

Welcome to the parish

Most of us like to have a sense of belonging and a place in the community where we live as well as knowing we are part of something bigger. When children write their address it often looks like this: My Street, Town, United Kingdom, The World, The Universe.

St Mary's is the parish church of Shortlands and if you have SPAN delivered to your door you live in the parish. The Church of England is divided into two provinces; Canterbury and York. These are further divided into dioceses, currently there are 42, and we are in the Diocese of Rochester.

Dioceses are further subdivided into Archdeaconries and Deaneries. So St Mary's address would be: St Mary's Church, Beckenham Deanery, Bromley and Bexley Archdeaconry, Diocese of Rochester, Canterbury Province, Church of England.

I often have conversations with people who have strong faith but never go to church. This may be due to a bad experience, drifting away, a disagreement with another church member or perhaps because they have found church conflicts with family and work commitments.

When people have lost that regular contact they can feel they might not be welcome, be worried no one will talk to them or that people will wonder what they have come back for.

It can feel strange when we attend a new church. We are not quite sure how the service runs, we may feel embarrassed when we don't know which page we are at in the service book or who to ask when we need something.

I would like to reassure you that the service was new to everyone once and that we are a friendly bunch and enjoy having a cup of tea or coffee and a chat at the end of our service.

Everybody in England lives in a Church of England parish. You are welcome to attend any church: here at St Mary's we would like to extend a warm welcome to you whether you never been to church, have only been a few times or went regularly in the past.

Rev Morag Finch

St Mary's In the Mood

Save the date - a VE Day Commemoration Concert will be held at St. Mary's church on Sunday, 11th October, arranged by the Friends of St. Mary's.

In an exciting two-hour programme, the University of Greenwich Big Band will play signature numbers representing early jazz, swing, dance and big band favourites.

In this 70th anniversary year of VE Day the band will include arrangements exactly as recorded in the Great Swing Era of the '40s and '50s, coupled with outstanding instrumental and vocal performances. With a full line-up of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, a rhythm section and guest vocalists, the band will faithfully recreate the wonderful sound of Big Bands.

Formed 30 years ago by some Thames Polytechnic staff, the band was created with the support of the Music Department at the Avery Hill College campus just when Avery Hill had become part of Thames Polytechnic, which in 1992 became The University of Greenwich.

Tickets will be available in church and from the Parish Office in September.

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



At the parish picnic there was a presentation to mark the retirement of three Beaver leaders (left to right: Pat Chase, John Westropp, Karen Pleasance). John set up the Colony 25 years ago!

Special Events and Services

Sunday 5th July

10.30am Family and Parade Service
(with the help of Children's Church)

Sunday 19th July

6.30pm Choral Evensong
Responses: Aylward
Canticles: Harwood in A_b
Anthem: Expectans Expectavi - Wood



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Ronald Morrow 27 May aged 89

Alan Stone 28 May aged 90

CONGRATULATIONS

to Alan Roberts BEM who received a certificate recognising his outstanding commitment to volunteering at a ceremony held by Bromley Links during Volunteers' Week in June. Alan is a founding member and trustee of Deaf Access.

Fred Perkins

Fred was born in Islington, and met Mary whilst working at Sun Life of Canada in Trafalgar Square, London: they married in 1951.

In 1960 they moved to 65 Queen Anne Avenue: Fred was very proud of the area in which he and Mary lived. He was a member of Shortlands Residents Association for many years and delivered SPAN. His service to the locality was recognised when he was presented with a community service award by Bromley Council in 2007. He would always be picking up litter, closing gates, taking in parcels and running errands, and would do anything for a neighbour.

Fred also worked at Guinness Mahon merchant bank as computer operator and last worked at Bolloms Elmers End as a quality control officer.

'Gentleman' sums him up: he was known as a gentle, caring and private man.

Fred was also a real family man, and he leaves a wife, three children, eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Ron Morrow

Ron was born in Bermondsey in 1925. Like many families in the inter war years they moved out of South London and into the suburb of Welling.

All this was stopped by the outbreak of war. Ron joined up on his 18th birthday and after basic training and early manoeuvres he was thrown in at the deep end in the Normandy campaign after D-day, and was later involved with the allied push over the Rhine.

After the war Ron went back to the quantity surveyors office he had worked in as an office boy and carried on in the profession he would stay in until he retired.

