

Christ is risen!

At Easter we celebrated the incredible news that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Death has lost its sting, do not be afraid.

It is difficult to imagine what it was like to be those followers of Jesus who heard the news and then met the risen Christ. In May, at St Mary's, we will hear again of those first encounters; meetings on the road, by the edge of the sea, eating together, being encouraged and challenged.

On the day that I write these notes the sun is blazing, grass is growing vigorously, flowers are blooming. It might be easy to imagine that all was bright and brilliant after the Resurrection. Life was not easy; the disciples were in hiding, there was no certainty for the future.

When Peter met the risen Christ he was transformed. Peter left behind the guilt of denying Jesus and took on the challenge that Jesus gave him: tend my sheep.

As we go about our daily tasks do what Jesus told Peter – tend my sheep, look after the people about you, bring good news and hope. Sometimes we might make mistakes: that is the risk we have to take.

We need to be aware of how God meets us in our everyday lives; through the caring of a doctor, at the sharing of a meal, in times of laughter with our friends, in the quiet of sadness. Especially in those times when we might feel lost or confused, that is when we need reassurance – Christ is with us, do not be afraid.

Rev Richard Finch



Brett Tomlinson Photography

Congratulations! Lynsey Speller and Darren Grover celebrated their wedding at St Mary's on 5th April.

Parish Picnic & Barbecue

Sunday, 8 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!

Special Events and Services

Sunday 4 May

10.30am Family Communion

Preacher: Ven Dr Paul Wright,
Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley

*We welcome our visitors from St Francis of
Assisi, Douai*

Sunday 18 May

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Reading

Canticles: Wood in D

Anthem: Beati Quorum - Stanford

Thursday 29 May- Ascension Day

8.00pm Holy Communion

*Followed by the launch of the Ascension Day
rocket*



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Linda Diamond 10 April aged 66
Robert Hobbs 10 April aged 39



Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

5 April Darren and Lynsey Grover



What do you want at your funeral?

It might seem a strange question but often when I've visited a bereaved family I've been told 'we don't know what Mum would have wanted'.

Making decisions about what to include in a funeral service can be difficult for a grieving family as they want to say their farewells and give thanks in a way that is appropriate.

Making plans doesn't mean we are about to die, just that we prepare our wishes in the same way as we write a will, so that things go as smoothly as possible.

It is good to talk to family and friends. Although a conversation may be difficult, it can prevent unhappiness and ill-feeling later on. When the time comes, those closest to you will be prepared and know that they are carrying out your wishes. If you do leave written instructions, ensure it is known where to find them.

It is helpful for family members to know if you wish for a cremation or burial and where the funeral could be held. If you wish to be cremated, where would you like your ashes to be placed?

At most services there are readings; you may have a favourite poem or a bible passage that is important to you. Music can play an important part in funerals; are there particular pieces which you would like included, or hymns which have particular meaning for you?

By taking the initiative and setting out what you want now, you can get on with living your life, knowing that when the time comes your loved ones will know what you wanted and be spared from having to make difficult decisions.

However, bear in mind that a funeral is above all an occasion for your family and friends to express their grief and celebrate your life, so don't feel you need to dictate every aspect.

I am happy to help with advice. If you would like to discuss this further please ring the parish office and they will make an appointment for you.

Rev Morag Finch

Welcome!

Mowgli Cubs said 'Karibu' (Swahili for 'welcome') to a very special guest on 10th March. Chief Joseph, a Masai and also a head teacher from Kenya, is hoping to start up a Cub Pack there; he was only in the UK for one week and we were honoured that he could join us. The children were enthralled and asked some very sensible questions.

Dressed in traditional robes, he asked our cubs what they enjoy about Scouting, showed a film of the Mara and told us all about life as a Masai. He also brought beautiful beaded artefacts & jewellery, all hand-sewn by the village women. These items were sold to raise funds for his cub uniforms.

