

## Loving our neighbour

A couple of weeks ago I was fortunate to have some outdoor lighting put in place to help me see my way to the church in the evening: a very short distance, but one that in the dark is quite tricky to navigate. The need for the light made me realise that we are well and truly into autumn and winter will soon be upon us. A time when the darker evenings affect people far more seriously than me just needing some extra light to navigate some steps! A time when we start to think about the vulnerable in our society, not just those living on the streets, but also those who live alone in their own home.

Loneliness and isolation for many people is a very real situation and perhaps it is for many within Shortlands. We should all be reminded of St Paul's words: 'you shall love your neighbour as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law' (Romans 13:10).

Most of us would not consciously let ourselves go hungry, or not clothe ourselves properly. We will do the best we can to ensure we have a roof over our head and not let ourselves be cheated or wronged in any way. This is self-love.

Paul is not saying it is wrong, but that we should in turn extend that love to others, our neighbours. We must ensure that others are taken care of in the same way that we take care of ourselves: fed, clothed and housed as well as they can be. Loving others as ourselves means actively working to see that others' needs are met and caring about social justice for all.

At St Mary's we aim to look out for others: people work as part of a pastoral team undertaking home visits and helping others wherever we can. There are many individuals who care for others in the community: people who volunteer at night shelters and people actively involved in the local Foodbank.

Can I ask that each of us look out for our neighbours, those we know and those we don't know? Let us not be afraid to speak to the 'stranger' we see every day to ensure that they are safe and know that there is a friend nearby, someone to trust, perhaps someone just to say 'hello, how are you doing today?'

Let us set ourselves the target of saying hello to a neighbour we don't know and remember that no one needs to be alone and isolated here in Shortlands.

Love and Blessings,

*Revd Gary Best*



Children and Junior Church Leaders past and present thanked Sally Aldred who stepped down recently as Junior Church Co-ordinator

### Special Events and Services

#### Sunday 3 November

##### 4.00pm Memorial Service

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

#### Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday

##### 10.00am Family Communion and Parade Service

*Including Act of Remembrance, Two Minutes Silence and Laying of Wreaths*

*(Note the earlier start time - meet in church at 10.00am, and by the War Memorial at 10.45am)*

#### Sunday 17 November

##### 6.30pm An informal service led by the Music Group

#### Sunday 1 December - Advent Sunday

##### 6.30pm Advent Carol Service

### Stay in touch!

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





## From the Registers

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

David McCann 6 September

### Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Bill Shepherd 10 September

David Loades 5 October

## Remembering

### Anne Hart

Anne was born on in 1948 in Gibraltar, where her father was serving in the Royal Artillery. During her early childhood she lived in Woolwich, Wales and Norfolk. Her family then moved to Kiel in Germany where, during a two and a half year tour of duty, she lived in four different houses. They were later posted to Singapore, where she and her sister attended a Forces School.

The family eventually settled in Blackheath. Anne went to Eltham Hill school and after that to Roehampton Institute, where she trained to become a primary school teacher.

In 1970 Anne married Trevor, and they moved to Liverpool for a year where she taught in her first school and Trevor finished his studies at university.

After Trevor graduated they moved back south and settled in Bexley where Anne taught – and then Simon and Jonathan were born.

In the early 1980s Anne and Trevor moved to Kingswood Avenue where, after a lifetime of moving around, Anne settled for nearly 40 years, making lifelong friends and integrating herself into the community as a teacher at Highfield where she worked, at various times, as a supply teacher, a reception class teacher, and with children for whom English was not their first language.

Anne loved teaching and took immense pleasure from seeing those she had worked with develop and grow.

Anne's life was changed forever by the early death of Trevor in 1991. She threw herself into making sure the children had the best possible childhood.

Anne was very proud of her grandchildren, and loved spending time with them and watching them grow up.

The tributes that have been paid to Anne echo the same words – strong, determined, inspiring, courageous, caring and kind.

### 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

**THANK YOU:** we have received a letter of thanks from the Bromley Borough Foodbank: St Mary's donations totalled 173.2 kg over the past three months.

This has allowed the Foodbank to supply food and toiletries to 1,493 people during that period.

On top of that they supplied over 3,500 kg of food to the School Meals Replacement Packs scheme, giving out food to families whose children would normally have free school meals during term time, but who struggle to cope with the extra mouths to feed during the holidays.

The Foodbank also provided food for the Summer Lunch Club which took place at the Methodist Church each Wednesday for six weeks during July/August, where the children and adults not only enjoyed a cooked meal, but had entertainment and games provided as well.

Unfortunately, we have seen the need for Foodbanks increase greatly in the past few years: donations of long life food continue to be welcome at the back of church.



The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen, local residents and community members gathered in South Hill Wood in October to unveil a new information panel which tells the story of the fountain and the woods. The guest of honour, Mrs Janet Dewey (pictured second left), the wife of the late Thomas Dewey, great grandson of Sir Thomas Charles Dewey, carried out the unveiling. The friends group additionally celebrated their 10th anniversary.

