

## Shining the light into our community

As we move into October I find myself asking the same question as in previous years: is it right for the Vicar's children to be dressing up and acknowledging Halloween, a time when children (and many adults) dress up as 'ghouls and ghosties' giving an acknowledgement to the darker side of life? I have to be honest and say that I am a little uncomfortable with it, but they are children and, as a child, I took part in Halloween events, where no harm came to anyone. There was no conversion to some dark cult-like group, it was just kids having fun and a way to gain lots of sweets!

Halloween takes place the day before the Christian tradition of All Saints' Day, a day when we acknowledge the saints and martyrs who have given their lives to the advancement of Christianity throughout the world, a day that has its roots as far back as the 2nd Century.

The word 'hallow' (yes, the same as in the Lord's Prayer) has its root in 'holy' and 'een' is a contraction of 'evening', the evening before we celebrate the saints. The chosen date of November 1st for All Saints' Day comes the day after the pagan festival of Samhain. This was a festival which signalled the start of the Celtic winter, and an evening where Celts believed the souls of the dead would return to mingle with the living. In order to scare away these evil spirits people would wear masks and light bonfires.

Over the years, whilst this tradition diminished, the evening was still acknowledged as All Hallows' Eve or All Saints' Eve or, as the secular world knows it today, Halloween.

Today Halloween remains more out of fun than any tie to paganism. It is a thriving commercial business and a time which seems to be growing in popularity with many more children and adults taking part in parties and family gatherings.



### Special Events and Services

#### Sunday 13 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 the Parish Office*

#### Sunday 20 October

##### 6.30pm Choral Evensong

*Responses: Smith 5 part  
Canticles: Noble  
Anthem: Thou visitest the earth - Greene*

#### Sunday 3 November

##### 4.00pm Memorial Service

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

Many Christians acknowledge Halloween through the holding of light parties, sharing the goodness of light that exists in our world. Perhaps you could consider acknowledging the light of Christ that does shine brightly in our world, acknowledging the saints that have lived before us, and perhaps carving a pumpkin with a heart shining the light into our community.

Love and Blessings,

**Revd Gary Best**

### Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is [office@stmarysshortlands.church](mailto: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](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)





## From the Registers

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Kathleen Fellowes	24 July
Bill Shepherd	6 August
Anne Hart	2 September



## Remembering

### Clare Townshend

We were sorry to hear of the death of Clare Townshend. Clare and her husband David moved to Cheshire to be near their daughter due to ill health in 2014, but they were faithful members of St Mary's congregation for many years before that.

Clare lived on a farm in Wales as a child. She trained as a physiotherapist, and she and David married in 1954. Clare returned to work after 30 years of bringing up her four children.

As David was an engineer in the army they moved house many times: Claire always managed this very well. She was a very good cook and her children remember always coming home from school to tea and a home-made cake.

David was very active in the life of St Mary's, including becoming churchwarden.

When they moved to Cheshire sadly she had to be cared for in a care home near the family home: she soon became a much loved resident, known for her care for all of the carers.

### Bill Shepherd

Francis William Barker Shepherd (known as Bill) was born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire in 1925. His family were Primitive Methodists, his names were those of both grandfathers.

Bill married Meg at Preston Parish Church in 1949. Prior to this Bill had served with the R.A.F. as Air Crew during the Second World War. Meg believed that mumps had saved his life, because he was still in training when the War ended. Concerned about his parents' finances, he left Cambridge University to work for the United Africa Company from 1947.

Three children followed – Jonathan, Katie and Peter. Bill was always concerned that they be provided for, working long hours in West Africa and subsequently in the UK. The company recommended Shortlands because of the transport links, and so it was that the family moved to St Mary's Avenue, and became members of St Mary's church.

Bill was a member of St Mary's church for more than 40 years, giving long and conscientious service, including serving as churchwarden, Parochial Church Council and Deanery Synod member, sidesman and Sanctuary Assistant.

Even after Meg sadly died in 2015 and Bill moved to be with Katie's family because of increasing age and disability, he still kept in touch with news from St Mary's.

Bill had a long innings, but is still much missed.



### CONGRATULATIONS!

St Mary's enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate Colin Walklin's 90th birthday with him in August. Colin has been a member of St Mary's choir for over 50 of those 90 years!

## The Friends of St Mary's

invite you to a

### RACE NIGHT

in the Church Hall

**Saturday 16 November  
7.30pm**

Tickets £10 each  
(inc Fish and Chip supper)  
£35 for a family of 4 -  
available after 10.30am  
services in October or  
from the Parish Office

## St Mary's Pre-School

I have been part of St Mary's for 22 years now as my own three children attended the Pre-School. When my youngest left to go on to primary school 15 years ago, I stayed and started working as a Pre-School assistant. I moved up to the position of Deputy in 2017 and then Leader last January.



Since January the pre-school has been on two trips, one to Crystal Palace farm and the other on a train to Kent House where we walked to Cator Park. We also walked around the neighbourhood looking at Spring flowers and sang in Church at the Mothering Sunday service. We have had a movie afternoon and enjoyed many visitors in to the pre-school including a yoga teacher, a French teacher, a firefighter, Totally Tennis, ZooLab and many of the children's pets.

It is a challenging job to say the least but I am very much enjoying it. I love coming in to work every day and am passionate about the learning experiences that the children enjoy each morning. I aim to make each activity exciting and fun as children learn most when they are engaged and thinking. The staff and I are all dedicated to creating a safe, stimulating and happy environment that inspires and encourages every child's individuality to blossom and grow, enabling them to become happy, inquisitive and confident children.

