

Hidden Treasure

Over the last few weeks at the schools where I am based as Chaplain I have been exploring the subject of "hidden treasure". This is the idea that sometimes personal talents or resources have been forgotten or not recognized within ourselves.

We have been telling the teaching staff and the students to go away over the summer break, to recharge those inner 'batteries' and take some time to reconnect with those things that bring out the best of their talents.

It is an often quoted example that Jesus seemed to call the least expected people to be his disciples. We read of ordinary people (including fishermen and a tax collector) being enthused by the teaching and example of Jesus. They, in turn, became the first leaders of the fledgling church. Jesus recognized in them that "hidden treasure", those qualities that made them the right people to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Over this summer maybe we can do something to connect with our inner talents or resources. It could be playing music, reading, going for walks, talking to neighbours – anything that stimulates our creative thoughts. This can be things we do at home or on holiday.

Then we can offer, with renewed commitment, those talents and resources to continue the work that we have been called to do (or to do something new), wherever that may be and with the people we meet.

I hope that over the summer there will be times when we can uncover some of that "hidden treasure".

Rev Richard Finch



SUMMER FUN: Twenty one children ranging in ages from 17 months to 15 years enjoyed a morning together having fun at the Junior Church Summer Party. They enjoyed games and making, then eating, fruit kebabs.

Year's end

We had an uplifting End of Year Service in church with Highfield Juniors. Children in Years 3-5 shared some memories and told us things they had learnt during the year. Year 6 children read a Dr Seuss poem and Mia Mills McCarthy was presented with the Governors' Award for being the pupil who had best achieved the school values. We sang a variety of songs which reminded us about how we learn and care for one another.

We also hosted the children from our Pre-School. 23 children are leaving to move to 'big school' and were presented with books and 18 will return after the summer.

At the time of writing children from our toddlers group were also looking forward to celebrating the end of the school year with songs and a story with puppets.

We send our best wishes to all the children as they journey on.

Rev Morag Finch

Special Events and Services

Sunday 20 September

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Noblet in B minor

Anthem: Beati Quorum - Stanford

Sunday 27 September

6.30pm A Service of Informal Worship

for all ages led by the Music Group

Sunday 4 October

10.30am Harvest Festival

Family and Parade Service

(with the help of Mowgli Cub Pack)

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:

Kathleen Friskney 2 Jun



Remembering

Kathleen Friskney

Kathleen was born in Northampton, and after leaving school she worked at the National Provincial Bank and married Norman, who was a young Army Officer. On his return from active service in Italy they lived at first in Oxford during his postgraduate days at the University. Then with a growing family they moved to Bedford.

In 1958 they moved to Shortlands when Norman was appointed head of Wilson's Grammar School. Kathleen made a great contribution as the wife of a headmaster and played a full part in the varied social and extramural life of the school.

She was an active member of the church and Mother's Union, and was Chairman of the Friends of Kingswood House, spending many years as a hands-on voluntary helper. She lived, in all, a full life of service.

Kathleen was held in the deepest affection by all who knew her. Generous and self-effacing, she lived her faith in her quiet way and by doing so proclaimed aloud her great love for Jesus. In her interests and attitude to life Kathleen's faith shone out as an example of true Christian charity.

A Night at the Musicals

A year ago Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools decided they wanted to bring music alive and for the children to have opportunities to perform. Since then the choirs in both schools have continued to grow in size, confidence and capacity. In addition to two strong school choirs there is now a chamber choir in each school as well as an adult community choir. Around 175 children and adults sing weekly in a choir and music can be heard resonating throughout both schools.

On 6th June the Infant Choir and the Highfield Junior Voices held a concert in the concert hall at Langley Park School for Boys. I am sure many were amazed at the high standard of both the singing and production - this was no basic school production!

The children set the standard for the rest of the concert with stunning performances of songs from the musicals. The adults were the most nervous, knowing that they needed to match the very high standard set by the children. Whilst rehearsing and performing, the children showed commitment, team work and real drive to achieve their best, with many children really growing in confidence.

The adult choir has brought the community together and has made many of us realise quite how hard it is to learn a new skill. The members of the adult choir have worked hard, had fun, and made friends in addition to producing a great sound.

A huge amount of work has gone on behind the scenes to produce an event such as this with many parents and members of the community giving up their time and skills to ensure a professional production. I am immensely proud to be part of something that is very special. Music is certainly alive and well in the Highfield community!

