

The secret of happiness

The UK is currently 17th in the Happiness chart, one below the US. Perhaps not surprisingly the saddest country is Afghanistan, but for the sixth year running the happiest is Finland. How? Why? Apart from enjoying strong, people-centred governance the Finns all kind of get along with high levels of trust and freedom, gender equality and overall peacefulness.

Disappointingly, there is no question in the survey about whether faith in God makes us happy. Maybe for a nation that is purported to be no longer Christian, the question seems irrelevant. But we forget that foundational to our governance and societal mores sit ancient biblical laws and truth, whether we accept it or not. We may reject God as irrelevant to our lives, but we ignore God's contribution to society at our peril.

Let's take a look at that contribution. Originally God made men and women equal in God's image and offered them a loving relationship. When we rejected this, Jesus came to free us from our darkness, misdirection, and confusion and bring us back to the possibility of Shalom. Shalom is so much more than Peace. The Hebrew letters: Shin, Lamed, Vav and Mem literally mean to destroy the perpetrators of chaos in our society.

If I care how happy I am and how happy you are and you feel the same, we may need to consider some truths about our society. Where is our governance less than compassionate or person-centred, and what factors lead to chaos in our families and communities? If we recognise these we can address the real reasons for our lack of happiness.

Rev Jane Kustner



Congratulations to Ginelle and Andrew Addo Yobo on their wedding blessing, held at St Mary's on the 19th August.

Special Services and Events

Sunday 8 October

- 9.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Family and Parade Service
- 12.30pm Bring and Share Harvest Lunch
- 4.00pm Tea Time Together
- 6.00pm Youth Club

Sunday 15 October

- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 22 October

- 6.30pm Informal Service led by the Music Group

Sunday 29 October

- 4.00pm Service for departed loved ones

Sunday 12 November- Remembrance Sunday

- 10.00am Holy Communion and Parade Service

Meet in church at 10am and by the War Memorial at 10.45am for the Act Of Remembrance



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
Tia Eneh 17 Sept

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Gillian Parfett	20 Sept
Joan Livett	23 Sept
Adolph Williams	27 Sept

Remembering



Adolph Williams

John 'Adolph' Williams was born in Mexico City into a very anglicised family of Spanish, Welsh and Italian expats. He was, and remained, a Spanish citizen.

After university he spent much of his youth in Los Angeles. Adolph's father died prematurely at the age of 52 and subsequently his younger sister, at the age of 45. It was a lot for the family to bear. His two remaining, much loved, siblings – Laura and Jorge – remained very close to Adolph and his mother.

His mother Hada was very artistic (she studied under Frida Kahlo): she gave him a strong reference point and sense of balance during the more challenging times of his life.

Starting work as a TV Production Co-ordinator at the age of 22, Adolph's 30-year career led him to create, produce and direct most TV genres eventually reaching audiences of around 2 billion worldwide. He always said he was a 'lucky individual who was in the right place at the right time': it was probably also his ethic for hard work and insatiable curiosity which helped him along.

His love of music was inherited from his grandfather and father who were very talented and innovative piano players: initially Adolph wanted to follow music as a profession. He had a strong sense of God's words and presence through the magnificent works of the composers.

Adolph moved around searching for potential new markets in New York, Miami and Madrid before settling in London in 2007. He became part of the fabric of St Mary's in 2010: a place where he made true friends and commitments and met Vici. He served as a churchwarden and became a dear friend to many.

Service for departed loved ones

Every year we create a space in St Mary's church for people to come and remember. This year, this will take place at 4pm on Sunday 29 October.

The lighting is subdued, and various prayer stations are set up to provide a focus for reflection. There is a short, simple service during which music is played while people walk around and engage with the different prayer activities or simply sit and read, pray or light a candle.

The names of departed loved ones are read out. There is no pressure to participate if you simply want to put life on hold for a short while and sit and think. Where we have contact details, we invite the families and friends of those whose funerals we have conducted in the last year.

