

Time to Remember

Whenever I walk beside the sea the smell of seaweed and salt spray pricks a memory of my father saying 'smell that ozone!' He encouraged us to breathe in deeply the health-giving properties of this enriched ocean air.

Smells, sounds, sights evoke that bitter-sweet reminder of those we have lost. Mario Lanza, O Christmas Tree, jellied eels: each memory triggers another, and we smile, feel a tear welling up, and a little stab of pain in our hearts.

The annual service for Departed Loved Ones at St Mary's on 6 November gives us a special time to lament, celebrate; to gently call to mind those we have loved and lost to death. As we allow ourselves to be immersed in the candle-light, the reflective words and the beauty of music, we give ourselves permission to remember. It is alright to feel, to weep, to laugh in this shared moment.

We ponder the meaning and purpose of our own lives. We give room to the sadness, perhaps regret and disappointment. We take hold of the assurance of forgiveness and opportunity for new beginnings, echoed in this poem by John Keble (1822):

'New every morning is the love our wakening and uprising prove; through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought.'

We put fear aside, replaced with rejoicing in the promise that at our own death there will be an awakening to a new adventure, a new body for eternal life with our heavenly Father.

Rev Jane Kustner

Special Events and Services

Sunday 9 October - Harvest Festival

10.30am Family and Parade Service

4 - 5.30pm Tea Time Together

6 - 7.30pm Youth Club

Sunday 16 October

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 30 October

6.30pm Service of Praise and Communion

Led by the Music Group

Sunday 6 November

4.00pm Service for Departed Loved Ones

Sunday 13 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Family 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



On tour

St Mary's choir sang for the services at Peterborough Cathedral on 30 and 31 July. This included two Choral Evensongs, Mattins and Communion.

Everyone at the Cathedral was very welcoming and the Vice Dean said 'we have many visiting choirs at our Cathedral but St Mary's Shortlands are top notch!' We have been invited back to sing again.

Thank you to the many members of the congregation who came to support us - a good time was had by all!

Canon Claire Tillotson



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Calum Davies	14 August
Isla Davies	14 August
Henry Smith	21 August

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Janet Nicholls	5 Jul	Age 79
Kenneth Tarrant	2 Aug	Age 87



Introducing... the Pastoral Team

Many people contribute to serving the parish of Shortlands: we are beginning a new series about teams who support the work of St Mary's.

Some of our readers may be aware that we have three licensed Pastoral Assistants at St. Mary's: Sue Harrison, Debbie Speller and Marion Westropp. They offer spiritual support by visiting, praying and talking with people and they can also administer home communion to those unable to attend church.

There is also a dedicated group of people working alongside them as members of the Pastoral Team. They come in many guises and can often be found doing other activities around church. Again, they are here to support anyone who feels a need to talk, pray or just be listened to by a friendly ear and to assist where and when practicable. All conversations are confidential, and concerns are only ever shared within the support network of the Pastoral Team with the consent of the person concerned. We meet in church on a Monday to pray for and support each other in our pastoral ministry.

The team supporting the Pastoral Assistants comprises: Kay Coleman (our Safeguarding Officer), Susie Shelton, Glo Sherman, Sue Slaney and Jan Boam.

Please feel free to approach any of us, we are happy to talk and support wherever we can. You can contact the team via the Parish Office on office@stmaryshortlands.church or 020 8460 5682.

Jan Boam

Calling all 'card sharps'!

On Wednesday 5 October, starting promptly at 2pm (until 5pm), we will hold another Bridge Afternoon in church.

We will play Chicago format bridge which allows for a variety of levels of experience and bidding styles. This does not involve any form of gambling or betting! There will be prizes for the three highest scorers.

The whole afternoon's entertainment will cost only £5 per person/ £20 per table including refreshments. In Chicago format bridge you will be playing in turn with each of the other three people on your table, so it makes sense to book a table as a four or two pairs.

There will be a raffle: the afternoon is in aid of St Mary's Future Generations Project.

For tickets or further information contact Robin Hogg on 07769 976512.

Experiencing the Passion

Eight members of St Mary's congregation were very fortunate to be part of a group from the Beckenham Deanery (with a few others) on a trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play in July.

The play itself was an unforgettable experience, with its cast of hundreds of villagers, camels, donkey, sheep, goats and doves, a choir of 60 and full orchestra. The essential truths and power of the story of the last week of the life of Christ – interspersed with scenes from the Old Testament – overcame the challenge of following the performance in German.

Staying in the village for a couple of days enabled us to get a sense of the extraordinary commitment of the villagers to this unique experience. It was first performed in 1634 when the village made a vow to perform the play once every ten years if God spared them from the plague. It seemed as if everyone had a connection to the play: the disciple John served us our dinner in the hotel between acts!

Our time in Oberammergau was preceded by a stay in the Austrian Lake District, during which we enjoyed trips on a 150 year-old paddle steamer, mountain railway and cable car. A particular highlight was the opportunity to tour round a local Benedictine monastery – founded only 20 years ago, the beautiful stained glass and wood carving in its chapel left a strong impression on us all. A trip to Salzburg and a tour around the lakes and villages enabled fans of the Sound of Music to visit some famous locations.

Many thanks are due to Ann-Marie Jefferys for coordinating the trip, and to all our touring companions with whom we enjoyed great fellowship.

