

Unity and eternity

At the beginning of May a group from St Mary's travelled to France to visit our link parish in Douai. While we were there we visited The Ring of Remembrance, Notre Dame de Lorette. This is a relatively new creation which was inaugurated on 11th November 2014. This monument contains 579,606 names engraved on three-metre high metal panels commemorating all the soldiers who died in Northern France during the First World War.

The names are arranged in alphabetical order, irrespective of nationality or rank, so that they are "united now and forever in their common humanity." It is incredibly moving to see the names of those who were once enemies now placed side by side. This would have been impossible to do 100 years ago: it is only with time that healing can occur.

Some common names are repeated time and again which had the effect of jolting us to recognise the full scale of the tragedy and also the uniqueness of each individual. Many of those visiting were able to find the names of relatives. We also looked for names of those in our memorial book in Shortlands.



THANK YOU: Dr David Jefferys and Rev Morag made a presentation to Ann Swatton as she stepped down after five years as churchwarden.

Philippe Prost, the architect who designed the monument, said 'I chose the ring as a figure to bring together the names of the soldiers, thinking of the circle formed by people holding hands. The ring is synonymous with unity and eternity. Unity, because the names form a sort of human chain, and eternity, because the letters are joined without an end, in alphabetical order without any distinction of nationality, rank or religion.'

At one point the ring seems to hang in space over a dip in the countryside and this reminds us 'that peace will always remain fragile'.

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev Morag Finch



Special Events and Services

Sunday 14th June

10.30am Family and Parade Service

(with the help of Wednesday Brownies)

The new PCC will be commissioned at this service

Followed by the Parish Picnic

Sunday 21st June

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Smith

Canticles: Stanford in B flat

Anthem: Blessed be the God - Wesley

Sunday 28th June

6.30pm Informal Service of Celebration

led by the Music Group

Stay in touch!

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





From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Carole Walford 28 Apr aged 76
 Frederick Perkins 14 May aged 88
 Maurice Blunden 14 May aged 85
 Donald Cuthbert 21 May aged 81

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

5 May Meg Shepherd



Parish Picnic & Barbecue

Sunday, 14 June

in the church grounds following the 10.30am Family and Parade Service

Bring your own picnic -
 barbecue food and refreshments available to buy
 Bouncy castle and games for all the family
Come and join the fun!

JUMELAGE: At the start of May, 37 parishioners, fifteen Guides and five Guide leaders all travelled to Douai to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Jumelage/ twinning with the Parish of St Francis of Assisi. All enjoyed a very warm welcome and home hospitality with French families. A photo book celebrating 20 years of shared friendship and faith was presented to our French friends at the special banquet lunch after a wonderful celebration of mass together.

Thursday Brownies will be closing at the end of this term!

Unless a new leader can be found.

If you are interested please contact Helen Last
tel: 8460 1705 or email: helen.last@btinternet.com



BARBECUE: In July 2016, Christopher Bingham will be spending 3 weeks in Malawi as part of a group from Trinity School Croydon, working with a primary school just outside Blantyre in Malawi, involving teaching (mainly English and Maths). He is intending to read engineering at university and will be contributing to projects to improve the fabric of the school, as well as helping entertain the children with his drumming skills! He will be participating in a number of fundraising activities to help provide financial support to the schools in Malawi, as well as help fund his trip - do come and support him at the Barbecue at the Parish Picnic.

MEET THE NEW CHURCHWARDEN

Adolph Williams has been worshipping at St Mary's since 2010. In his day job, he provides consultancy services to TV and events production companies. In his spare time, he is interested in global issues, English cathedrals and aeronautics, and enjoys the music of Haydn. In his new role, he hopes to represent the diverse views of people in St Mary's and to support fresh initiatives. He said: 'I'm honoured to be presented with the opportunity to serve and the challenge to deliver among the congregation and community I am so proud to be part of.'



HIGH NOTE: Robin Hogg and Rev Morag presented Lloyd Maurel with the Chorister of the Year award at the Friends of St Mary's annual service of Choral Evensong

Calling all Beavers and ex-Beavers

Please come to thank our retiring Beaver Leaders. Polar Bear, John Westropp, started the 7th Bromley Beaver Colony in 1990. He was joined by Kestrel, Pat Chase, and Racoon, Karen Pleasance.