After a succession of construction-related jobs abroad he met Mary and they married in 1962. Ron was a patient, kind and loving father to their sons, Richard and Simon.

As soon as his grandchildren were old enough to understand, they were both very proud of what their Granddad had done in the war.

His family felt it was fitting that Ron passed away on the 70th anniversary of VE day. His character was formed in the valley of the river Orne and a large part of his heart was always in Normandy.

He had a youthful enthusiasm, and a thirst for knowledge and learning new things. He could turn his hand to anything: at the age of 83 he learned to use a laptop so that he could produce his Divisional newsletter

Many people in the congregation of St Mary's have fond memories of Ron. He was a good Christian man whose faith was very important to him.



Congratulations to Emma Mitchell & Gracie Millen of 2nd Shortlands (Friday) Guides on gaining their BP Challenge Award, the highest award in the Guide section. Both are now Young Leaders (YLS) with Monday Brownies. Great news too that 6 YLS with St Mary's units have completed their Young Leader Qualification: Abi Bailey, Maria Christodoulou, Lucy Ellis-Keeler, Eleanor Higgs, Rachel Stanton & Maddie Webster. Well done girls!

Remembering



Alan Stone

Alan was born in Bristol into a family of Bible Christians. His grandfather had built their chapel and his father preached in it. The elders of the chapel would not speak to Anglicans and considered Catholics as agents of the Antichrist: Alan rebelled against this. Later in life, having been confirmed into the Church of England, he considered St Mary's ecumenical link to Douai as of particular importance and helped to forge it, using his fluent French.

In World War Two Alan was conscripted into the Navy. He served on a destroyer escorting convoys in the North Atlantic. Later his ship hunted submarines, clearing the English Channel in preparation for the D-Day landings. Alan was distressed by the loss of life caused by warfare. Years later, he chose not to celebrate his service, telling his family that he was a Pacifist and that war must be avoided at all costs.

The war showed him that people of all nationalities and backgrounds could work together to achieve a common good. He made particular friends of Polish servicemen, learning to speak their language fluently. His link with Poland continued throughout his life, including a visit with a UNESCO team during the 1980s at the height of the Solidarity movement.

It was soon after the war that Alan found his true vocation: teaching. He met Anne while teaching at Sidcup Boys School and went on to run English Departments at Sedgehill and Catford County.

Alan was an inspiring teacher, especially with kids who had not been born with advantages in life. He took a genuine pleasure in watching them achieve goals they had thought beyond their reach and many of them kept in contact years later.

Alan moved to Shortlands in 1960, with Anne and their son Martin.

Extending the hand of friendship was something Alan was very good at. Alan liked to give you a good time but if you had a problem he gave you much more. Indeed after he retired, though enjoying playing tennis at Langley Park Club and singing with the Bromley Philharmonic choir, he also worked nights as a Samaritan.

As Alan saw it, the act of extending the hand of friendship was the indispensable foundation on which the attempts of religion and politics to make the world a better place had to be built if they were to prove effective.

Thank you

Uniformed organisations at St Mary's – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – have received a message of thanks from the Mission to Seafarers. Every Christmas the children sit down to lovingly craft and decorate beautiful handmade Christmas cards for sending to Seafarers.

In total, over the last seven years, they have made at least 1,250 cards. They have been distributed by the Mission to many different ports – including Dunkerque in December 2014.

All the leaders and children enjoy the activity and they have had their enthusiasm kindled by visitors such as the Revd Ray Trudgett and Canon Andrew Tremlett, both former port chaplains.

Mission of the month

The Peter Westropp Memorial Trust

The Trust (PWMT) was set up in 2012 by Peter's brother, cousins and close friends after his tragic death when a block of masonry fell on him outside a pub in Clapham. Had he survived the accident he would probably have needed constant care so it was decided that all money raised would be donated to the Carers Trust.

The Carers Trust vision is of a world where the role and contribution of unpaid carers is recognised and they have access to the quality support and services they need to live their own lives.

Some examples of funding distributed by the Trust include:

- A 22 year old who cared for his incontinent mother and only had a sink for washing the bedclothes. He was given £300 for a washing machine
- A man who cooked all the food for his disabled aunt was given £350 for a fridge/freezer so that he could cook in bulk.
- A woman whose young autistic son had trashed their TV was awarded £250 for a new wall mounted one.