Heather Wills

Remembering Her Majesty

Two of our congregation members shared their memories of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

Gill Dawson said: 'I was lucky enough to have my MBE presented to me at Buckingham Palace by the Queen herself in 2012. She asked me what activity I enjoyed the most in Guiding, so I said camping. I told her we had recently had a display in church for her Diamond Jubilee, with some brilliant photos "of you and your sister in camp as Guides". She looked thoughtfully as if thinking back 80+ years, then smiled at the memory and said "Oh yes".'

Annette German was taken to Buckingham Palace by her grandmother for the Queen's coronation. 'I share a birthday with the Queen and I remember hearing her speech on her 21st birthday, when she dedicated her life to the country. She did just that and served us all her life.'

If you have memories of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, please share them with the Parish Office and we will feature them, space permitting, in a future edition of SPAN.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship (PF) was founded in 1976 in the USA by Charles Colson following his release from prison after serving a sentence for a crime related to Watergate. Shortly afterwards Sylvia Alison from the UK met with Charles Colson and believed this meeting was an answer to her prayers. Sylvia had envisaged an organisation where sisters and brothers in Christ could meet together, worship and pray for prisons and prisoners and use the power of God's love to improve their lives and reduce reoffending.

PF has grown since the 1970s and is now a worldwide organisation. There are over 100 local groups throughout the UK with committed volunteers. In addition to daily work with prisoners, assisting with services and running Bible study groups, there are other practical ways in which PF helps.

There is the 'Letter Link' where PF volunteers working from home write letters to prisoners. Very often this can be the only communication a prisoner will receive. The Sycamore Tree restorative justice programme is a victim awareness course delivered to prisoners by trained volunteers. The programme endeavours to help prisoners to explore the impact of their crime and hopefully reduce reoffending.

The Angel Tree Christmas programme enables parents in prison to send a gift to their children at Christmas, strengthening their parent-child relationship. PF volunteers work with prison chaplains and local churches to buy, wrap and deliver the presents. As long as prisoners are allowed access to their children, they are given the opportunity to apply for a gift to be sent to them. A special personal message from the parent is always included with the present, which helps to make the gift extra special.

Please do take the information leaflets at the back of the church or visit www.prisonfellowship.org.uk.

 **Save the date!** 
Christmas Fair
2 – 4pm Saturday 26 November
In church and the church grounds

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Wartime memories

In the early days of World War Two, Snow White had just been born and was the inspiration for our 'Dig for Victory' efforts as we turned over our patch of soil in Beckenham Lane to the growing of vegetables, shouldering our spades afterwards to the strains of 'Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's off to work we go'. Alongside our allotment were the ready-built concrete air raid shelters, down which we scuttled at practice time. (Better indeed than the ghastly, bare, canal-like trenches dug overnight on Queen's Mead slope).

Each child was asked to bring a small bar of chocolate (then 2d, I believe), as 'emergency rations', and we were assured that it could be consumed after an hour's incarceration. It was my complaint for years afterwards that we were always returned on the 'all clear' siren at one minute before the hour was up! Those sirens! That wailing was unlike anything else before or since.

To be continued...

David Alston

Harvest lunch

12.15pm Sunday 9 October,
St Mary's church
after the Harvest Parade Service
Suggested donation: £5 adults, £3 under 16s.



Tickets available from the Community Café
on Wednesday mornings;
office@stmaryshortlands.church;
020 8460 5682, or in church after the 10.30am
service on 2 October.

Girlguiding News

Summer with the Guides

Guides and Young Leaders from both St Mary's units enjoyed an excellent Summer Camp at Paccar Scout Camp in Buckinghamshire, with lots of adventurous activities such as axe throwing (a first for the Guides!) and the longest twin zipwire at any Scout camp in the UK.



They also enjoyed traditional camping skills like using a bowsaw and showed great teamwork. Camp Leader Nicola Critten had recently received a cash award for being an 'Outstanding Leader' from the Jack Petchey Foundation which she used to pay for a coach to get all the young people to and from camp. Sadly, Nicola is stepping down as Tuesday Guide leader as she has now moved to Australia with her job: Eleanor Thompson is stepping up from her current role as assistant in the unit to Leader.

Thursday Brownies

Brown and Snowy Owls (AKA Sue and Helen) of Thursday Brownies are retiring after many years of Fun and Frolics running the unit. Between them they have clocked up a massive 59 years of service with Girlguiding, but this Christmas will be their last as Brownie Leaders. They are looking forward to a well-earned retirement from 2023.

Unfortunately for us this means that we now need to recruit new Leaders to take their place if the unit is to continue to operate and have girls move on to our fabulous Guide units and beyond. If you would like to consider this role, please contact our Girlguiding District Commissioner Nicola Blake via bromleycentral.district@gmail.com or "get involved" directly via the Girlguiding UK website.

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

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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

Vicar	Reverend Jane Kustner	07947 778 441
	janelkustner@gmail.com	
Licensed Lay	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
Ministers	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
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Churchwardens	Mrs M. Westropp	07970011626
	Mrs K. Buchanan	07811528181
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	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3252
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
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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 5999
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
Residents Association	8460 0395

SPAN INFORMATION

Website	www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk
Editorial	Parish Office

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