Ann Golding - Headteacher

Ponds in Shortlands

Did you know that there used to be more than one millpond in the area? You probably know the one on Glassmill Lane – but there was once one to the left of the footpath that runs between Durham Road and Queen Anne Avenue. If it existed today, it would cover part of the garden of three or four houses in each of those roads plus the land in between.

The pond was quite large, and could better have been called a lake. It was surrounded by alder and willow trees, and local boys would swim in it. The picturesque views of its surroundings attracted artists and photographers.

In 1931 approval was given to extend Durham Road and Queen Anne Avenue and so the pond was filled in and the trees cut down. The spring which fed the pond was piped to the River Ravensbourne.

Copies of a 1894 map of Shortlands can be purchased from Bromley library. The map shows other points of interest such as the ponds off South Hill Road and Kingswood Avenue: these are still there, called Kingswood Glen and are looked after by a local group. There were also gravelpits in the Winchester Park area.

Pictures of the millpond will be displayed in the church porch until the end of September.

Stan Clark



Burrswood Hospital

Set in the heart of the Kent countryside near Tunbridge Wells stands this beautiful house and grounds. It was purchased after the war but as it had been requisitioned by the military it was in a dreadful condition. It was carefully restored, making Burrswood into the unique place it is today – a 40-bed hospital.

It was first registered as a nursing home where orthodox medical care was combined with Christian prayers to create a place of healing for the whole person. It includes a beautiful church at the end of the building which was constructed, completed and dedicated in May 1960, with regular services being held for inpatients, staff and visitors.

Following on from a total hip replacement operation I was lucky enough to spend a week there receiving what they call step-down or post operative care where patients receive a period of further care to enable them to achieve optimal recover. I received daily physiotherapy and hydrotherapy which really speeded up my recovery.

All the staff are supportive and encouraging, making recovery quicker and happier, I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and even just a walk around the grounds is very rewarding.

Ann Swatton

St Mary's In the Mood

The University of Greenwich Big Band commemorates the 70th anniversaries of VE and VJ days

3pm Sunday 11 October

St Mary's Church

Tickets £10 each, available in September after 10.30am services in church and from the Parish Office

Arranged by the Friends of St Mary's

Missions of the months

August - Demelza Hospice Care for Children

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

Having developed over the last twenty years, the charity is now looking at the way it provides building-based and community respite care, symptom management and end of life care, family support and counselling. The priority is to listen and act in response to the views and suggestions from families and young people.

With increasing numbers of young people living into adulthood, it is necessary to expand the transition service to support and ease the way for families and carers as they become introduced to adult services and care. Members of the Young People's forum want a social life, to meet their peers and try different activities. The Trustees, staff, and volunteers are all working towards improving the services in the best possible way to cope with the ever more complex conditions and lives, working in partnership with other agencies and offering the very best care in all respects.

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 Demelza Hospice Care for Children – or see www.demelza.org.uk

September - Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) works in over twenty countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, defending everyone's right to freedom of religion or belief. Three quarters of the world's population lives in countries with severe restrictions on their religious freedom – in fact, it's one of the most widely-violated human rights in the world. Christians are globally the most persecuted religious group, and CSW's priority is working for Christians of all denominations.

CSW has earned a reputation for providing trustworthy information. Decision-makers at the UK parliament, United Nations, European Union and US Congress turn to CSW for accurate reports on the state of religious freedom around the world. It is known for putting across a balanced view of each situation, without exaggeration.

People also need to be able to speak up for themselves more effectively, so CSW provides human rights advocacy training to communities and activists worldwide.

CSW's supporters in the UK encourage those who are in prison, under house arrest or being persecuted for their faith by writing letters and praying for them. The people they help consistently say that these messages keep them going in times of trial.

At the 10.30am service at St Mary's on Sunday 6th September Mervyn Thomas, Chief Executive of CSW, will be speaking about the organisation's work. More information can be found on the board at the back of church during September, or at www.csw.org.uk



Calling all artists!

St Mary's is hoping to have its own set of Christmas cards Younger, older, budding, experienced artists – you are all invited to submit your designs
Up to four drawings, paintings or photographs to the Parish Office by 30 September



REMEMBERING: The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen commemorated the WW1 South Hill Voluntary Aid Hospital at their Community Event in June. Two committee members dressed in VAD uniforms and the event was supported by "They Shall Grow Not Old..." Great War Displays & Educational Presentations who provided a display of period equipment and artefacts.

Friends of Welcare in Bromley

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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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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
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	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

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Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers	Mrs H. Ashford	07979 504079

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides please tel: 08001695901 or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

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Clr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
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Residents' Association	8460 4060
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