

Send me!

July sees many of our young people in Shortlands contemplating their future. They have finished school and exams which will determine future school, university, and work places. They will be thinking about their skills, what they find interesting, and what their inner self, or gut feeling, is calling them to pursue.

At St. Mary's we are very fortunate to have a strong Ministry Team of people who felt called to work in different areas of life within the church and the Shortlands community. We are blessed with people who use their God-given gifts to support the church whether through floristry, administrative, gardening, cleaning, music, teaching or catering skills, to name but a few. None of us are special; we are all ordinary people who, over the years, have listened and answered the call from God.

Discerning what God wants us to do with our lives isn't easy. Christians have answered Jesus' call to follow Him, just as the disciples did two thousand years ago.

It has taken me nearly sixty years to discern God's direction for me. I became a committed Christian as a teenager, when I 'promised to serve you to the end', as the hymn goes.

I have faithfully done so through the ups and downs of life by listening, finding out, questioning, praying, studying and answering when the call came. When Jesus said 'Whom shall I send?' I responded, just like Isaiah did: 'Here I am, send me!' (Isaiah 6:8). I didn't know where or for what purpose, but I was led to training as a Licensed Lay Minister. As such, I am really looking forward to serving Jesus at St. Mary's and the people of Shortlands.

What about you? Are you listening to God's call? Do you want to explore what following Jesus is about, or what's going on at St. Mary's? For some of you, it will be offering to help out with something using your God-given talents, for others it will be taking the first step through the door of St. Mary's on a Sunday morning or to one of our social events.

Whatever direction you take, I pray that God will work within the community of Shortlands, and at St. Mary's, calling many to His service.

Ann-Marie Jefferys

Special Events and Services

Sunday 7 July

6.30pm New Creations

An informal service led by the Music Group

Sunday 14 July

4.00pm Organ recital - Murray Forbes Somerville

Sunday 21 July

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Stanford in Bflat

Anthem: O thou the Central Orb - Wood



Murray Forbes Somerville will give an organ recital at St Mary's church on Sunday 14 July: more information on page 3.

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





From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

26 May Thomas Anderson



At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

David Loades 14 June

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Jenny Linstead 14 June

Remembering

Gloria Carpenter

Gloria was born in Eltham. When war broke out, she and her sister Honour moved to live with her grandmother in Llanarth, and later they were joined by their youngest sister Gay.

After the war the girls returned home to Chislehurst. Gloria joined the local school only speaking Welsh, and it took her some time to settle in and catch up with her classmates.

In her early twenties, she found herself a job with a milliner's company in London matching colours and searching out colour swatches to go with the hats. This gave her new independence, which allowed her and Honour to rent a flat together in London.

Gloria met Robert at a Conservative club meeting: they married in 1967 and moved into their first home in Hayes Way. They joined St Mary's congregation and James and Caroline were both baptised at the church.

By the 1990s they were taking a more active role in church life. Robert served as churchwarden, and Gloria was the enrolling member of the Mothers Union (MU), sat on the Parochial Church Council and the Pre School Committee, read lessons and was on the coffee rota. She was a faithful member of St Mary's: the church and the support it brought meant a great deal to her. She donated the MU banner which remains in church.

When Robert died in 2002, Gloria received great support from her two sisters: she managed to pick herself up and carry on.

She enjoyed holidays with her daughter and with her sisters, and joined St Mary's pilgrimages to Krakow in Oct 2012 and Turkey in Oct 2014. As Grandma to Hannah and Thea, she was always thrilled to hear about what they were up to.

She fundraised for Imperial Cancer (now Cancer Research UK) for many years and helped with Meals on Wheels.

Gloria loved the theatre, especially musicals. She very much enjoyed watching sports, including cricket, football and snooker. The Wednesday bridge group was a very important part of her week. Gloria's love to chat, her kindness and her generosity were features of her life.

