

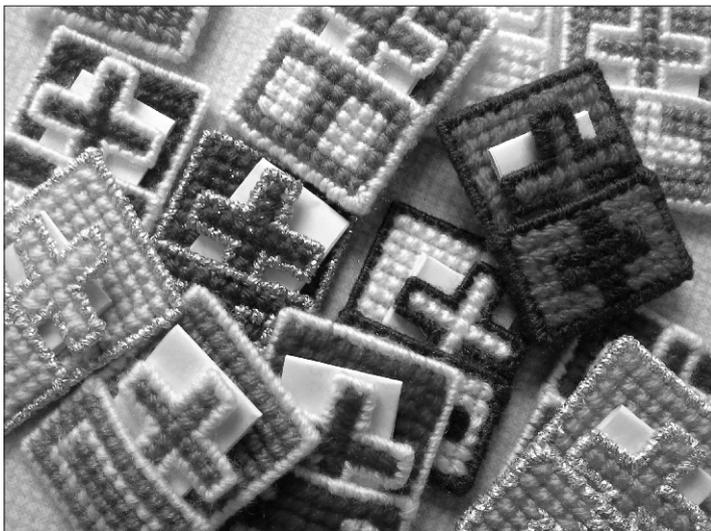
Signs of new life and hope

As we continue our journey through Lent, our journey will take us via Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem. The mood changes from one of celebration as we hear about the palm branches being waved in celebration, to a sombre mood as we hear about Christ's suffering and death for us.

On Maundy Thursday we celebrate the Last Supper, and remember Christ's humility, shown as he washed the feet of his disciples. Quickly, we move to Good Friday and a remembrance of the Crucifixion – when Jesus was mocked, suffered agonies on the Cross, died and was buried.

After marking the events of Good Friday, we will celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Easter Day, with an opportunity to re-affirm the promises made at our baptism, and to hunt Easter eggs!

Although the Crucifixion is a hard event to reflect on, without it we would have no Resurrection - Jesus had to die in order that he could rise again. Jesus died to take on the sins of the world, like a scapegoat, but we believe that his resurrection shows that death is not the end of everything.



The Easter story shows us how when things seem at their worst, when everything has gone wrong, we can often find signs of new life and new hope - if we are open to being surprised.

Our Craft and Chatter group (a re-incarnation of 'Knit and Natter') have been making small 'Cross in my pocket' crosses. These small crosses are ideal to keep in your pocket or bag: as you put your hand in your pocket you are reminded of God's continual presence and concern for each one of us.

The cross is in a small pouch which also contains a poem reminding us of God's great love for us.

They are on sale after services and from the parish office priced £2.50 and proceeds will be split between Welcare in Bromley and St Mary's.

Rev Morag Finch

Congratulations Ann!

Ann Golding, who has been Headteacher of Highfield Infants' School for the last six years, has taken on the role of joint Headteacher of both Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools with effect from 24th February.

The schools will continue to operate independently, having converted to Academies last year, but the Governors of both schools consider that there are potential benefits to be had from a greater degree of integration and joint working and that there will be opportunities to achieve this under the new arrangement.

Tony Chase

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



Special Events and Services

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 13 April - Palm Sunday
10.30am Procession of palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
6.30pm A choral service for Passiontide

Thursday 17 April - Maundy Thursday
8.00pm Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch

Friday 18 April - Good Friday
10.30am Family Service
2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

Sunday 20 April - Easter Day
8.00am Sunrise Eucharist
10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection
including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
23 Mar James Baptiste

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
Norman Carver 26 Feb aged 92

Easter Lilies



If you would like to remember a departed loved one at the Great Festival of Easter, we invite you to make a donation to the Flower Fund as a memorial to that person.

A list of the names of all those to be remembered will be placed on the altar on Easter Day, to affirm our hope in the resurrection to eternal life and the Christian's eternal security in Christ.

Mission of the month



Womankind Worldwide

Womankind Worldwide is an international women's rights charity working to help women transform their lives in 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Womankind deliver essential support in funding enterprises, creating contacts and promoting publicity. They work in partnership with women's rights organisations who are challenging discrimination and violence against women, helping them to amplify their voice, increase their impact and bring about greater change.

