

Running with perseverance

We've had a summer with much sport and some great British success. The Olympic Games in Brazil were a wonderful spectacle and it was good to see the competitors aiming for their best. As I write this the Paralympics have just started and the competitors are all full of excitement at what they might achieve. Team GB were seen to improve on their medal tally in London and there was much celebration.

However, not everyone did as well as they hoped, some receiving horrible messages via social media claiming that they were failures. To gain a place in an Olympic team shows that they were far from failures.

Four years ago Richard and I went to Stratford to see the Paralympics. It was a great evening with lots of records broken but for me one of the highlights was seeing a runner who had just come last in her race doing a lap of honour – she felt that she had achieved as much as she was able and from the smiles on her face it was obvious how much taking part in the event had meant to her.

This year in a heat of the women's 5000m race two of the competitors collided and they then helped each other to complete the race. Afterwards they were awarded The Pierre de Coubertin medal which has only been awarded 17 times in Olympic history because they displayed an extraordinary act of sportsmanship.

We are often told 'it's the taking part, not the winning, which counts' and I think both these are good examples of where this can be seen. In life we may not always achieve all that we set out to but we can always strive to do our best.

In the Bible, in the letter to the Hebrews, the writer encourages the new Christians 'to run with perseverance the race that is set before us'. We do not know what hazards and obstacles we and others may face but those of us who are Christians believe that God is always there to support us - often through the actions of other people.

Rev Morag Finch



CONGRATULATIONS to Robin and Helen Hogg, married at St Mary's in July.

Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is now office@stmarysshortlands.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



Special Events and Services

Sunday 9 October - Harvest Festival

10.30pm Harvest Parade Service
followed by Harvest lunch
Harvest gifts will be given to Bromley Women's Aid

Sunday 16 October

6.30pm Choral Evensong
Responses: Reading
Canticles: Sumsion in G
Anthem: O Lord the Maker of all Things - Joubert

Sunday 30 October

4.00pm Memorial Service
We give remembrance and thanks for the lives of those we love but no longer see

Sunday 13 November - Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Family Communion and Parade Service
Including the Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes Silence and the Laying of Wreaths
(Note earlier start time - meet in church at 10.00am, and by the War Memorial at 10.45am)



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

26 June	Darcey Peck
17 July	Emma Wood
	Thomas Lightbody
31 July	Liliana Robinson
4 September	Ophelia Holton

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

30 July	Robin Hogg and Helen Bird
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At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

June Biggs	25 Jul	aged 86
Mary Ingram	26 Jul	aged 84
Mary Morrow	27 Jul	aged 84
Mo Bowen	12 Aug	aged 71

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Anne Yeulett	24 July
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Remembering

Carol Walklin

Carol was born in her grandparents' home, now the Beckenham Little Theatre, to Sir Charles and Lady Jeffery. She was the last of three daughters: she, Daphne and Barbara were a great support for one another throughout their adult lives.

The sisters remember that Carol was the outgoing one – at 16 she wanted to be an actress. Beckenham Arts College allowed her to develop her wider artistic interests: she then studied for three years at the Royal College of Art and was awarded the Royal Medal for Design.

She met Colin around this time – and they were married in 1954. They moved to Hayes Lane, where their three children Sarah, Janie and Nicolas were born.

Carol and Colin secured well paid graphic design jobs working for Proctor and Gamble and Unilever - but both wanted to do something more meaningful. They took a brave step – Colin became a teacher and Carol took a post graduate teaching certificate to enable her to train teachers.

Carol somehow also found time to run the Conquest Club teaching disabled children to swim, to work on the 'Bible in the World' for the British and Foreign Bible Society and to join Colin on school trips to Yugoslavia.

As a freelance artist, Carol had many commissions and regularly exhibited at the Bankside gallery in London. Her work is in private collections across the world, and her portrait of 'Mr Stanley Lawrence, blockmaker' hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.

In later years, Carol's failing dexterity made it difficult for her to use her hands. She found this frustrating but it did not stop her from using old prints and discarded material to create new collages.

Carol's remarkable artistic partnership with Colin is perhaps best seen in their very happy 25 years teaching printmaking at West Dean College. They had the gift of 'Passing It On' – drawing out the artistic skills of others - evidenced by many lasting friendships with students, colleagues and fellow artists.



ON SONG: St Mary's choir stepped in for the Cathedral choir at Bury St Edmunds in August, singing Choral Evensong on four days, and leading the Sung Eucharist and Mattins on the Sunday.

Mo Bowen

Mo was born in Oxford, went to school there and only later came down to London. She was a very respected colleague in Brandt's merchant bank.

She met and married the love of her life, David. They had the same outlook on life, worked as a team in the caring of her parents and his, and both enjoyed antique collecting.

Devastated by the sudden, tragic death of David, Mo could have given up – but she took a loving interest in her godsons and in the lives of her devoted carers.

Mo had strong political views and, for a feisty, intelligent woman like Mo her illness was terribly cruel and took its toll.

Over time she was less and less able to attend St Mary's, but did receive communion at home. She continued to look outward, was glad to hear about what was going on elsewhere, and derived real joy from giving to others. She remained a generous supporter of the church, and funded the Prayer Tree which so many people value as a way of bringing their prayers to St Mary's.

Her funeral service in St Mary's was well attended by people from different stages of her life and joyous given that her faith was strong.

Mary Morrow

Mary was born in Shanghai where her father worked. World War Two began when she was eight, and after three years the family was sent to a prisoner of war camp. Her mother, a teacher, set up a school in the camp which was to benefit many.