Bobbie Rogers

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bobbie Rogers, who was a regular member of St Mary's congregation for many years, helping with coffee and belonging to the 2WWs.

On leaving school she worked for Boots in an administrative role. She met and married Edward Leslie Perkins but tragically the war intervened and Edward, an RAF Pathfinder Flight Lieutenant, was killed in action; he sadly only saw his then three month old daughter once.

Bobbie's life brought her to make her home in Mayfield Cottage across the road from St Mary's where she worshipped.

In later years she was sadly widowed again. She developed a firm friendship with Canon Doug Redman the then vicar of St Mary's and his wife Valerie. Bobbie never lost her strong resolve and sense of fun. She was very proud of her daughter Judith and her three grandchildren.

She was approaching her 100th birthday at the time of her death, having moved to Eastbourne in recent years.

My day job

Stephane and I joined St Mary's almost ten years ago with Lloyd toddling about and Elliott in nappies. Although I grew up in the borough, university and work took me around England and over the channel to France. The family moved back to Shortlands when Stephane and I decided to come back to the UK and settle here with the boys, thinking about schools especially.

We had a tiny flat around the corner from our church, but soon realised we needed to move to somewhere bigger and are now living in Petts Wood. Stephane and I had both been brought up in the Catholic church; however, after exploring local churches, we settled on St Mary's because of the huge welcome made by the congregation and Canon Paul Miller.

In my day job I am CEO of a youth development and volunteering charity which works to develop confidence and resilience in anyone, but especially young people, by organising international volunteering. I am especially keen to champion the rights of women and girls, and am a mentor with a couple of charities focused on helping girls from deprived backgrounds and a trustee for the National Childbirth Trust.

I am involved in junior church and first Lloyd and then Elliott joined the choir; last year I wanted to get more involved and was elected to be Parochial Church Council Secretary.

Stephanie Maurel



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, Marian Parr chooses her music:

1. Fly me to the moon (Frank Sinatra) - For Norman. Our grandchildren have a wonderful picture of grandpa with his two good friends. They were our own 'Last of the Summer Wine' rearranging the stars.
2. Love is like a butterfly (Dolly Parton) - For Norman again and the memories of his happy eventful days spent as a volunteer at the Natural History Museum.
3. There's a small hotel (Ella Fitzgerald) - I found it most difficult to choose a favourite song, for I just enjoy listening to her voice and recalling the time I saw her perform at Ronnie Scott's.
4. Romeo and Juliet overture (Tchaikovsky).
5. West Side Story (Leonard Bernstein) - For memories of the days of my youth exploring and discovering London, its history, galleries, museums and queueing for a seat in the gods.
6. She loves you (The Beatles) - Three small children singing lustily in the garden with make-believe guitars.
7. For the beauty of the earth (John Rutter setting).
8. The Lord bless you and keep you (John Rutter setting).

My choice of music has been made for the memories they evoke. I enjoy music in many of its forms and these days listening to our choir and singing hymns is an important part of that pleasure.



Mission of the month

Friends of Griffins



The Griffins Centre in Orpington is the base for the Sensory Support Service for children in the London Borough of Bromley who are born with a visual and/or hearing loss. The children may eventually attend mainstream schools and be supported there by visiting specialist teachers or they may attend the specialist Hearing Bases, partnered with Darrick Wood schools. Children also attend classes at the centre and are given the educational programme suited to their needs.

Friends of Griffins is a small charity, run by volunteers. It raises funds to provide equipment and activities which are designed by staff to limit isolation and enhance the education and life skills of the children. The charity has purchased equipment such as spectrum light columns and an LED carpet for the specialist sensory room centre. These items are used by teachers to stimulate and educate babies and children who are born with visual impairment.

It also purchased (thanks to St Mary's Mobility class) a playmobil hospital set for the Primary Deaf Base. The children often have medical issues or go into hospital for cochlear implants, and this toy will be so beneficial in helping them understand about their journey and learn sign language relating to it.