By working with these women's organisations they ensure solutions are firmly rooted in local communities, conditions, context and needs. The long-term partnerships ensure that they are sustainable too.

Last year they directly supported almost 141,000 women to improve the rights of over 6.5 million women.

Womankind Worldwide was the brain child of Sir Alec Reed of Reed Employment plc. His aim was to set up a charity to support women in developing countries which he would finance for three years through the Reed Employment and through the Reed Charity. It was launched on International Women's Day in 1989.

For more information please see the display at the back of the church or www.womankind.org.uk.



News from the Pre-school

St Mary's Pre-school Shortlands is always busy, lively and full of happy children.

The waiting list for a September 2014 start has now closed.

If you would like to register your child for September 2015 or if you just want to see some of the things that we are doing, visit our brand new website: www.stmaryspreschoolshortlands.co.uk

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Mothers' Union is an international Christian organisation that aims to demonstrate the Christian faith in

action through the transformation of communities worldwide. Mothers' Union works with people of all faiths and none in 83 countries to promote stable marriage, family life, and the protection of children through praying, enabling, and campaigning.

At St. Mary's there has been a branch of the Mothers' Union for over 100 years, dating back to the original church. In the side chapel, alongside the altar, stands the old banner - both came from the original bombed church. The beautiful new Mothers' Union banner in the Sanctuary, given by Gloria Carpenter in memory of her husband Robert, will continue to be paraded in church on fitting occasions.

All things change - and it has been evident for some time that we needed to consider future options for our Branch, as we had no volunteers to take responsibility for financial affairs, or for maintaining an overview of activities.

An Extraordinary meeting was held on the 25th November to discuss our Branch's future. It was agreed that the Branch, as it has operated over the years, would close at the AGM in February 2014.

Mothers' Union in Shortlands will however continue: many members will become Diocesan Members, and a St. Mary's Mothers' Union Fellowship has started, with occasional, instead of monthly, meetings.

Our first gathering is a Lent Lunch on Thursday, 3rd April in aid of 'Make a Mother's Day'. This supports families by enabling them to develop the skills they need to make a better life for themselves. There will be gatherings over the months ahead, to which all are most welcome, when we will continue to support various Mothers' Union projects.

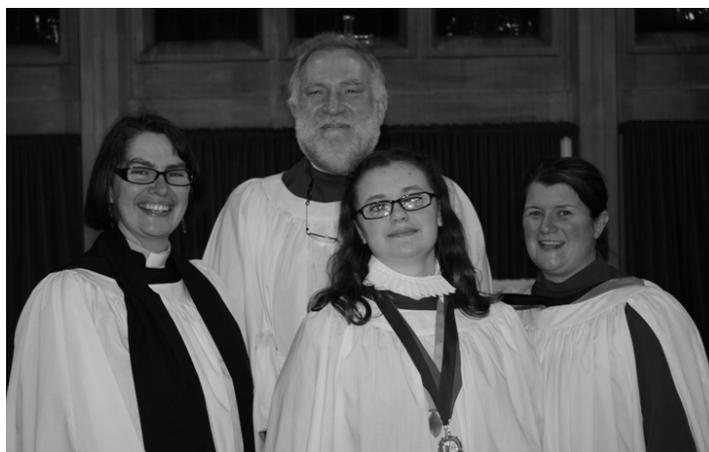
Tricia White

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Come along to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church on **Sunday 27th April after the 10.30am service**

to find out more about what has happened at St. Mary's over the last year - and our plans for the next year.

Papers for the meeting will be published on the website at least a week in advance: www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS! Reverend Morag Finch, Robin Hogg (President of the Friends of St. Mary's committee), and Claire Tillotson (Acting Director of Music) awarded 'Chorister of the Year 2014' to Martha Knox in recognition of her commitment and dedication.

What will I find...?

So what should you expect if visiting St Mary's for the first time?

If you come along to a Family Communion service at 10.30am on a Sunday, there will be people to welcome you at the door. They'll usually give you a book with the hymns, and another one with the words we use in the service. Come on in, and sit anywhere!

