

SHORTLANDS PARISH NEWS

St. Mary's, Shortlands
endeavours to bring the love
of God into the everyday lives
of the people of Shortlands.

the SPAN

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

June 2013. Year 33 Number 6

LOOKING BACK - AND MOVING FORWARDS

Since November 2012, St. Mary's has been in an 'interregnum' – that is, a period between vicars. These periods can be difficult – but not at St. Mary's. During this time, we have remained focused on reaching out to the local community, and maintaining momentum.

With God's help we met the challenge, welcoming new members to our congregation. We

enjoyed a Parish Holiday in Krakow, held an event to celebrate the many and varied talents in the parish, completed works to the church heating system, held social events, and attracted a record attendance on Remembrance Day. Through the dedication of Reverend Jane Peters, our worship has flourished. We are very grateful to her and the Reverends Dr. Maggie Wilkinson and

John Ilson, who have all taken services regularly during the period.

The interregnum ends on Saturday 15th June when we will hold a 'service of collation', led by Bishop of Rochester, the Rt. Rev James Langstaff, in which Reverend Morag Finch will formally become our new vicar.

The next day will see our Family and Parade Service, followed by the

Parish Picnic in the church grounds, to which all are welcome.

We are excited about Morag taking forward our mission in Shortlands, and look forward to welcoming you in our worship and community. After a good interregnum – all systems are go!

*David Jefferys,
Churchwarden*



Thank you to Reverends Jane Peters, John Ilson and Dr. Margaret Wilkinson.

Parish Picnic & Barbecue

Sunday, 16 June
in the church grounds following the
10.30am Family and Parade Service
in the church.

Bring your own picnic -
barbecue food and
refreshments available to buy.

Bouncy castle and
games for all the family.

Come and join the fun!

Thank you Stan

Stan Clark was recently made Honorary Verger in recognition of his many years of service to St. Mary's. He was presented with a Verger's wand and framed certificate by Churchwardens Ann Swatton and David Jefferys.



Special Services & Events

Saturday, 15 June

3.30pm The Collation of The Reverend Morag Finch
- The Right Reverend James Langstaff,
Bishop of Rochester

Sunday, 16 June

10.30am Family and Parade Service
- Reverend Morag Finch
Followed by Parish Picnic & Barbecue

Sunday, 30 June

**10.30am Borough of Bromley Civic Service, celebrating
the year of office of Councillor Ernest Noad,
Mayor of Bromley 2013 - 2014**
- Reverend Morag Finch



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

21 Apr Romy Hills

We were very sorry to hear of the recent death of Karen Bigg, Headteacher of Highfield Junior School. An article will appear in the next edition of SPAN.



LOOK UP!

The Venerable Dr. Paul Wright, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, writes:

'It has been St. Mary's tradition, in recent years, to set off a rocket on Ascension Day. Unfortunately this year it was too windy to do it safely, so we've saved it for another day.

But why set off a rocket anyway? Ascension Day is the event which marks our Lord's return to the Father. He couldn't keep hanging around for all eternity - there needed to be some kind of

closure.

Ascend means to 'go up' and so, we set off a rocket after our Ascension Day service, to help people to 'look up'. This isn't to try and see where Jesus is, but to remind ourselves that we can relate to the God who created our world and universe and also enjoy the thrill that comes when you set a firework off. As Christians we can keep God close and have a sense of awe and wonder at the same time.'

A Year of Two Halves

At St. Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28th April around 50 attendees heard David Jefferys, Churchwarden, talk about the many activities held by the church during 2012. He described it as a 'year of two halves' - the first excellently led by Canon Paul Miller before his move to the Isles of Scilly. The church was determined to maintain momentum after his departure, and David paid tribute to Reverend Jane Peters and many others who contributed to a full programme of worship and events.

Tim Dawson, Treasurer, reported a small financial surplus for the year, and the meeting gave grateful thanks to Tim, and to Don Weekes, Assistant Treasurer, who work hard to manage the church's

finances so efficiently.

The meeting agreed the appointment of Sally Aldred, Adrian Bingham, Derek Cooper and Susie Shelton to the Parochial Church Council, as well as 5 new sidesmen.

David Jefferys thanked them and all who give their time to ensure the smooth running of the church.

The meeting ended with a presentation to Stan Clark who has for many years given his time generously to help maintain the church buildings. Stan was appointed as Honorary Verger, in recognition of all that he has done, and will continue to do for St. Mary's.

Entente Cordiale

What fun it was for all of us, St. Mary's parishioners and our Guides, to be whisked away for a weekend, right into the heart of a French community in the town of Douai. The link between our two churches has existed now for eighteen years, so while old friendships were being nourished, new ones were being forged.