**STOP PRESS** - We're delighted to have raised money to install a defibrillator at St Mary's - more detail next month

### 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)

## SAVE THE DATE

**Join the Friends of St Mary's  
for a  
traditional Burns Night Dinner  
on  
Friday 24th January 2020  
at  
Langley Park Golf Club  
Ticket information in December**

### Future Generations Project

Regular readers will know that we have been thinking about how we can best use our Church buildings for the benefit of the whole community of Shortlands.

More details about the Future Generations Project appear in an insert in this edition of SPAN – or visit [www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

### Say it with flowers

At St Mary's we have a friendly flower arranging team. We arrange flowers weekly in the church throughout the year (except when keeping Lent and Advent) and we decorate the church for three of the main festivals in the church year: Christmas, Easter and Harvest. It is an extremely pleasant and rewarding thing to do, making the church look inviting, colourful and beautiful.

We also have a Book of Remembrance in which the names of loved ones can be placed. Flowers can be arranged on a pedestal beside the book at special times

If you are interested in joining our friendly team or wish to have flowers arranged in memory of someone please contact Cecilia on (020) 8313 0246.



# Mission of the month

## Mines Advisory Group

Imagine if your child went out to play in a minefield... Imagine they were unable to attend school... Imagine you had no safe access to food & water... How would you cope?

While serving in the British army, Rae McGrath witnessed first-hand the horrific impact on civilians of landmines, munitions and unexploded bombs. He saw how these weapons were hindering reconstruction and the delivery of aid and in 1989 he returned to the UK determined to find ways to protect such communities and set up the Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

Diana, Princess of Wales spoke out against the production and use of landmines and made several visits to affected countries. She developed close ties with MAG. Two decades later, her son Prince Harry continued her work by helping MAG launch the [Landmine Free 2025](http://www.landminefree2025.org) campaign.

Often one of the first agencies into conflict zones, using highly trained staff and special machinery, MAG teams across the globe find and destroy landmines and unexploded bombs before children do. They also aim to prevent the risk of weapons and munitions being diverted to the illicit arms trade.

MAG strives to involve and empower local communities through training and employment. The work challenges many perceptions and stigmas in countries where women and disabled people are often regarded as second-class citizens and relegated to the lowest strata of society.

For 30 years, MAG has helped over 18 million people in 68 countries rebuild their lives and livelihoods after war. For more information visit [www.maginternational.org](http://www.maginternational.org) or see the board at the back of church.



St Mary's choir has been on tour again - this time at Rochester Cathedral in August

## International White Ribbon Day

At St Mary's we are this year supporting International White Ribbon Day, a global movement to end male violence against women. It invites men to make a pledge never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence towards women.

Rochester Diocese, of which St Mary's is a part, is particularly taking a stand against domestic abuse: we are committed to promoting and supporting environments which help to ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse. Our 10.30am service on Sunday 24th November will include a focus on this subject.

For more information, visit [www.whiteribbon.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk) or for emergency support contact: Rape Crisis: 0808 802 9999; Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327; Galop - LGBT+: 0800 999 5428; Women's Aid: 0808 2000 247.



Gifts generously donated at Harvest Festival were passed to Bromley Women's Aid

## Reflections from Harris Primary Academy Shortlands



Let me introduce myself: my name is Sam French and I am the Executive Principal of Harris Primary Academy Shortlands (HPAS). I'm sure you have noticed our beautiful new building at the bottom of Kingswood Road.

Having said that, we are not that new anymore - we will be a full school from next September with 420 children busily learning every day and a great team of teachers and support staff helping them become the very best they can be.

I am particularly excited to be working at HPAS as I have lived in the area since I was a teenager. My parents still live on Kingswood Road, so school very much feels like a home from home.

Our core values of kindness, truth and respect are woven throughout our exciting curriculum and whether the children are doing an experiment in our science lab or learning Mandarin with our specialist teacher, we are always looking to develop their individual talents and skills and ensure they are fully prepared for the next steps in their learning journeys.

If you have a child starting school, or are looking to move to a school nearer home, please give me a call and I would welcome the opportunity to show you around our lovely school and introduce you to our greatest ambassadors, our children.



**The St Mary's Church**  
**Christmas Fair**  
**Saturday 30 November**  
**from 2-4pm**  
**in the Church Hall**  
Come and share in the fun!

Please donate nearly new toys, full bottles, books, raffle prizes, soft toys, bric-a-brac, books, unwanted gifts or other clean saleable goods to the Parish Office weekdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm

**Highfield Junior Choir** will be entertaining us during the event.




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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 - Friday)  
Vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

**Licensed Lay Ministers**

Mrs S. Aldred 8460 3978  
Mrs C. Bingham 8460 0324  
Mrs A-M. Jefferys 8460 6030  
Mr P. Stotesbury 8650 3259  
Mr S. Buchanan 8777 8008  
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 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 8402 6599  
Craft and Chatter Group  
Mrs J. Boam 8460 7101

**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 C. Willatt 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**

Clr M. Cooke 07912 649058  
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)

Clr A. Cuthbert  
(Email: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)

Residents' Association 8460 4060  
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood 8721 2614

**SPAN INFORMATION**

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