So far the Trust has passed to the Carers Trust over £75,000 raised through a huge variety of events including a cycle ride from London to Paris, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, Club Westroppicana mini Festival, carol singing in a pub, and cycling all the highest passes in the Lake District.

Next on the agenda is a walk up Ben Nevis at the end of July: if you wish to donate, please go to the website (www.peterwestropp.co.uk) and click on Donate. There will also be a sponsor sheet in the church porch.

A new role

At 8am on Monday 1st June 2015 I started at school again and in some ways I felt like a new pupil; the buildings of Bishop Justus Secondary School and Princes Plain Primary School seemed big (a maze of rooms and corridors) and the number of people overwhelming.

As School Chaplain I will help in the pastoral care of the staff and students, assist in the areas of spiritual development (both emotional and religious) and coordinating worship across the schools.

In one week I have met so many people: students, teachers, administrators, catering and ground staff. I have been interviewed by an academic doing a study in spiritual development, had lunch with the infants, played with the two-year olds in the day centre, had meetings with both head teachers, chatted with parents at the end of school ... the list goes on. All the people I have met have been very welcoming.

There is expectation (which I find daunting) and a willingness to try new things. My final appointment at the end of the first week was with a music teacher who was overflowing with ideas of how to encourage singing and participation in worship.

I am beginning to get used to where things are, how to get a lock repaired, the timings of lessons and how to get food etc. There is so much to find out and so many plans to make. Like being a new student at school it will gradually settle into a pattern.

Rev Richard Finch

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My day job

I'm a local girl, having been born and brought up in Bromley.

My early working life was spent as a medical secretary, first at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Fulham Road and then for 10 years as PA to the Consultant Surgeon of the Breast Cancer Unit at Guy's Hospital. I was there at the same time as a young junior doctor by the name of David Jefferys – however, neither of us can remember if our paths ever crossed!

In April 1981, I married the curate of St. George's, Beckenham, Paul Wright – some of you may know him! I later discovered on joining the choir here at St. Mary's that the same year, same day and same time as Paul and I were being married, Julie and Mark Fox were getting married here at St Mary's.

So began life as a clergy wife, with various moves over the years – Richmond (Southwark Diocese) and then back to Rochester Diocese with livings in Gillingham, Crayford and Sidcup until finally our move to Chislehurst 12 years ago when Paul was made Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley.

During those early years our three children Sophie, Ben and Joel were born. After Sophie was born, I decided to change career direction and went back to college for four years to study homeopathy. I qualified in 1989 – my graduation taking place three weeks before Joel was born.

Since then I have run a busy homeopathic practice until retiring from full time work about 5 years ago. My work has been incredibly rewarding and also a great privilege. Over the years, I have been present at many births and it is a real joy to me now that some of those children now bring their own children to see me. Such is the cycle of life.

Jill Wright

Churches Together

Many Beckenham churches emptied quickly on the morning of Sunday 7 June as everyone rushed home and grabbed their picnic baskets before heading off to the Green next to St George's. Why the rush? No one wanted to miss The Big Picnic, an ecumenical get together organised by more than 15 churches from the Beckenham area.

The sun shone all day and people enjoyed browsing the numerous stalls showing many aspects of what churches are doing for their community, such as the Drop In café at St Edmund's offering friendship and support to those suffering from dementia and their carers.

There was also information from the Street Pastors, volunteers who go out to offer a comforting arm or word (or pair of flip flops) to revellers on Beckenham's streets on Friday nights.

Children had fun on the bouncy castle and making crafts while musicians played and sang. Halfway through the afternoon there was an informal worship service, with contributions from six or seven churches. Free refreshments and free books from the bookstall both combined to draw many passers-by into the event.

One family said they had been on their way to Kelsey Park but having seen what was going on decided to stay for a few minutes and ended up staying for the whole event.

What do I remember most about the afternoon? The smiles and fellowship, everyone mixing and chatting, and a real sense of the Holy Spirit working in Beckenham.

More information about Churches Together in Beckenham can be found at www.ctib.uk

Susie Shelton

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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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PARISH OFFICE Tel: 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
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
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
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. Katheswaran	8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Miss. G. Attoh	07946 833576
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 1599
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LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
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(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

SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
Editorial Parish Office 8460 5682
Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 8464 0284

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