We were met with great enthusiasm by our French hosts at the recently opened Louvre-Lens Museum. After lunch we wandered at will amongst the two hundred masterpieces brought to Lens from all departments of the

Louvre in Paris. Here in the *Gallery of Time* are brought together masterpieces of human art and endeavour from across six millennia. I was particularly impressed by the perfect English explanations that accompany each exhibit. The free audio-visual guide provided even more detail.

After tea we headed for Douai, where parishioners went to local homes, often of old friends, for convivial conversation and a taste of French cuisine. The Guides were taken to the French Guider's spacious garden for croque-monsieurs, prepared over a bonfire, followed by

campfire singing. Here was a special kind of companionship, born of shared aims, ideals and promises. No doubt there were moments of slight bewilderment as each girl did her best to communicate across a language barrier but that was in itself a valuable lesson of life. As the last strains of the Guide *Taps* died away,

*'Day is done; gone the sun
From the sea, from the hills, from
the sky.
All is well; safely rest,
God is night',*

they slipped away to French Guides' homes for more conversation and,

hopefully, some sleep.

The next morning we attended Mass at St. Thérèse's church. The Reverend Jane was making her first visit and was so warmly welcomed by all. Readings and prayers were in both languages, with lots of singing in between. Having been sent the music in advance we English more or less muddled through! Then came the grand finale, a scrumptious and copious meal, shared by all, including our coach driver. As we said our farewells, we clambered in disorderly fashion onto a bit of a hill for this group photograph.

Annette German



Mission of the Month

Welcare in Bromley

Welcare in Bromley provides support for families with children between the ages of 8 and 13. The charity has seen considerable changes over the past year but is now on a sound footing, working hard to improve the lives of vulnerable children in the borough of Bromley. A recent success is a new group for children who have witnessed domestic violence in their families. They are encouraged to discuss appropriate relationships and how to manage anger and fear.

Welcare's one-to-one family support workers provide practical help and support to individual families facing tough challenges. There is now a network of volunteers supporting the Family Support Service and the families themselves. They are recruited, trained and managed by the Volunteer Coordinator. So far the staff of 5 have worked with over 50 families and their target is to support 120 families by September.

So how can you help? Prayer for the continued work and success in helping vulnerable families always helps and doesn't cost anything! If you have some spare time, consider becoming a volunteer either working with the families or helping in the office. Fundraising is always a challenge but is very much appreciated. Look out for details of the quiz night to be held at St. Mary's on 12th October.

For any further information, call their office on 020 8446 0399, visit www.welcare.org/centres/bromley or see the notice board at the back of church.

Chorister of the Year



President of the Friends of St. Mary's committee Robin Hogg, and Director of Music Frank Roddy awarded 'Chorister of the Year 2013' to David Tillotson in recognition of an improved standard of singing.

Close to Nature



Zoo Lab visited St. Mary's Pre-school in March with a collection of mini-beasts. The children were allowed to touch a corn snake, a giant African land snail, a hermit crab, a tree frog and a Madagascan hissing cockroach (pictured above). They were then allowed to look at (but not touch) a tarantula. This rounded off an interesting and exciting week talking about mini-beasts.

The Bromley Civic Service is held annually to mark the start of the new Civic Year, in the parish or local church of the new Mayor. With the election of Councillor Ernest Noad as Mayor for 2013/14, the service will be held at St. Mary's. All the Councillors are invited to join the Mayor and Mayoress to offer prayers and thanks for the year ahead.

Reverend Morag Finch has been appointed as Mayor's Chaplain, which means she will support the Mayor at major Bromley functions during his year in office, and will offer prayers at the start of each full Council meeting. All Council meetings are open to the public, everyone is welcome to attend and see how our borough is run.

David Jefferys

Job Vacancy

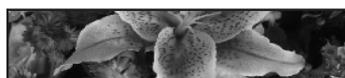
Parish Administrator

The Vicar and the Parochial Church Council wish to appoint a Parish Administrator to manage and co-ordinate the administrative life of St. Mary's Church.

For further details see www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

SPAN THANKS

All the contributions to SPAN during the interregnum have been gratefully received. We hope you will keep writing in.



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WORSHIP

Every Sunday

- 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

Vicar	Rev. M. Finch (from 16 June)	
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	Vacant	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 Ann Parks	8464 1157
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Mr. C. Stokes	8460 0661
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
PCC Secretary	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. D. Weekes	8650 2950
Organist &		
Director of Music	Mr. F. Roddy	01689 877025
Assistant Organist	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Electoral Roll	Mr. N. Stoffel	8460 0063
Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

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

Mothers & Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8650 4553
Mothers' Union	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 telephone 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. A. Watson	8650 0184
Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8650 1720
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

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