

Pottering through the summer holidays

I am practising the art of pottering, mooching around, wandering about. This way of being is recommended for approaching free time, leisure, days off and school holidays. There are major benefits of dawdling through time between frenetic and focused activities.

Recently, I was waiting outside City Thameslink station for a 55 bus. There was a sign outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Holborn Viaduct: 'Free concert today'. So I entered the church which was celebrating the end of Carers' Week. A brace of female singers was accompanied by a masterful pianist through songs from the shows. We were given the words of Dancing Queen and encouraged to join in. What a precious and unexpected experience!

Not having a plan can be liberating. Enjoying Kew Gardens with absolutely no route or setting out for London and taking the train to Margate. Surprising things happen when we go placidly through the noise and haste.

Travelling by bus is thoroughly recommended, giving us more time to pay attention: a fruitful way to while away a free hour or so. On a recent trip I enjoyed a fascinating concave bowl in an upstairs window which reflected the building on the other side of the road; a conversation about Harry Potter with a 4-year-old and his grannie triggered by his heavy framed glasses; the rueful smile of a shared experience of missing the 367 bus and the inevitable twenty-minute wait.

And walking through the parks, what a wealth of entertainment! Sandcastles, parenting geese leading their brood of youngsters into the water, the antics of dogs and conversations overheard. The list of wonders available to those who potter is endless.

Let us dawdle rather than organise our summer holidays and understand that God is the God of small and fascinating details.

Rev Jane Kustner

Special Services and Events

Sunday 9 July

4.00pm Tea Time Together

6.30pm Youth Club

Sunday 16 July

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 23 July

5.30pm Come, Holy Spirit

A service of silence, readings and worship songs

Sunday 30 July

10.30pm Parish Communion

With music led by the Music Group

Family friendly August

During August we are offering a 10.30am family friendly service on Sundays. There will still be sharing of Communion bread and wine but within a slimmer and more informal service and bright songs. There will be some activities and spaces around the main service and the grounds. We hope you will be able to join us and share your feedback!



Cubs have fun!

Recently, 7th Bromley, Mowgli Cub Pack entered a team into the Cyclo Cross competition. See page 2.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Lydia McLennan 28 May

Winter Lumley McMurray

11 June

India Mills

18 June

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

Reverend Jane Peters and
David Linstead 20 May

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Ronald 23 Jun Age 91

Richards



CONGRATULATIONS to Rev Jane Peters and David Linstead who were married in May

Uniform appeal

Please contribute to the stock of uniform items for Harris Academy Shortlands so these can be made available to families who need a bit of help. Your donations mean that children can start in September in a brand new outfit!

The school would prefer cash donations rather than items: please visit www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk/giving and click on the Donate button before 1st September 2023.

SAVE THE DATE!

ST MARY'S OPEN WEEKEND

Saturday 16 – Sunday 17 September
Marking 70 years since the church foundation stone was laid

Staying safe

The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community. As St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Officer, I work closely with the vicar and the PCC to fulfil this commitment and to ensure that the church's policies and protocols are implemented effectively.

Sadly abuse can take many forms, for example: domestic, physical, sexual, online and discriminatory abuse including racist, sexist and sexuality discrimination. Abuse can also include emotional abuse which covers bullying, harassment, intimidation and humiliation.

In my role I offer support to victims and survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse and when or where it occurred. It is important for all of us at St Mary's to be aware of the possibility of abuse and be willing to raise concerns, which will be listened to seriously. We will respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation and provide pastoral care for victims/survivors of abuse and any other affected person, including those who are the subjects of concern or allegations of abuse.

St Mary's is also committed to safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church and ensuring that their continued training is up to date.

While policies and protocols are important, I am concerned that my role as Safeguarding Officer should have a human face: I hope to give people the confidence to come forward and be able to talk about challenging situations, knowing they will be listened to and supported throughout. You can reach me on 020 8658 0470.

Dr Pauline Lambourne



Cubs have fun!

Recently, 7th Bromley, Mowgli Cub Pack entered a team into the Cyclo Cross competition with 10 other packs also competing for a trophy. The course at Frylands Wood Scout Centre is a really tough off-road challenge with hills and sharp bends to negotiate. A dry sunny day meant that conditions were favourable for our intrepid cyclists. At the start of their first race, all eyes were firmly fixed on the steep dusty slope immediately in front of them. At the green light, they hared off into the woodland and fortunately they all made it safely around the course.

