

A 'hello' from our next Vicar



I'd like to take this opportunity to say hello to all in Shortlands and give a short introduction about myself. Firstly, I am delighted that the Bishop of Rochester has invited me to become the next Vicar of Shortlands.

I grew up in Edinburgh and moved to the London part of Chelmsford Diocese at the age of 21 and have lived in that Diocese for most of the time since.

I am married to Richard, who is full time Chaplain and Faith Support Manager at Forest YMCA in Walthamstow. We have two grown up sons, Graeme who is a research student in Southampton and Calum who works in Romford.

Since I was ordained I have worked full time in parish ministry, as Curate at All Saints, Cranham

and then as Vicar of St Michael, Gidea Park. I have had a number of responsibilities outside the parish including Vocations work, Bishop's Adviser for Ordained Women's Ministry, Mentoring, Spiritual Direction and Mediation. Prior to ordination I worked in the finance side of Advertising.

I enjoy photography and can often be seen with a camera in my hand. I support Ipswich Town Football Club, not always a pleasure. As a family we have been involved in Scouting for many years; I was a cub leader and both boys worked their way through the sections and are now network members and Calum is an Explorer leader. We have a dog called Lucy and also keep chickens.

Richard and I are looking forward to moving into the Vicarage in mid-

May (but not the packing and unpacking!). We feel very excited about this move and believe that God will be with us and you as we get to know each other. I am praying for you and would ask you to pray for us as a family in this time of transition.

I look forward to meeting with many of you in the weeks and months to come. Do say hello if you see me and forgive me if I forget your name, there will be a lot to learn. It will be lovely to get to know you and hopefully I will meet some of you at the service where I will be collated by Bishop James on 15th June at 3.30pm.

Morag

(Pictured: Reverend Morag, and Reverend Richard Finch.)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Come along to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 28th 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.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
24 Feb Lily Vydelingam

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
26 Feb Alice Attree, aged 93



Race Night

A very successful Race Night was held by the Friends of St. Mary's when fun and laughter was had by everyone, cheering on their favourite horse to win.

A fish and chip supper had been organised and this was enjoyed by all. The evening raised £746 to go towards one of the Friends projects.

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks this month for gifts amounting to £26.25.

Celebration of Talents



On a cold Sunday afternoon in February a large congregation celebrated St. Mary's many and varied talents. Performances included singing, dancing, a dramatic monologue, recitations of poetry, and the Roddy family ensemble singing 'When I'm 64'. A wide range of creative talents were also on display - from samplers to paintings, from dolls to engines. The afternoon was rounded off with a chance to sample the talents of St. Mary's cake-bakers and wine-makers. Pictured are Cecilia Willatt, Marian Parr and Barbara Page, who demonstrated their talents in floral art on the theme of 'The Three Kings'.

Special Services & Events

Sunday, 21 April

5.30pm Friends Annual General Meeting in the Choir Vestry

6.30pm Friends Choral Evensong including presentation of the Paul Baker Chorister of the Year Award Responses: Sanders Canticles: Murrill in E Anthem: 'Strengthen ye the weak hands' by Harris

Accolade for Ann

On 24th February, Ann Gimson was presented with a certificate and letter from Bishop James Langstaff, officially marking her retirement as an active Lay Reader, to become Reader Emeritus. Bishop James thanked Ann for over 36 years of outstanding service to the Diocese, in preaching sermons at services, but also in visiting the sick, and in leading services such as funerals. Receiving her certificate from Ann Swatton, Churchwarden, Ann Gimson said 'It has been a privilege and a joy to share my faith and fellowship in Shortlands'.



Pictured (from left to right) are Ann Swatton, Reverend Jane Peters and Ann Gimson.

Thanks Mum!



434 people came together at St. Mary's on 10th March to celebrate Mothering Sunday. The children were given posies to give to their mothers, and afterwards a cake sale was held which raised £400 for Comic Relief.

Faith and Fun!

At St. Mary's there is a place for everyone, whatever their age or stage in life. Our children and young people continue to play a vital part in the church community and our vibrant Junior Church is at the hub of it all. Meeting most weeks during the 10.30am service, Junior Church enables our children and young people to get together to discover the Christian faith through fun-filled and thought-provoking activities.

