

Called to serve

At the beginning of June I found myself having an unexpected stay at the 'PRUH'. Whilst I was in hospital I was impressed with the care and dedication of the staff I encountered. Even when they were busy they were willing to spend time assisting patients, all done with a willing smile.

Sitting in bed gave me plenty of time to reflect and I realised that I was seeing at first hand people who had a real sense of vocation. What they were doing wasn't 'just a job', but something that they felt called to and had a real ability for.

We see others in our community with a similar sense of vocation: the teachers in our local schools and pre-schools; our councillors and Member of Parliament. We may not always agree with all their political views but benefit from their sense of wanting to serve others.

Our Mission Statement says 'St. Mary's church endeavours to bring the love of God into the everyday lives of the people of Shortlands.' We strive to do this in many different ways,

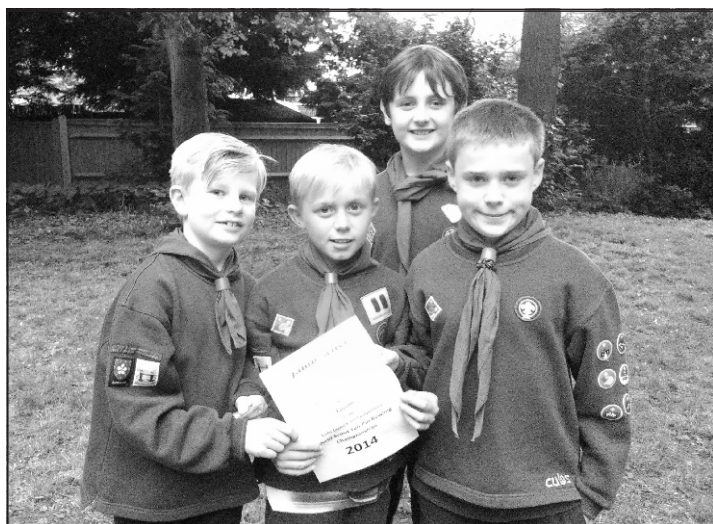
whilst of course also welcoming those who live outside the bounds of the parish.

Some of the ways we do this include the open groups for parents and toddlers, craft and chatter and keep fit. Refreshments seem to feature strongly!

Vocation may be in a particular call to God's service, for example as a priest or in assisting in the many tasks that are needed to ensure a church runs smoothly. There are many ways in which people give their time and talents to the church, such as the coffee rota, gardening, flower arranging, cleaning, singing in the choir, and leading junior church or the uniformed organisations.

The idea of vocation is central to the Christian belief that God has created each person with gifts and talents that we can use to help each other. We are called to love one another and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Rev Morag Finch



Bowled over!

As part of their International Partnership Badge, 7th Bromley Mowgli Cubs entered a global ten-pin bowling competition in May, competing with 17 other teams from as far away as Germany and Australia.

Imagine our delight to discover that they came fourth in the world - congratulations!

Tricia Braithwaite ('Chil')

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



Sisters up Snowdon

Congratulations to Marion Westropp who, with her sister Jan Wilkinson, hiked up Snowdon for the Peter Westropp Memorial Trust, raising well over £1,200 through sponsorship.

Peter died in a random accident three years ago and the Trust was set up to raise funds for The Carers' Trust. For more details see www.peterwestropp.co.uk



Pictured are (left to right) Charles Westropp, his mother Marion, Jan Wilkinson, her children Jenny and Andrew, and Chutney the dog at the summit.

Special Events and Services

Sunday 6 July

10.30am Family and Parade Service

With the help of Tuesday Cubs

Sunday 13 July

6.30pm Summer Praise

A lively informal service led by the Music Group

Sunday 27 July

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Sanders

Canticles: Walmisley in D Minor

Anthem: The Secret of Christ - Shepherd



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

1 June Poppy Holton

15 June Scarlett Tiger-Lillie Doyle

15 June Dominic Teddy Doyle

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Jean Tresize 19 May aged 85

Alfred Tucker 22 May aged 102

Ronald Rankin 27 May aged 100

Margaret Adams 30 May aged 74

Dorothy Cooper 18 Jun aged 85



Over 150 people enjoyed the sunshine at the St Mary's parish picnic in June. While the children enjoyed the bouncy castle, grown-ups could buy a burger or hot dog in aid of Maddie Webster's trip to the World Scout Jamboree in 2015.

Enjoying the Sun

Celebrating Pentecost together

On a beautiful, sunny June day more than 200 people from different churches around Beckenham – including some representatives from St Mary's – met to celebrate Pentecost, the birth of the Christian church. Organised by CTiB (Churches Together in Beckenham), the open air event took place on the green next door to St George's parish church.

The afternoon saw families picnicking, free food for passers-by, music led by a band from Christ Church and the Messenger Choir, and an informal service.