14th June 10.30am

Parade Service and Parish Picnic in church grounds (hall if wet)

Mission of the month

Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability

ABCD (Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability) was founded in 1985 following a year spent by founder Val Jourdan working as a volunteer paediatric physiotherapist with the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR).

During her time in Bethlehem, Val oversaw the introduction of various rehabilitation programmes and on her return to the UK she started raising funds to enable these to continue. With the help of like-minded friends and professionals, ABCD was formed and was granted charitable status. In the 30 years since its inception, ABCD has funded over 10,000 children.

Its mission statement is: ABCD is dedicated to improving the quality of life of those children in Palestine who suffer from physical, mental and psychological disabilities. ABCD sponsors treatment for those in need regardless of gender, race or creed, helping them to reach their full potential, to live life with dignity and to take their rightful place in their community.

ABCD works through Palestinian partners, the BASR based in Beit Jala, The Sheepfold in Beit Sahour and two UNWRA Refugee Camps in Jalazone and Nour Shams.

For more information see <http://www.abcdbethlehem.org/> or the display at the back of church.

Looking back – and forwards

Approximately 70 people attended St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 26 April to look back at the year 2014. At the beginning of the meeting David Jefferys and Adolph Williams were elected as Churchwardens.

Tim Dawson, the Treasurer, reported a small financial surplus which was lower than the previous year: this had been expected. Income for the year was down slightly, mainly due to a reduction in tax recovery. Costs had increased a little, mainly due to having a priest in position for the whole year (Rev Morag joined us half-way through 2013).

The Treasurer reported that we will have a financial challenge this year as we are aware that the steel roof trusses of the church are suffering from rust. The costs of this repair are not yet known but the problem is being investigated. Tim Dawson thanked the group of helpers who carry out minor repairs and help to cut costs.

Rev Morag looked ahead to plans for 2015. She said that the main focus for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is 'What our mission is'. Once that has been decided the PCC will focus on specific tasks, such as engaging more deeply with people at their point of need. A committee has been formed to consider the future of the buildings and how we might meet the needs of the community.

Rev Morag thanked everyone who had helped while she was ill and everyone who helps at church in any way.

Marian Parr was newly elected to the PCC and the meeting thanked Margaret Shaw who was stepping down. The meeting

ended with a special presentation to Ann Swatton thanking her for everything she has done as a Churchwarden over the last 5 years.

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Schools in your community

There has been much debate about the new Harris Academy which is to open in Shortlands.

We wonder though how many local residents realise that Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools converted some 18 months ago to become Academies. The Governors of both schools took the decision to convert when it became clear that Bromley Council was gradually winding down the direct provision of services to its schools and would instead be buying in most services from elsewhere.

As Academies, the schools are now almost entirely independent of Bromley Council save for a few core services that the Council is obliged to provide. The schools are funded direct by the Government; they receive more or less the same level of funding as they would if they were still local authority schools, plus the amount that the Council used to hold back for the direct services that it provided, and they buy in the services they need from outside agencies.

We decided to convert to Academies purely for practical reasons, and particularly to give us more control over how we actually spend our funding income. We were not making any sort of political or social statement, so the conversions took place quietly and with a minimum of publicity - save for the consultation exercises that had to be undertaken - and not even the names of the schools were changed.

The legal framework in which the schools operate as Academies has changed - they are now charitable 'not for profit' companies, and the Governors are the company Directors. The accounting requirements are stringent and both schools have a Business Manager to run the financial and business side of the operations.

Most of the changes will not however have been noticed by those outside the schools - from the day we 'opened' as Academies it was very much 'business as usual' and the focus, as always, is on providing the best possible education for our children.

The schools work very closely together, with Ann Golding as Headteacher of both and a great deal of cooperative working right through both schools. Importantly, we remain local schools for local children and consider ourselves to be very much a part of the Shortlands, and St Marys, community.

*Tony Chase & Paul Hemsley
Chairs of Governors, Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools*



KNEES UP: 70 people enjoyed the Friends of St Mary's celebration of St George's Day with the Pearly King of Mile End and the Pearly Queen of Highgate.

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WORSHIP

Every Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion
10.30 Family Communion, except the first Sunday in the month in term time. During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18.
10.30 All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time).
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/
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	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
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Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

PARISH OFFICE Tel: 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
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Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

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Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
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	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers/admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
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LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Cllr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

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