Many activities for the children are funded by the charity, such as an annual trip to a performance (captioned for deaf children) of the Christmas Pantomime at the Churchill Theatre and a residential trip to the Scout association camp at Downe.

The charity provides this and much more. There will be more information in the church throughout July for anyone interested to know more. Further details if you search for 'Friends of Griffins' on Facebook or email fogriffins@outlook.com.

A homecoming recital

Murray Forbes Somerville, an organist and conductor in cathedrals and concert halls on three continents, will give an organ recital at St Mary's church on Sunday 14 July at 4pm. The programme will include works by Bach and Widor and the Stars and Stripes.

Murray began his musical career here at St. Mary' when, as a seven-year old from St Mary's Avenue, he was recruited to sing at the dedication of the new church. He was soon thrilled by the sounds of the present pipe organ, installed shortly thereafter.

Murray studied for three years as Organ Scholar of New College, Oxford, and then at the School of Sacred Music of Union Theological Seminary in New York.

There followed a variety of church positions, culminating in his serving as Cathedral Musician of St. Luke's Cathedral in Orlando, Florida, followed by thirteen years as Organist and Choirmaster at Harvard (America's oldest University) in Boston, Massachusetts.

As conductor of the Bach Festival Choir, he regularly led the Florida Symphony Orchestra, and concluded his tenure with a tour of the UK, including a concert with the London Bach Choir and Bournemouth Symphony, sharing the podium with Sir David Willcocks at the Royal Albert Hall.

Murray has presented organ recitals at Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral and many other English cathedrals, as well as on historic organs in Germany and in venues across the US; his many organ and choral CDs have received enthusiastic critical acclaim.

Tickets (£10 to include refreshments) will be available on the door and on sale from mid June after the 10.30am service.

Singalong at Durham House

St. Mary's has a small group of people who organise, under the direction of the vicar, short services of worship each Wednesday morning for the Durham House residents. This includes a monthly communion service. These services are supported by a group of voluntary pianists to accompany the hymn singing.

From this well-established routine has sprung the idea of a singalong to enable St. Mary's to engage with all the Durham House residents, not just those who attend the services.

Following on from last November's successful singalong, the Durham House team made a return visit in May. They raised the roof with various songs from stage, screen and popular music from the 20th century, ably accompanied on the piano by Derek Chadwick, one of the regular Wednesday morning service pianists.

The residents enthusiastically joined in the raucous renditions of songs such as Seven Little Girls, Summer Holiday and Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini! (The singers drew the line at modelling that one!) There was a lot of foot-tapping and even a boogie with a zimmer frame. After the varied programme of songs, copious amounts of tea, cake and conversation rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The day was tinged with a little sadness as one of the long-term residents, June Barnett (a former St. Mary's choir member), was moving out of the parish. She was, however, able to hear and singalong from her bed and so feel part of the fun. We will maintain contact with June after her move to Upper Norwood.

Jan Boam

Garden Party

Drop by Shortlands Library on Monday 22 July between 2:30 and 4pm for the annual charity garden party, featuring garden games, a book/ CD/ DVD sale, a children's treasure hunt, and plenty of tea and cake.

Whether you're a regular library user or a newcomer, all ages and families are welcome.

This year's proceeds will be donated to Cancer Research UK.

Christian Aid Week 2019 'All mums should live'

A big thank-you to all who responded so generously to this year's Christian Aid Week appeal in May. The amount raised from the house to house collection and at St Mary's was £2,440 with a further £120 from the circle of coins collected by the children. Thanks to everyone who helped with the station and street collections and to the scout and guide groups, junior church, toddler group and pre-school for their 'Pennies from Heaven'. Our donations will help save and improve the lives of people like Jebbeh and her baby in Sierra Leone, which is the world's most dangerous place to give birth.



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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.

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(day off - Monday) Vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

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Mrs C. Bingham 8460 0324
Mrs A-M. Jefferys 8460 6030

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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 (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

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

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