looking forward to leading services, preaching and getting involved in the wider Shortlands community, as well as getting more involved in pilgrimage. I look forward to welcoming you to St. Mary's, or meeting you around Shortlands, helping you to discover what belief in the risen Jesus is all about.

Ann-Marie Jefferys



A Maltese pilgrimage

Ten members of St Mary's congregation joined Revd Bruce Driver and members of the Franciscan Third Order on a pilgrimage to Malta. We joined together in celebrating the Eucharist three times; once was in St John's Cathedral in Valetta where we saw Caravaggio's masterpiece 'The Beheading of John the Baptist'.

We learnt about St Paul introducing Christianity to the island, the history of Malta including the religious and architectural influences of the Knights of St John and why Malta was awarded the George Cross during World War II.

We also enjoyed a day-trip to Gozo, one of the Maltese islands, where we visited the church at Ta' Pinu, an important centre of pilgrimage.

Pat Chase

PICTURED: Three members of the group at Ta' Pinu church, Gozo



The St. Mary's Music Group will be leading one of our popular services of informal worship in the church at 6.30pm on Sunday 7th July. The theme will be New Creation. All are very welcome.

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, Zoe Frankis, the Deputy Headteacher of Highfield Infants' School, chooses her music:

1. Baker Street (Gerry Rafferty) - This takes me back to my first discos, dancing around the handbags and I think my first slow dance!
2. Do it Again (Steely Dan) - A song from my first big concert at Wembley. I have lots of favourites, but this song was my introduction to the band.
3. New York (Alicia Keys) - I just think this is a great song, sung with such energy. I also like to hear the piano accompaniment; an instrument not heard a lot these days.
4. Guilty (Barbara Streisand and Barry Gibb) - This takes me romantically back to when I first met my husband: it later became our song.
5. Nessun Dorma (Russell Watson) - I never tire of hearing this opera classic.
6. What a wonderful world (Louis Armstrong) - This song was played at my beloved Dad's funeral (his choice) and reminds me of how much he embraced and cherished life. A value he installed in all the family. Thanks Dad.
7. Slow (Rumer) - Just a lovely, soothing song.
8. Starstruck (Robbie Williams) - Robbie has been part of the popular music scene for much of my adult life and so I have heard many of his songs. This song I particularly like, partly because of the vocals in the introduction.

These are just some of my favourite songs that either bring back fond memories, mark key points in my life, or that I just enjoy listening to. I look forward to finding more in the future.

Here, there and everywhere

What amazing talent we have at St Mary's!

In May the Friends of St Mary's presented 'entertainments played, spoken and sung'. These ranged from young people singing and playing instruments to a Shakespearean monologue, Gilbert and Sullivan and comedy readings.



The audience enjoyed moving around the various church rooms to see these (helped along the way with refreshments), finishing with a rousing 'sing-song' in church.

Mission of the month

Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation

The Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR) is a national non-profit non-governmental organisation that is nationally recognised for the accessible and affordable specialized services it offers to the Palestinian population regardless of gender, age, religion or social class, particularly those people with disabilities.

BASR's programmes encompass diagnostic and treatment services, surgical intervention, rehabilitation, community day care centres, and outreach programmes. Its overall goal is to improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population, especially children. This is achieved through the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme. Last year St Mary's parish pilgrimage visited BASR.

Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability (ABCD) was set up more than thirty years ago to try and help disabled children and young adults in the area. In 2014 ABCD started supporting the rehabilitation centres of Nour Shams and Jalazone refugee camps. In recent years, under the expert guidance of St Mary's Claire Tillotson (who is a Trustee), ABCD has supported the provision of Music Therapy at BASR. Today ABCD supports the CBR outreach services. The Sheepfold provides day care for the most vulnerable disabled children and young adults.

Further information can be found on the Mission beyond the Parish notice board at the back of church, and also on www.basr.org and www.abcdbethlehem.org.



On our doorstep

Are you watching the improvements which are taking place at Beckenham Place Park?

Following a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, work is well under way to rebuild the stable block next to the mansion house, which will become a café and education centre. The gardens around the stable block will also be regenerated.

A new lake and a play area are being created, and new pathways are planned. If you haven't been recently, do go and take a look – it's changing all the time.

The mansion house continues to offer a range of arts, crafts, yoga and pilates classes, and there's a market on the third Sunday of the month.

To see the programme of events for the mansion house, visit beckenhamplace.org

For more information about the park, see beckenhamplaceparkfriends.org.uk and beckenhamplacepark.co.uk. They also have a Visitor Centre in the mansion house, open from 1.30 to 3.30pm on Sunday afternoons.

There is however limited parking on site now that the car park beside the mansion house has closed, to restore the setting of the Georgian house and its carriageway. The new car park will open once the works in the park are complete later this year. In the meantime, you are encouraged to use public transport, walk or cycle to the park!

Parish Picnic & Barbecue

Everyone Welcome!

Sunday, 30 June

in the church grounds
following the

10.30am Family and Parade Service

A great day for all the family!

Bring your own picnic,

or buy barbecue food and support the Guides
fundraising for international trips

They will also be selling soft drinks and ice creams

Donation bar run by Friends of St Mary's
Bouncy castle, games, crafts and competitions

In the church hall if wet

Unis en Jésus Christ

Bright and early on the Saturday of May Day bank holiday weekend, 23 parishioners from St Mary's boarded the coach for Douai. New vicar Revd Gary, who was unable to accompany us since he had only taken up his post the week before, kindly came to send us on our way with a prayer.

We travelled via the Shuttle, and on arrival in Douai had a picnic lunch with our French friends before visiting Musée de la Chartreuse. The museum is housed in a former Carthusian monastery which has been beautifully refurbished, and contains countless art treasures: paintings and sculptures. We also enjoyed the special expo on Douai's breweries, with a beer tasting at the end of our tour.

The evening meal was provided by home hospitality families in groups, giving the opportunity to practise one's French, and for the French to try out their English. It is amazing how one's fluency improves after a second glass of wine!

On Sunday morning we celebrated mass together, with prayers in both French and English, upholding the motto of the Jumelage and showing that we are indeed United in Christ / Unis en Jésus Christ. After the traditional photo call on the steps of Sainte Thérèse church, we were treated to a delicious buffet lunch, and all too soon it was time to say 'Au revoir' to our French friends. When they come over to us next year, it will mark the 25th year of our Twinning / Jumelage, and a great cause for celebration.

Gill Dawson



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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 Tuesday

- 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 0262
(day off - Monday) Vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
Readers	
Mr P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
Mr S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Mrs S. Harrison	8464 0284
Mrs M. Westropp	8650 5178

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Ms N. Blake 8460 5682

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Mrs E. Parker 8460 5682

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Mr S. Clark 8464 0696

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Prof M. Fox 8650 3252

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Mr R. Hogg 8290 0613

Organist and Director of Music

Canon C. Tillotson 8460 7368

Assistant Organist

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Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Kay Coleman 07879337567

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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

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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 (Mon.) Miss K. Higgs 8462 3285

Brownies (Wed.) 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

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LOCAL CONTACTS

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(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)

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Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood 8721 2614

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