With groups for all ages from 2-16 years old, plus a crèche for the tiny ones, we welcome all who wish to come and explore what it means to be a young Christian today. With new families joining regularly, there is always room for more!

For more information and views from the children and young people themselves do visit www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

If you have any queries please feel free to contact our Junior Church Co-ordinator, Sally Aldred (by phone on 020 8460 3978 or email: sallytimaldred@talktalk.net). We would love to see you!



Can you spot anyone you know on this new altar cloth made by St. Mary's children?

Healing Prayers at St. Mary's

Members of the congregation and visitors alike may have noticed that St. Mary's offers healing prayers during some of our Sunday 10.30 services. These prayers are usually offered on the third Sunday of the month, except when it coincides with a major festival such as Christmas or Easter, or a special event.

What are healing prayers? The main aim of this ministry is to offer prayer to those who are feeling in need of a touch from God about a particular issue in their lives. Those offering prayers on another's behalf do so in co-operation with the minister, and after appropriate training. At St. Mary's there is a small team who undertakes this ministry of healing on behalf of the church. The members of the team see themselves as being merely a channel through which God's love can come into a situation.

During a 10.30am service people are invited to take communion first or just come to the back of church during communion. Each person is able to

tell the team, in confidence, what issue they wish to be prayed for. It might be for themselves or on behalf of someone else. The team usually consists of two people who will pray for healing in mind, body and spirit. In next month's SPAN one of the healing team will give some background about the ministry of healing in Anglican churches today. The article will also describe some of the training that members of the St. Mary's team have undergone.

Susie Shelton

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Guides Celebrate



1st March was a celebratory evening at Friday Guides. Lucy Ellis-Keeler, now a Young Leader (YL), had gained her Baden-Powell (B-P) Challenge, the highest award in the Guide section - her badge and certificate were presented by Division Commissioner, Sue Tight. Lucy gave a powerpoint presentation of the work she had done for her B-P Challenge, and also received a giant cookie which she shared with the Guides and visitors.

Then special thanks were given to Sheila Morris and Emm Jardine, for their many years of service to 2nd Shortlands Guides. Sheila has been First Aider at camp every year

since 1983, and her sister Emm started 10 years later in charge of the catering - a subject very dear to hungry Guides in camp! Sue Tight presented them with Thanks Badges and Long Service certificates, and also presented Colette Jardine and Mel Bowman with their 5 year Long Service certificates. Formerly Guides and YLs in the unit, they now help at camps and sleepovers, giving up a week of their annual leave to come to Summer Camp. Sue also presented Tim Dawson with a Thanks Badge for his invaluable support of Gill and the Guides over the past three decades. (Pictured above from left to right are Gill, Tim, Lucy, Emm, Colette, Sheila, Mel).

Mission of the Month Shine

Shine is a registered charity, formed in 1966 to support families and individuals affected by Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. The charity has specialist teams who can offer information and advice on a range of issues such as education, employment, health and welfare and offers a valuable local contact who can visit the member's home to discuss concerns in depth.

Spina Bifida is a condition that develops within the first few weeks following conception: the cause is unknown and research continues. The vertebrae fail to develop properly which leaves the spinal cord vulnerable. There are varying degrees of disability depending where along the spine the fault is: there is always some paralysis and nerve damage below this point.

Hydrocephalus, which can occur at any time of life, develops when the flow of Cerebro Spinal Fluid from the brain into the bloodstream is blocked, causing compression of delicate brain tissue. Some forms of Hydrocephalus require no treatment but most will require surgical intervention and fitting of a shunt. This will manage the condition but is not a cure and should be monitored by a neurosurgical centre.

The charity works from pre-birth, giving information to women receiving antenatal care right through to its oldest members, the first generation to survive into their 50's and beyond.

For more information, see the board at the back of the church, or visit www.shinecharity.org.uk



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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.

PARISH DIRECTORY

STAFF

Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/ 8460 5682
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
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	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
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	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
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	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
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PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
Open 9.15 am - 12.30 weekdays. Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

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Friends of St. Mary's	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
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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 (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss K. Higgs	8462 3285
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Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8650 1720
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Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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