At the start of the service, whoever is leading the service that day will come out and say a few words of welcome, then we'll sing our first hymn as the choir comes in. Don't worry if you don't know the tune, they're usually quite easy to pick up - and if you're not a great singer, well you won't be the only one!

During the service, the person leading it will explain what's happening, and where to find the words in the book - our 'order of service'. As well as hymns, you should expect to hear some readings, some prayers, and a talk.

Towards the end of the service, everyone is encouraged to come up to the altar rail at the top of the church. If you don't normally receive communion (that is, the bread and wine), then you are very welcome to come and have a prayer of blessing said with you.

Through all of these different parts of the service, we praise God, and offer ourselves to him - all of our gifts and our weaknesses. At the end, we dedicate ourselves to serve him. We have come together, and now we are sent out - 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'.

After the service, it's time for a coffee and a chat. We're a friendly bunch, and will be pleased to introduce ourselves. And if there's anything you're not sure about, just ask - we don't all know all the answers, but we'll be happy to find out for you.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Gathered together in Jesus' name

Durham House is a large building at the junction of Durham Avenue and South Hill Road. It consists of 30 self-contained flats caring for disabled people.

In the 1970s, Dr Dorothy Clift, supported by the Vicar the Rev Doug Redman, started to hold informal services there. During the intervening years, many dedicated people have come to assist at services and to befriend residents, as part of St Mary's outreach in the community.

These services are held at 11.15am each Wednesday morning.

Various traditions have sprung up: for example, at the start of each service we always sing an extract from Psalm 46: 'Be still and know that I am God'. At the conclusion, for 'the Grace', we sing J Newton's hymn 'May the grace of Christ our Saviour'.

There is a high turnover amongst residents and sometimes only a few people attend, but our proud boast is that there is always a service, thus fulfilling the words of Jesus: 'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them' (Matthew 19:20).

There is also a poetry group run for the benefit of residents. It meets once a month and attracts a variety of people, some of whom attend the service and others who do not. At the group there is room for creativity as some residents write their own poetry and read it aloud: their art is further illustrated by drawings and paintings.

My day job: Hazel Leech

My first career was as a Conference Manager, working at The Economist.

When son Number One, Tim, was born I changed careers, and trained as a German and French teacher, working in many local schools including Hayes and Buller's Wood. Then sons Two and Three, Chris and Jon, came along.

Working on the principle that it is good to keep fresh, I retrained yet again ten years later as a Specialist Teacher of Pupils with a Visual Impairment. I love this role, supporting pupils from 0-19 years of age in mainstream and special schools throughout the Borough and doing home visits.

We assess which specialist equipment or support each pupil needs: some of our pupils need to be taught braille (it is so very difficult to become proficient); others need access to large print. Some just need their teachers to know that they must sit at the front of the class and have their own textbooks.

We have a lovely sensory room at our base at Griffins in Orpington where we work on developing vision in young children. No two days are ever the same, and I drive between appointments listening to Radio Four.

Hazel Leech



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SPAN THANKS
We record our thanks this month for gifts amounting to £12.20

The Big Brownie Birthday



2014 is the centenary year for Brownies with many exciting activities planned. For 100 years girls have benefited from being part of this organisation and here at St Mary's we have three well established Brownie packs which are thriving and in demand by parents.

2nd Shortlands Brownies are in need of an Assistant Adult Leader to help their existing Adult Leader on a regular basis in order that they can continue having fun and friendship for years to come. They meet on Thursdays from 6.15 - 7.45pm in St Mary's Church Hall.

If you think that you would like to help then please contact Sue Tight on tel: 020 8460 8122 or email: suetight@hotmail.com

images from GirlguidingUK website

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- 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. 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
	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Priest	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/ 8460 5682
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Reader	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
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	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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	Mr. N. Stoffel	8460 0063
Electoral Roll	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Stewardship	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978
Junior Church		

PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
Open 9.30 am - 12.30 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 GSL (Fri)	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
Cubs (Mon)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
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. Kateswaran	8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. G. Attoh	07946 833576
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 1599
	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704 or 07960 988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
Mission Chairman	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. E. Noad	8462 3295
Cllr D. Jefferys	07944 565455
(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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