

Together in faith

I am writing this having just returned from the Holy Land on a tour organised for clergy of the Rochester Diocese, where I experienced a very different Pentecost, the day when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The day started with an alarm call at 5am and those of us who were sufficiently awake went to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site where it is believed Jesus' tomb is to be found. This fascinating and historic church contains the Omphalos – the 'navel of the world' and is a place of pilgrimage for many Christians.

Entering through the Greek Orthodox section of the church, we were surrounded by chanting prayer and a sense of reverence and devotion from the priests and nuns. Through an archway we heard songs from the Coptic church as two priests took it in turn to praise God. Within minutes the Franciscans had begun their service with loud organ music and I will never know how the Coptic priests held their notes and continued - except that they are used to sharing worship in the same space and in their different ways.

The church is also shared with Syrian Orthodox, Armenians, Abyssinians and vast numbers of bustling, pushing tourists. Whoever thought you needed peace and quiet in order to pray effectively? They don't have it there and yet there was a sense

that these people really were connecting with God.

We went on to a service at St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem outside the old city. This was conducted in Arabic and English and we sung and prayed in our own language. Once acclimatised to this, it was rather moving.

A further treat awaited us after the service. The Scout Band was performing in the courtyard marching to drums and bagpipes, wearing spats and tartan uniforms in 47 degrees of heat.

And I wept.

These lovely young men, the congregation and all the Christian priests of the area had travelled the length and breadth of Israel to be together for Pentecost and to celebrate together the Coming of the Holy Spirit, but it is so hard to be a Christian in the Holy Land. Each year there are fewer and fewer as children grow up and find no future in the land where our faith began.

We had a lunch for everyone after the band had played. As with the feeding of the five thousand, miraculously there was enough to go round, and we met fellow Christians who had come together for this special day. As at the first Pentecost many languages were being spoken, many dialects... but we all knew each other as friends and fellows in faith. It was an extraordinary day.

Please pray for the people of Jerusalem, they need our support. One way is to visit their beautiful land as a pilgrim. It is a life-changing experience.

Rev Jane Peters



Dinosaur spotting!

The children at St Mary's Pre-school have had a very busy summer term. They have been on a train ride to a park, and completed a sponsored walk with activities along the way and raised almost £700 to be split between Barnardo's and the pre-school.

They also visited Crystal Palace Park to see the dinosaurs and the children's farm, and the older children have been to Shortlands Library.

Pat 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

Sunday 21 September

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Ayleward

Canticles: Sumsion in A

Anthem: Thou wilt keep him - Wesley

Sunday 5 October

10.30am Harvest Festival

with the help of Thursday Brownies



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

6 July Dominic Price

6 July Amelia Grace Peachey

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

20 June Ronald Rankin

22 June Dorothy Clift



Caring for the Casualties

As part of a Heritage Lottery funded project called 'Caring for the Casualties of the Great War in Bromley', research is underway on the auxiliary hospital that was set up in South Hill Wood Park.

Bromley Local Studies Library won funding to conduct this project and with the help of volunteers they will find out how military personnel and civilians were cared for in the borough during the First World War. The information is to be made available on their website, www.bromleyfirstworldwar.org.uk and through displays throughout the borough in the next four years to commemorate the Great War.

It is known that Sir Thomas Dewey of South Hill Woods converted the music pavilion that was in his garden (on the site where the bowling and tennis clubs now are) into a two-ward hospital, with 12 beds for predominantly Belgian soldiers. According to 'Kent's Care for the Wounded' (written by Creswick, Pond and Ashton in 1915), this small hospital was an auxiliary hospital and was linked to what was called the Kent 52, a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Auxiliary Hospital based at the Bromley Masonic Hall.



Photo supplied by Bromley Local Studies and Archives

A Miss Larkin and a Miss Davies were placed in charge at South Hill Wood. They cared for Belgian soldiers and then later British soldiers. Dewey was honoured by King Albert II of Belgium for his work and the personal care of patients there. The Dewey Ward at the old Bromley Cottage Hospital also took in wounded soldiers and Dewey is known to have paid particular attention to those cared for at both sites.

If you have information which may be useful for this research, such as an old photo, or any knowledge about the South Hill Wood hospital, its staff or patients, please contact the local studies library. You can email localstudies.library@bromley.gov.uk or call 020 8462 7170. Alternatively please give it to the Parish Office and they will forward it on.

Kay Coleman

Tasting success

The Friends of St Mary's held a fun wine tasting evening on Saturday 21 June at the Church Hall. Over sixty people attended making seven teams with a wide variety of wine knowledge. Most teams seemed very good at drinking it and some were good at tasting, but all had fun.

There were three white wines, including an excellent Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc Long White, followed by three reds, including an excellent red made in honour of Che Guevara's motor cycle journey through South America.

In between each wine tasting there was a quick quiz question. One of the questions was to guess the price of the bottle of Crystal Champagne that was on display – a champagne famous as the footballers' favourite tippie. There was also a spirits quiz which the 'Old Soaks' won, successfully naming sixteen different and unusual spirits.