Rev Jane Kustner

Wartime memories continued

Daytime air raids often disrupted classes at school but became less fearsome with familiarity. I recollect declining to flatten myself on the pavement as a bomb whistled down - so as not to spoil the new suit I was wearing! On another occasion I dived for shelter in an Anderson shelter. Nothing new, except that, first, it was not our own shelter, and also I had overlooked the fact that not everyone's was furnished with a double mattress. Were my knees sore!

These were the days of queues - for everything. A regular one was for a distinctive fruit cake from Stanley Woods, next to the Odeon cinema, and for beef sausages at Kennedy's in the Market Square, at 7d (3p) a pound.

Between sheltering from the bombs we would return to the bedroom on relatively peaceful nights, and here the BBC helped tremendously. I remember how my mother and I awoke in the early hours to the strains of 'My Song is Love Unknown' and how ever afterwards this hymn has reminded me of her.

After the Battle of Britain my father was called up and posted to Royal Air Force Biggin Hill. He used to cycle the six miles each way every day. Posting to India followed, and I accompanied my mother to see him off from Euston Station, causing merriment, I recall, as my mother booked a half-fare ticket for a son then taller than his father and carrying his kit! D-Day on 6th June 1944 was a very exciting day - as my diary records - and it was only later that we came to realise the full extent of this massive enterprise.

David Alston

On tour



St Mary's choir were honoured to be invited to lead Choral Evensong at Rochester Cathedral on 3rd September

Bring and Share

Harvest lunch

Sunday 8 October, 12.30pm

Tickets £5 (suggested donation)
available from the Parish Office, after
services and at the Community Café
Fun and games for all

MISSION OF THE MONTH

St Christopher's Hospice

Founded in 1967 by Dame Cicely Saunders, St Christopher's Hospice exists to promote and provide skilled and compassionate palliative care of the highest quality. Their vision is of a world in which all dying people and those close to them have access to the care and support they need, when and wherever they need it. They believe each person is unique and they tailor care to meet social, emotional and spiritual needs, as well as manage physical symptoms.

The hospice has been a centre of education, innovation and insight ever since its foundation. The Group now consists of St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham and St. Christopher's Bromley based in Orpington.

Every year St Christopher's provide care and support to over 6,500 people across 5 London Boroughs both at home and in the hospices. It costs £22.5 million pounds a year to run their services, £15 million of which has to be found by fundraising.

For more information see www.stchristophers.org.uk and the display at the back of the church.

THANK YOU

With the help of the congregation, mobility class and Community Café, we raised £500 for uniforms for students at Harris Academy Primary School. We hope this makes some children the proud wearers of new items of uniform for the Autumn term.

Volunteering opportunity

The St Mary's Community Cafe opens on Wednesdays from 10am – 12.30pm. We invite members of the community to join our team as bakers and servers (full training provided for servers).

For further details please email secretary@stmarysshortlands.com or contact Jay on 07900 971867.

Tea Time Together

Meets on the second Sunday of the month at 4 pm

(excluding April, August, December)

For children aged 2 – 6 and their families (siblings of all ages welcome)
Music, story, arts, crafts and games on a Christian theme

Free refreshments from the Community Cafe

FREE
SNACKS
INCLUDED!

You are warmly invited to:

Shortlands Youth Club

September 10th, October 8th,
November 12th 2023

AT 6PM-7.30PM for those Yr6 - Yr13

St Mary's Church Shortlands,
Kingswood Road, Bromley, BR2 0HG

For more information please contact
Rachel Tillotson: Racheltilotson3@gmail.com

Junior Church

For school-age children
Every Sunday at 10.30 am
Do come and join us



Baby and Toddler sessions

9.30 - 11.30am
12.30 - 2.00pm
Thursday in term time

SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Fair

2 pm – 4pm

Saturday 25 November
In church and the church
grounds

Fun for all the family!



The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

Link Parish
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WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion

You can access Sunday 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
	vicar@stmarysshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
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Electoral Roll	Miss. R. Tillotson	07503680612
Junior Church		
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 8
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	07511885941

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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