Having returned to England after the war, Mary became a teacher. However she had travel in her bones, and went to Kuwait to teach in an oil company school: there she met and married Ron. They were to have many happy years together.

After their two sons had been born, Ron and Mary moved to Shortlands where they remained for the rest of their lives. Mary was most proud of her family and her grandchildren in particular.

Mary loved the simple things in life: having gone from a life of luxury in Shanghai to having to pack all her belongings into a single suitcase as she was taken off to the camp, she knew what mattered. She loved her home, entertaining, anything French, and her garden.

She taught her children the power of forgiveness. Although she had every right to be resentful, she never once expressed bitterness against the Japanese. She also showed her family the importance of never wasting things, especially food.

Mary and Ron were regular attenders at St Mary's for many years - and received home communion once they were no longer able to attend church.

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Save the Date!

Church Fair on Saturday 26 November

What happens at church?

Have you ever wondered what happens in a church service? Have you wanted to join in, but you're not sure what to expect?

The Bible tells us to meet together to worship God and thank him for the hope he has given us of eternal life, through the faith we have in Jesus Christ.

St. Mary's, your local parish church, is a friendly church offering a warm welcome. Our 10.30am Sunday service lasts approximately one hour, beginning with the choir processing round the church during our opening hymn. We have a wonderful choir who lead our hymns and also sing beautiful anthems during our services.

We follow a service booklet which guides us, but the Vicar leads us during the service too.

There are two readings, one from the Old or New Testament (respectively written before and after Jesus was born) and one from one of the Gospels (which tell of Jesus' time on earth). The sermon (or talk) explains the readings.

Prayer is an important part of the service. Prayers are said on behalf of those in church about local, national and worldwide concerns.

Often, people are confused at what we call 'Sharing the Peace.' We simply shake hands with those around us and say 'Peace be with you'. This greeting has its roots in the ancient Hebrew greeting of 'Shalom': peace between people, nations, God and human beings.

Then comes the most important part of the service: Holy Communion (Eucharist). If you have confirmed your faith in a confirmation service, you are invited to kneel or stand at the altar rail and receive bread and wine; these symbolize Jesus' body and blood, sacrificed for our sins (bread for his body and wine for the blood shed on the cross). If you have not been confirmed, you are invited to receive a blessing (the Vicar will say a prayer of blessing for you). You do not have to do either of these: you can remain in your seat if you wish.

The service concludes with the Vicar saying a blessing for us all.

We are a very sociable church and welcome everyone to remain for tea, coffee and biscuits after the service.

If you are still a little unsure but would like to join us, do contact me on 07941 415082 and I will arrange to meet and guide you through the service.

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Mission of the month

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza Hospice Care for Children is a vital part of health and social care support in our area: South East London, Kent and East Sussex.

Having developed over the last twenty years, the charity has published its plans for the period 2016-21.

The charity's vision is for life to be better for children and young people who have life-threatening or life-limiting conditions; and for their parents, brothers and sisters, and those who love them, to receive support. They help families cope with the fear, challenges and complexities of having a seriously ill child - from diagnosis, during day to day family life, times of crisis and through bereavement.

Two main strategic aims for this period are:

1. To care for more babies, children and young people, and to continue to improve the quality and choice of specialist care and therapies available to families

2. To provide much more nursing and supporting care in the child or young person's own home, while improving access to the facilities in the hospices.

Demelza thanks and is very grateful to St Mary's Church for the support given. The board at the back of church shows the day to day activities and therapies which take place under the name of this charity – or see www.demelza.org.uk

Saint of the Month

St Francis of Assisi – 4th October

His father was away in France when Francis was born in 1181, and his mother named him John. On his return home his father disagreed, so his name was changed to Francis.

Francis' father was a well-to-do cloth merchant and wanted Francis to follow him in the trade. At the age of twenty Francis fought for Assisi against Perugia. He was taken prisoner and fell dangerously ill.

In a vision he was told to repair the church of St Damian. With no money for materials he sold all his father's cloth, and all his own possessions. By begging he managed to repair the church and two others. He became a travelling preacher and attracted a following. When there were twelve of them, they formed a group called The Friars Minor, the predecessors of the Franciscan Order.

Many people joined them and allegedly even the animals flocked round him. Groups of friars went to all parts of Europe. Francis himself went on a pilgrimage to Egypt. Before he died he had another vision and received stigmata (the wounds of Christ) on his body.

Legend tells that a huge flock of swallows made such a noise that people could not hear his preaching. He asked the swallows to be quiet and listen, which they duly did. The next day all the birds gathered round him. He blessed them and they flew off in the shape of a cross. By chance his feast day is just at the time when swallows gather together to fly south to warmer climes!

As well as animals he is the patron saint of stowaways, cub scouts and San Francisco.

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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 Monday

- 17.00 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 Holy Communion

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. M. Finch	8464 8065
(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/
(Sun, Mon, Wed)		8460 5682
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	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
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	Mr. S. Buchanan	8777 8008
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	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
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	Mrs C. Corbin	07973295134
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	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
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Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
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Assistant Organist	Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
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Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

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 hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Mothers & Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8650 4553
Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
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. Keast	07516 650940
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Kateswaran	

		8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704

		or 07960 988552
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Cllr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
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Residents' Association	8460 4060
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Website www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
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Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 8464 0284
Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those supported by the publishers, and no responsibility can be accepted for accuracy. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for work carried out by advertisers.
ADVERTISING: £18.00 per column inch per issue.
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