After a close fought battle, Team Dionysus won the day getting all six wines correct and winning a large hamper of, you guessed it, wine! The Friends of St Mary's raised almost £300 from the wine tasting, which was provided by local wine merchant Refreshers.

Tim Dawson



At the Abbey

Pictured are David Loades and Coreen Corbin in Westminster Abbey following this year's installation of Knights Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

David Loades was made a Member of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath in the 1990s in recognition of his work as a government actuary, especially his secondment to the Foreign

Office during which time he worked on financial problem solving in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The origins of the service and ceremony, which take place once every four years, date back to the 14th century. The Abbey Dean presided over the service which saw both Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Charles conferring the knighthoods.

Susie Shelton

My day job: Susie Shelton

I first came to London to work as PA to the Director of the Wallace Collection, which houses a fascinating mixture of paintings (including the Laughing Cavalier), Sevres porcelain, furniture and armoury. I then joined the British Council where I worked for nine years, firstly with overseas students, and later administering overseas aid projects.

Following the arrival of my children I joined the voluntary sector as a fund raiser and speaker for Demelza House, and then later worked in schools and the community for LEPRA (the Leprosy Relief Association).

These days I divide my time between church commitments like Mission Beyond the Parish, the music group, prayer visiting and other duties, and helping with two charities.

I help organise donations such as much needed clothes for the Biggin Hill Romania Group (helping children with special needs in Comanesti, Romania) and the Bromley Youth Music Trust (current projects include bringing music to less advantaged children in Penge and the Crays).

My work brings me into contact with many people, which is a great privilege and pleasure. No two days are the same.

Despite all the negative news we receive via the media, there is much good in the world; it just doesn't make the headlines that often. Many people, young and old, are willing to help improve the lives of others, in small or large ways, and often unseen. Each of us can make a difference in our world every day, for better or worse: the choice is up to us.





TEAM BUILDING AND CAKE!

On 21 June 2014, 2nd and 3rd Shortlands Guide Leaders and Young Leaders headed to Downe Activity Centre for a fun but challenging team building day in the sunshine, courtesy of Rusty winning a Jack Petchey Award. Once we had had a cup of tea, applied ample amounts of suncream and were split into two groups, we were ready for our morning activity. Jacobs Ladder was first on the itinerary, which was a very physical challenge and pushed us to work together as a group to get everyone to the top, which was very high up!

After our lunchtime sandwiches, we set off for our second activity, archery. We had to shoot each other's names on the target to get each other out which got very competitive. We then did a few team building activities which included crossing a lava field on milk crates, Downe's version of "pop the cork" where we all got soaked and guiding a member of our team, whilst blindfolded, over an assault course.

After the excitement of the afternoon, we were relieved when tea and cake were brought out to us giving us time to relax and reflect upon the day's activities. After all, what Guide outing would be complete without tea and cake?

Louise Crampsie, Mel Bowman, Colette Jardine

Missions of the month

Carers Bromley

Carers Bromley is a charity that seeks out and supports those who care.

They supply a sitting or respite service for those who care, unpaid, for a friend, neighbour or relative who could not manage otherwise because of frailty, illness, addiction or disability. They support carers from age four upwards. They charge a minimum fee and provide help and support to over 4,000 carers throughout Bromley.

They also run free courses to help and educate the carer in the work they are doing, (for example advice on back care, moving and handling), specific support for those caring for someone with mental health difficulties or dementia, help with claiming benefits and accessing services, emotional support, activities for young carers (4-18 years), organised outings and other stress-busting activities such as a pop-in choir, and much more.

Becoming a carer can happen to anyone at any time and carers are people from all cultures and of any age. I myself became a carer some years ago and have found the support, help and information provided by Carers Bromley a lifeline.

More information about Carers Bromley can be found at www.carersbromley.org.uk, 0800 015 7700, or see the display at the back of church in August.

Cecilia Willatt

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

This charity supports 800 life-limited children and their families across Kent, South East London and East Sussex. Demelza has two residential hospices, one in Eltham and one in Sittingbourne, as well as a community nursing team based in East Sussex.

Demelza South East London is celebrating its fifth birthday this year and the gardens have been improved with a gazebo, lawn and water feature, all built by the Phat Dads, an active group of parents. There is an Open Day at Eltham on Saturday, 11th October, 2014.

Plans this coming year include extending the care of young people from 19, until 25, to support them through the transition to adult care. Children with many more complex needs are being cared for, thereby demanding increasing support from the Care Team. A link with the schools of siblings is being established for a better understanding of their particular needs. A variety of improvements to the buildings and services are also planned.

A children's hospice is a place where children are encouraged to do as much as they are able, have fun, and make happy, precious memories but sometimes there is sadness. Demelza has to raise around £9million per annum to maintain the standard of care to the children and their families who regard Demelza as a haven of peace along the journey of life be it long or short. At Demelza they can recharge their batteries and seek support enabling them to continue with the very high demands of caring for a child 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year after year.

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

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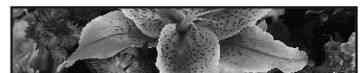
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During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18.
10.30 All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time).
18.30 Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday in the month)

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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	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's		
	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
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Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
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LOCAL CONTACTS

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Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
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