

Sharing the good news

The older I get the more I see signs of God's ineffable plan working out behind the scenes and thwarting our attempts to shut him out!

Let me explain. There was a long period where churches were asked to dilute their message to be palatable for post Christendom consumption and relevant to a modern world. Some of us felt obliged to dilute the good news to attract a future generation. It didn't work.

With the growth of multi-culturalism and global religions, young people are expected to understand the world they now inhabit. Which means that Christianity is part of the school curriculum. There have always been opportunities to connect and partner with our schools: assemblies, carol services and tours of the church. But what is different now, and in my view very exciting, is that we are being asked to give clear and straightforward presentations of what Christians believe. This is so that students can compare and contrast world religions academically and as good citizens develop sensitivity towards diversity and as informed spiritual beings exercise freedom of choice.

As a priest with a simple and conservative approach to the good news of the Christian message, I rejoice when asked to present our faith with clarity and confidence. It is a delight to be open and enthusiastic, given the opportunity to be open and faithful to our beliefs. Children ask great questions, and are genuinely interested in the symbolism, stories and beliefs that undergird our Christian faith. They respond to clarity, honesty, and authenticity wrapped up with a bit of fun and adventure as they explore the church and discover interesting things. They often discover hidden gems that I did not know about!

I am looking forward to sharing the great narrative of Christmas in a few weeks' time!

Rev Jane Kustner

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY CAFE COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 9th November 10.30 - 12.30

Do join us to support Macmillan and enjoy a warm welcome, friendship and delicious cakes! You can still support the event even if you can't make it in person: visit <https://thyg.uk/BUS007718262>

Special Events and Services

Sunday 6 November

4.00pm Service for Departed Loved Ones

Sunday 13 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Family Communion and Parade Service

*Including Act of Remembrance, Two minutes silence and Laying of wreaths
Meet in church at 10am and by the War Memorial at 10.45am*

4 - 5.30pm Tea Time Together

6 - 7.30pm Youth Club

Sunday 27 November - Advent Sunday

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE:

Twins Sebastian and Michelle Doa recently started studies at the Universities of Southampton and London (Royal Holloway). At a service before they left, Sebastian read the gospel and both shared with Rev Jane Kustner how grateful they were for the solid Christian foundation laid by their family: they felt this would sustain and protect them as they left home for the first time.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Isabel Monham 16 October
Isla Monham 16 October

Peter Stotesbury

Peter was born in 1937 in Beckenham. He was evacuated a number of times during World War Two and went to school at Lancing College on the south coast, he then lived in Beckenham all his life.

His grandfather was senior partner in a firm of stockbrokers and Peter joined the firm having left school, with the intention, over a short time, of seeing whether he liked it or not. He described his role as doing everything, from making the tea to dealing with clients. In time he changed role to become a stock jobber and started a new gilt fixed income business at Charlesworth & Co.

Peter's links to the Parklangley tennis club went back to his grandmother, the first winner of the Ladies' Tennis singles soon after the club started. His father, mother and younger brother were all club members, and Peter met Diana as a result of trying to recruit more young members when he was Tennis Captain. In time their children Nicola, Tim, Alison and Julia - and now the next generation - have carried on the tradition.

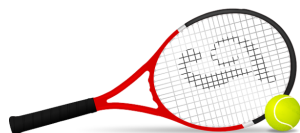
As well as playing badminton and squash, Peter became Grounds Chairman, a director and subsequently Chairman of Parklangley Freeholds Ltd. His enthusiasm for tennis continued, and he was still playing the game when health allowed until last year. His many years' service to Kent Tennis were recognised in a lifetime achievement award and a Lawn Tennis Association regional award

Peter was a faithful member of St Mary's congregation for decades: he was a churchwarden and a Licensed Lay Minister who combined the teaching role with a great pastoral ministry. Many people appreciated his visits when they were ill - another demonstration of his quiet, encouraging and kind approach.

Peter was also a member of Beckenham Rotary for thirty years and was President in 1999-2000. He took part in many charitable activities and received the Mayor of Bromley's award in 2012 for his many years of unstinting voluntary service. With Canon Doug Redman, who was Vicar of St Mary's at the time, Peter set up St Mary's church twinning relationship thirty years ago with the parish of St Francis of Assisi in Douai, building on a Rotary link there.

He was a devoted family man, a grandfather to nine children and very much enjoyed family holidays. He also had a passion for wine.

Highly respected, Peter was described as 'one of the nicest and most decent people I have ever met' and 'a truly inspiring figure in his own understated way'. He will be very much missed.



At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Peter Stotesbury 17 Oct Age 85
David Wilcox 27 Oct Age 89



Over 70 members of the congregation and wider community enjoyed the Harvest Lunch in the Church on Sunday 9th October.