This is a small part of the International Partnership Award that we are working towards, also supporting "Timu Rafiki" a charity assisting & mentoring Scouting in Kenya.

Tricia Braithwaite ('Chil')

*Celebrating
70 years
of marriage*

CONGRATULATIONS

To Kathleen and Norman Friskney who recently celebrated their Platinum wedding anniversary.

They celebrated with a family gathering and were delighted to receive good wishes from friends and family.

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





Muscular Christianity

A group of volunteers removed one of the trees that fell during the winter storms in the church grounds.

Mission of the month

Christian Aid

Christian Aid works globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity & freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality.



By acting together we can make a huge difference to people living in poverty & conflict. We can send those living in fear a powerful message: 'You are not alone! We're working alongside you, helping you to rebuild your lives, working for peace'.

So, how can we in Shortlands make a difference?

We need your financial support, but also your active help as a Street Collector. If you are able to give an hour or two to help us, please contact Tricia Braithwaite (8460 4152) or Sara Craggs (8464 4379).

For more information about the work of Christian Aid, see the display at the back of church, or www.christianaid.org.uk.

Prayer visiting in Shortlands

For the last six years, during the summer months, a small team of people from St Mary's has been visiting homes in the parish. Introductory letters are delivered in advance to a number of roads asking people if they have anything they would like the church to pray for. This is then followed up a few days later with a brief visit where the team collect any prayer requests and bring them back to the church for inclusion at Sunday services and daily prayers. The team has visited nearly every home in the parish; they are only unable to gain access to gated communities.

There is no praying on doorsteps or anything like that! The team goes out for an hour at a time, usually between 7 pm and 8 pm. Most visits last just a few minutes – some a little longer. Over the years there has been a huge response to the visits. The team hopes that their visits will remind people that St Mary's is there for everyone. Many conversations that start out 'oh, I'm not a church goer' or 'I don't believe any of that' end up with people asking for prayer for loved ones or difficult situations in their lives. Confidentiality is respected, and for many prayer requests only first names are used.

As Christians we believe in the power of prayer. It is our experience that prayer releases God's love into the world and into our lives. Perhaps one of our teams has visited you in the past, or will be knocking on your door this summer. If you don't share our belief in prayer, or if you don't want to share personal matters with us, then we won't bother you any longer than it takes to say 'No thank you'. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you either on the doorstep or at St Mary's.

Susie Shelton



Thank you!

Rev Morag Finch and Ann Swatton (Churchwarden) presented Alan Jones with a card and gift to thank him for his involvement in the collation and distribution of SPAN for over 30 years. Alan's considerable commitment and continuing help and advice is appreciated.

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

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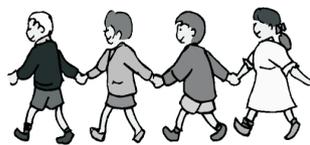
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- 08.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Communion, except the first Sunday in the month in term time.
During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18. All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, 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 |
| Reader Emeritus | Mrs. A. Gimson | 8460 6494 |
| Reader | Mr. P. Stotesbury | 8650 3259 |
| Pastoral Assistants | Mrs. S. Harrison | 8464 0284 |
| | Mrs. D. Speller | 8466 1184 |
| | Mrs. M. Westropp | 8650 5178 |
| Parish Administrator | Ms. N. Blake | 8460 5682 |
| Assistant | Mrs. E. Parker | 8460 5682 |
| Churchwardens | Mrs. A. Swatton | 8650 1114 |
| | Dr. D. Jefferys | 8460 6030 |
| Deputies | 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 |
| PCC Secretary | Miss J. Rambridge | 8650 0947 |
| Treasurer | Mr. T. Dawson | 8460 5884 |
| Assistant Treasurer | Mr. R. Hogg | 8290 0031 |
| Organist & Acting Director of Music | Canon C. Tillotson | 8460 7368 |
| | 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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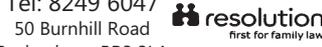
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