*Christine Hall*

## 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, Mark Dempsey, Chairman of the Shortlands Residents Association, chooses his music:



It's extremely difficult to get the list down to just eight tunes, but here goes...

1. Theme from a Summer Place (Percy Faith orchestra) - a big instrumental hit in 1960, well known - if a bit naff! My daughter Hannah performed an amazing solo dance to this dressed in a 1920s swimming outfit. I can't help smiling when I hear it.
2. I Only Have Eyes for You (Art Garfunkel) - first dance at our wedding and still true.
3. Statesboro Blues (Taj Mahal) - I'm a big blues fan. Written by Blind Willie McTell in 1928, this version came out when I was listening to a lot of music with school friends.
4. My Old School (Steely Dan) - this came out when I was at University: one of my all time favourite bands.
5. Adagio from the 5th Symphony (Mahler) - I first heard this as part of the soundtrack to the film Death in Venice. I find it incredibly sad and poignant.
6. Forever Young (Bob Dylan or Norah Jones) - I could have filled this list with just Bob Dylan songs. Norah Jones sings it better than Dylan. This is almost a prayer for our children and loved ones - 'May God bless and keep you always, may your wishes all come true...'
7. Gimme Shelter (Rolling Stones) - Vietnam, riots in Paris, the anti-war movement in the USA and here ... and this!
8. Nimrod from the Enigma Variations (Elgar) - a bit like the Mahler, but conjures up pictures of England at its best.

# Mission of the month

## Open Doors

Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches in more than 60 countries throughout the world. In 1955 a young Dutchman went to Warsaw and discovered the existence of a persecuted church. He became known as Brother Andrew, and from 1955 to 1967 he travelled throughout Eastern Europe delivering scriptures and encouraging persecuted believers. In the following decades the vision of Open Doors grew to encompass persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Supporting churches means more than delivering bibles. Open Doors developed a global training programme for persecuted church pastors. Known as Standing Strong through the Storm, this was first published in 2001 and is still in use today. At the same time, Open Doors' socio-economic development programmes help Christians in other ways through literacy projects, emergency relief aid, livelihood support and community development projects for hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world.

In the 1990s Open Doors began developing its advocacy work. Since then speaking to the powerful on behalf of the powerless has become a core part of its work.

Imagine being arrested for possessing a Bible, or arriving for a service to find that the government has closed your church, or finding yourself in prison because you talked to someone about Jesus. This is the reality for many Christians around the world. Open Doors asks us all to help keep their hope alive: through prayer, through giving, and through speaking up on behalf of those being persecuted.

'God may ask you to become part of the answer to your prayers. If that happens, rejoice, for then you will be participating in the greatest adventure imaginable' (Brother Andrew, Founder of Open Doors).

For more information see the board at the back of church or [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)

## UK Anti-Slavery Day

Even though most people think that slavery only exists overseas, modern slavery in the UK is thriving. The British Government estimates that tens of thousands of people are in modern slavery in the UK today.

Most commonly people are trafficked into forced labour in industries such as agriculture, construction, hospitality, manufacturing and car washes. Many women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Many people, again mostly women and girls, also end up in domestic slavery. Others, particularly children, are forced into crime such as cannabis production, petty theft or begging.

William Wilberforce introduced his first bill to outlaw the transatlantic slave trade in 1789. The ideologies which supported the slave trade remain with us in the forms of the casual abuse and rapacious ownership of human beings across the world.

At St Mary's we will mark this day at our 10.30am communion service on Wednesday 16th October. Join us then to learn more or contact our Safeguarding Officer on 07879 337567.



A photo from the recent wedding of Sarah Clark and Michael Quinn, which took place at St. Mary's on 31st August. With the church full and with the sun shining, it was a wonderful occasion for all that attended. We send Sarah and Michael best wishes as they begin their married life together.

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

## Poppy Collector Volunteer?

The Rotary Club of Beckenham has organised the Poppy Collection in Beckenham on behalf of the Royal British Legion since 2014, having increasingly assisted since 2004. In that time the collection has increased tenfold and last year was a record at over £37,000.

Collection tins and poppies are distributed to over 200 premises, with the main individual collections at supermarkets, railway stations and Beckenham High Street.

This year the collections are planned to take place between Saturday 26th October and Monday 11th November.

Individual collectors usually agree to a two hour period, but shorter times can be arranged and all support is greatly valued and appreciated.

If you would like to help, or would like to find out more, please contact Bill Fairhall at [bill@curiousferret.com](mailto:bill@curiousferret.com), or telephone 020 8460 6718.



## Useful contacts

To report a crime:

In case of emergency call 999

In case of non-emergency call 101

To report online: <http://www.met.police.uk>

For Shortlands Ward local police team, call 020 8271 2614 or email [Shortlands.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:Shortlands.SNT@met.police.uk)

See also [www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk/police-update.html](http://www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk/police-update.html)

## Confirmation 2019

If anyone from the age of 13 who has been baptised is interested in being confirmed, please contact Revd. Gary for an initial conversation. This year's Deanery Confirmation Service will take place on Wednesday 30th October at St. George's Church, Beckenham, at 7.30pm.

Revd. Gary will hold a series of Confirmation Classes after Sunday services, at 12.30pm for one hour (refreshments will be provided).

The classes will be held on: September 15, 22, 29; October 20, 27. Contact: [vicar@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto:vicar@stmaryshortlands.church); 07493 072695.



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- 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
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
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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 J. Eade	3624 0559
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**

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

**SPAN INFORMATION**

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