Memories of Her Majesty

I was the Personal Protection Officer to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and in the year 2000, I received the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) from Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace. The Queen knew that I was The Queen Mother's police officer and asked unexpectedly, "What's it like looking after my Mother?" Without thinking, I blurted out, "Ma'am, it's an honour and pleasure to look after the world's favourite Granny!" Her Majesty smiled that beautiful smile and to this day, I'm unsure whether my poor use of the English language or Her thoughts of Her Mother were the cause? In any event, a wonderful day for my family and me!

Trevor Bettles MVO



CONGRATULATIONS to Cliff and Shirley Broughton who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Hopes and Dreams

We are working hard on our Vision, Values and Mission at St Mary's. Please call in any morning to add your thoughts to the Hopes, Dreams, and Ideas "graffiti" board, or call for a chat, or email. The more we know about the needs of our community the better we can serve you!

Show your support!

The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen are applying for Bromley Council's Platinum Grants for important improvement projects in South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen. The works are to restore the Coronation Gates and extend the herbaceous border to the gates in South Hill Wood and to make improvements to the South Hill Road entrance to Kingswood Glen.

It is necessary to have at least 100 signatures to demonstrate local support. There are forms to sign at the back of the church and in the entrance porch, together with information on the scope of the projects. Please sign before the end of November!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Diabetes UK

Originally founded in 1934 by HG Wells and Dr RD Lawrence (both of whom had diabetes) under the name The Diabetic Association, at the turn of the millennium the charity's name changed to Diabetes UK.

Radical from the beginning, the charity aimed to ensure that everyone in the UK could gain access to insulin, whatever their financial situation. Its mission statement was 'to promote the study, the diffusion of knowledge, and the proper treatment of diabetes in this country.' The discovery of insulin was made years earlier by Sir Frederick Banting with scientists Charles Best, John Macleod and James Collip.

The Diabetic Association campaigned for the creation of the National Health Service and argued that people with diabetes should take an active role in managing their condition.

In 1939 the first diabetes voluntary self-support group was set up. There are now over 400 local voluntary groups, providing support and information to people with diabetes across the UK. As the UK's leading diabetes charity, Diabetes UK says it's job is to tackle the diabetes crisis. It is here to prevent Type 2 diabetes, campaign for and support everyone affected by diabetes, and fund research that will one day lead us to a cure.

For more information please see the display at the back of church or go to www.diabetes.org.uk.

Flowers at Saint Mary's



The flowers at Saint Mary's Shortlands have always been an important part of our worship and community. I always feel that it is a privilege to use some of the most beautiful elements of God's creation to glorify his house.

Putting fresh flowers in the church changes the entire atmosphere: anyone seeing them knows that somebody has recently been there to put these beautiful flowers in the church for everyone's pleasure.

As well as our weekly flowers and decorations for main festivals, flowers can be requested in memory of loved ones. These are either placed by the book of remembrance or arranged in the main pedestal at the front of the church.

If you have never visited our beautiful church that was rebuilt in 1955 after the original one was bombed in the war it is worth a visit with its unusual architecture. The beautiful East window behind the altar is a wonderful background for the flowers.

We are lucky that at St Mary's we have a friendly and jolly team that enjoy decorating the church, ranging from some very experienced flower arrangers to people who have no formal training at all. All are welcome.

If you would like to join us as part of a weekly rota or at one of the larger festivals (such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest) to take part in decorating the church you are very welcome and you will receive any help that you need. Please contact me on 07511 885941.

Cecilia Willatt

Christmas Fair

2 – 4pm Saturday 26 November

In church and the church grounds

Do come and share in the fun!

Lots of stalls: cakes, crafts, gifts, mulled wine & roasted chestnuts, bric-a-brac, tombolas, books, jewellery, Traidcraft, toys & games and so much more.



Donations of soft toys, raffle prizes, books, bottles, bric-a-brac and other clean saleable goods much appreciated.

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Update on Thursday Brownies A couple of people have expressed an interest in volunteering, so we just need one more person to make a team and save the unit from closure. It is a thriving unit of lovely Brownies who are looking forward to lots of fun activities with their new team of leaders. Volunteering can be very rewarding, a great way of meeting new people and trying something different. If you think this sounds like you, please contact our Girlguiding District Commissioner Nicola Blake via bromleycentral.district@gmail.com

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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

Vicar	Reverend Jane Kustner	07947 778 441
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Safeguarding Officer	Mrs. K. Coleman	07879337567
Electoral Roll	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Junior Church	Miss. R Tillotson	07503 680612
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. N. Critten	07767242920
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	Mrs S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com	
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW'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
Fair Trade	Mrs. C Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

CLLr. A. Cuthbert	Aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk
CLLr. Felicity Bainbridge	Felicity.Bainbridge@bromley.gov.uk
CLLr. Adam Jude Grant	Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk
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Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

Website	www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk
Editorial	Parish Office

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