There were still a further two more races to go! After successfully completing the next round, the team were in seventh place. So, with heads held high, they charged up to the starting line prepared to go all out to challenge those other 10 teams for a place in the top three. No sooner had they sped off, than there they were back again – in record time too! We all jumped for joy when the announcement was heard that our team had finished in 2nd place overall.

Teamwork and friendship had contributed to their success and they all received medals. What a result indeed! Be proud Cubs!

'Chil' (Tricia Braithwaite)

**The next edition of SPAN
will appear in early September**



ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL SHORTLANDS has been celebrating its 30th anniversary during this school year, culminating in a 'get-together' of many present and previous members of staff and committee members. Those attending included the current Leader Christine Hall and the two previous Leaders Janie Saunders and Pat Chase.



THANK YOU: to Nicola Blake who recently left her post as Parish Administrator. Marion Westropp and Susie Shelton were among those who gathered at a buffet lunch in June to thank Nicola for all her hard work for St Mary's over nearly ten years.

Wartime memories continued

The crack of gunfire and the whistle and explosion of bombs was commonplace and part of the background. Candles burned and nightlights spluttered in our steel, almost bomb-proof home.

Electricity was eventually installed in primitive cable fashion from the house, and I recall being 'shocked' by a cabbage stalk which touched a bare wire somewhere in the garden!

Curwood's the newsagents and stationers in Widmore Road employed me as a three-bob (15p) a week paper-boy, and I avoided bicycle-tyre punctures, even at this time, and the remnants of anti-aircraft gunfire. I came across plenty of shrapnel lying in the street each morning, collected the stuff, all shining, attractive and jagged, and buried some of it in a Sharp's toffee tin at the bottom of the garden, together with a note for posterity. It is probably still there, alongside the workshop for Cook's tailors, where the two senior members of the firm would squat in time-honoured fashion to produce superb suits of clothes.

One night an enemy aircraft - a Dornier, I believe it was - crashed in the Homefield Road area, and I was very proud to be permitted by the soldier on guard duty there to enter the road to supply my newspaper customers as usual. He even gave me a live bullet as a souvenir!

David Alston

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission to Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers is a charity serving merchant crews around the world. It operates through a network of chaplains, staff and volunteers providing practical, emotional and spiritual support through ship visits, drop-in seafarer centres and a range of welfare and emergency support services.

Most of us are unaware that the world is dependent on seafarers for '90% of everything'. Seafaring remains one of the world's most dangerous occupations, with piracy, shipwrecks and abandonment all adding to the problems that seafarers face in their line of work. Its challenges are great indeed: they often have no ready support at hand, no family to sound off to, no friends to share a drink with away from work, no easily accessible neutral support.

Once in port, seafarers rely on Mission Chaplains to transport them to the nearest Seafarers Centre, where, most prized, is access to WiFi Internet and SIM cards. Besides being a comfortable place to rest and relax, the chance to get food and toiletries and transport to shops and local amenities is also available. MtS's team of port chaplains is always on hand to provide support & guidance to crew members.

The Mission is open night and day, 365 days a year in 200 ports across 50 countries, caring for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs. 1.8 million seafarers work across the world. Both men and women often spend up to nine months at a time far away from their family, friends and loved ones.

Sea Sunday is on 8th July: see the display at the back of St Mary's Church or www.missiontoseafarers.org.

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

Link Parish
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Assisi, Douai, France



WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion

You can access these services online at:

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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Junior Church	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE 020 8460 5682
office@stmarysshortlands.church
Open 10.00am - 12.00pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8402 6599
Craft and Chatter	Mrs. J. Boam	8460 7101
Friends of St Mary's	Mr. T. Chase	8464 6188

For admission to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mr O. Swinfen	07758458077
Cubs (Tue)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954437658
Beavers	Ms. E. Hay	07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

Guides (Tue)	Ms. E. Thompson	07910340908
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	fourthbromleybrownies@outlook.com	
Rainbows	2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2W's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
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LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. A. Cuthbert	Aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk
Cllr. F. Bainbridge	Felicity.Bainbridge@bromley.gov.uk
Cllr. A. Grant	Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk
Residents Association	8460 0395
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

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