Members of different churches took part in a reading of Acts 2 which told the story of how the first Christians were commissioned by God through the Holy Spirit to go out into the world and tell others what Jesus had done for them. One of the messages of the day was that God makes us all different: although there are many churches, there is only one God and one hope that unites us all.

Susie Shelton



Get involved!

There is a fantastic tradition of volunteering in our local communities and many activities that support vulnerable people would not happen without our volunteers. People with a wide range of skills and knowledge are needed to help out in day centres, provide administrative support for local voluntary groups, speak up on behalf of vulnerable people, get involved in sports groups, or become trustees.

Whatever it is you would like to get involved in, the Volunteer Centre Bromley can help you decide what would suit you best. With over 350 vacancies covering volunteering with older people, young people, plants, computers, cameras, DIY, sports, driving, art materials, or managing people and projects, there is something to suit everyone.

What some local volunteers have said:

'It makes me feel valued and I can fit it in with my work.'

'I help him out every week. We've become friends.'

'School is such a friendly place to volunteer.'

'I never knew I could use my computer skills to help other people.'

For a confidential, one-to-one discussion, or just to ask a question about volunteering, contact the Volunteer Centre Bromley on 020 8315 1905. Alternatively, have a look at the national volunteering database www.do-it.org.uk.



CONGRATULATIONS. At the recent Annual General Meeting of 7th Bromley Scouts, Deputy District Commissioner for Bromley Gary Peppiatt presented awards to three members of the Group. Pictured left to right they are Stan Clark (Treasurer - Good Service to Scouting), John Westropp (Beavers - Bar to the Award for Merit) and Duncan Hope (Cubs, Kim Pack - Ten Years' Service).



MY DAY JOB...that was

Although now long retired, I was for over thirty years a teacher of History in a variety of South London schools.

At Bullers Wood and Eltham College I had the luxury of going to work each day in a beautiful historic building. At other times my school was in relatively modern but dilapidated accommodation of crumbling cement. For two years I was a Supply Teacher, going for a few weeks or months into most schools in the Borough of Bromley. For me the task remained essentially the same: keep them fascinated!

History is a great subject. There's a story to latch on to, an argument to be made. Unlike some subjects, History is not about truth and eternal laws: it deals with the changes of things that change. I believe that if we don't know where we are coming from it's harder to see where we are going. Leading the young through the pages of history is as much about preparing them for the future as it is about mulling over dead issues.

Being the leader in such an environment was fun. It made little difference to my pleasure whether I was before a class of A Level Eltham College pupils, all heading for university, or struggling in the midst of thirty twelve year olds who had somehow found themselves in the bottom stream in an inner London comprehensive. The job involved starting from where they were, leading them on and always glancing sideways to spot an individual problem, related or unrelated to the History lesson.

I miss that world of course, but within twelve months of leaving it I began to acquire a string of grandchildren, all living nearby, so in a way my class has not left me.

Annette German



Big Brownie Holiday

3rd Shortlands Brownies "graduated" at the end of their Brownie Holiday at Cudham where they achieved a campfire challenge badge and celebrated the Big Brownie Birthday.

'Bumble bee'

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Mission of the month

Mines Advisory Group



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Thanks to MAG, today there is a Mine Ban Treaty to which 160 countries have signed up.

Tomorrow, ten people will lose their lives or suffer serious injury due to unexploded devices. Together let's protect the men, women & children who still live under such threats, by supporting MAG in their endeavours.

Col Bob Stewart will speak at St Mary's on 20 July at the 10.30am service about his personal experiences in war-torn Bosnia and the sterling work done by MAG that he witnessed first-hand. All are welcome!

For more information, see the board at the back of church, or visit <http://www.maginternational.org>

The Friends of St Mary's

are holding a

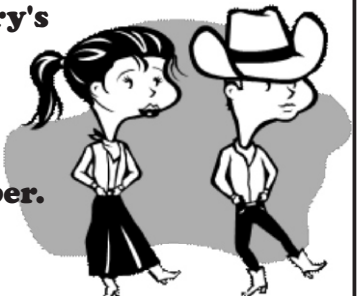
Barn Dance

on

Saturday 20 September.

SAVE THE DATE!

More details next month!



Thank you

This has been yet another difficult year for survival in many countries around the world - as our guest speaker from Christian Aid, Martin Birch explained in his informative address to the congregation in May.

Despite economic hardship at home, we are delighted to announce that we in Shortlands have collected the sum of £3,204.72 to donate to Christian Aid. A big thank you to our ever smaller band of diligent collectors and to you, our parishioners, for this heart-warming response!

Our uniformed organisations, junior choir, pre-school and mother and toddler groups all put 'Pennies from Heaven' around the Church totalling £163.01. Thanks to all these youngsters and their leaders and to Pat Chase who facilitated their visits.

Patricia Braithwaite & Sara Craggs



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WORSHIP

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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.
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.

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	revfinch@btinternet.com	
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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
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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
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LOCAL CONTACTS

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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

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