

Time to Remember

After the horror and carnage of the First World War, it was decided that a special day should be set aside to remember those who had died serving their country. The remains of a dead soldier, who could not be identified, was buried in Westminster Abbey and to this day, however important the ceremony, nobody is permitted to walk on the tomb of the 'Unknown Warrior'.

The concept of 'Armistice Day' was instituted by George V when, on 7th November 1919, he issued a proclamation calling for a two-minutes' silence and stated 'All locomotion should cease so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead'.

Therefore, on each Armistice Day, to honour those who had fallen during the First World War, all traffic came to a halt at 11am: this was to commemorate the time in 1918 when the guns of war were silenced at the

11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Horse-drawn carts were pulled in to the side of the road and bus and tram drivers stood beside their vehicles. Maroons (small explosions) signified the beginning and end of the two minutes' silence, after which daily life continued. After the Second World War the government decreed that Armistice Day should be commemorated on the Sunday nearest to the 11th November, it then became known as Remembrance Sunday.

On Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph and at many churches the following line from Lawrence Binion's poem 'For the Fallen' is delivered as an exhortation to remember: 'They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old, age shall not weary them nor the years condemn; at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them'.

Jesus gave us inspiration when he said: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15

v 3). Jesus then declared his love for his disciples and proclaimed an additional commandment 'that ye love one another'.

In August 1945, aged 20, I was serving in the Indian Army and was ready to be sent as a reinforcement for the campaign in Burma. Many of my comrades had suffered severe hardship and, when we heard on the 'wireless' that Japan had surrendered, and that the Second World War was finally at an end, the sense of relief and exultation was overwhelming. (Later we had a wonderful party and I slept that night in a hedge but that is another story!)

Now 68 years later, on each Remembrance Sunday I am reminded of the inscription on the War Memorial at Imphal, on the Indo/Burma border, where there had been fierce fighting: 'When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today'. How generous, how humbling, and how true!

David Townshend

Time to reflect

At the Advent Quiet Day on Saturday 30 November we will be looking at the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius and where we find God in our day to day life.

The day will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm in the church and ground floor meeting rooms and will offer times of silence, opportunities for creativity - and lunch!

Places are limited to 12 and there will be a sign up sheet at the back of church from early October. A suggested contribution of £10 to the cost of the day would be appreciated.

The day will be led by Rev Jane and will end with a short service in the Chapel in preparation for our keeping of Advent.

Welcome.



I'm delighted to be able to introduce you to Nicola Blake who joined the church team as parish administrator in August. Nicola is settling in well and is doing her best to keep me organised. She may be familiar to many of you as a former Pre-School assistant and Brownie leader at St Mary's as well as having served as a parent governor at both the Highfield schools. Emma Parker continues to work in the office with Nicola three days a week during term time.

Reverend Morag Finch

The Parish Office is now open Monday - Friday 9.30am-12.30pm.

Special Events and Services

Sunday 3 November
4.00pm All Souls Service

Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday
10.15am Family Communion and Parade Service

To include the traditional outdoor Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes Silence and the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial.

6.30pm Choral Evensong
Responses: Morley
Canticles: Thomas Morley (Plainsong)
Anthem: For lo, I raise up - Stanford

Sunday 17 November
6.30pm Informal Service
Led by the Music Group

Sunday 1 December - Advent
6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 8 December
10.30am Toy Service and Family Parade
You are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy or voucher suitable for children aged 10-13, which will become a gift for a local child in need of support through Welcare in Bromley.

Sunday 15 December
4.00pm Christingle Service



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

8 Sep Jessica Lily Dobbs

8 Sep Oliver Edward Aldous

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

31 July Laurie Bray, aged 79

We would like to correct a mistake from last month's list which stated that David Brett had died aged 57 when we should have stated "aged 75."



Remembering

Laurie Bray

Laurie was born in Gravesend in 1934. His parents couldn't decide on a name for their third son until, some weeks later, his father noticed the pot of Annie Laurie marmalade on the breakfast table and the decision was made.

When Laurie was 14 he contracted TB and was confined to a sanatorium in Hastings for about 6 months. His illness meant that, despite doing well at school, he was almost unemployable after leaving due to the restrictions put in place to control its spread.

After some time, Kent Kraft Mills employed him in its Wages Department, where he met his wife Daphne, a marriage that lasted for 54 years.

After 6 years or so, Laurie gained a job at the Royal Academy of Arts, and he quickly became part of the fabric of Burlington House. He rose to the position of Assistant Secretary, where he was responsible for Royal and Associate Academicians, and the Annual Summer Exhibition.

He loved his job, and felt a great loss when he had to 'retire' in 1996, although he remained in contact with many in the art fraternity.

Laurie was not an artist himself, although his love of art and creativity ran through his life. He had an eye for interior decoration, as well as being a 'whiz' on the sewing machine.

His influence on his sons was positive and affirming, and they both went to Art College, going on to work as illustrators and graphic designers.

Laurie was witty, funny, generous, sociable and caring. People mattered most to him – it was his relationships with his family, friends, colleagues and neighbours that gave colour to the life that he enjoyed.



I SAY, I SAY, I SAY !.....

Old-time music hall came to St Mary's on 28th September when The Masqueraders entertained at an evening organised by the Friends. The mixture of singing and comedy went down well with an enthusiastic audience which joined in at every opportunity!

Memories of Africa

I wrote earlier this year of my experiences in East Africa in the 1980s, when I stayed at Tree Tops, and at the Paxtu hotel, with its connections to Lord and Lady Baden Powell.

After leaving Kenya, I flew to Uganda, which Winston Churchill called 'the Pearl of Africa'.

This was a time of considerable and continuing turmoil in the country: Archbishop of Uganda Janani Luwum, who had connections with St Mary's, had been murdered in 1977. I was pleased to stay with the High Commissioner, whose home was very secure, at a time when violence was common. When he took me out we were protected by an armed guard.

I remember the people with whom I worked were very friendly, speaking excellent English. One took me to an enormous open air market, selling all sorts of things: as well as fruit and

vegetables you could buy home-made rope, or protective window screening. There was even an open air furnace, making bricks. A man was pushing his bicycle with an enormous fish draped over the saddle.

I visited the Scout Headquarters, a fine wooden building set next to the Red Cross headquarters. Guide leaders from Entebbe were cooking the local staple of plantains in large dixies (large cooking pots used by scouts) over wood fires, for the scouts who were out on a communal project.

Although Uganda was a very dangerous place when I was visiting, once Yoweri Museveni became president things began to improve. Today a tourist trade is being established, particularly bird and animal watching in the 26 listed national parks and game reserves.

David Loades

Volunteering at the Abbey

Every week for the last two years, I have enjoyed the privilege of leading and sharing with visitors from all over the world the inspiring structure of Westminster Abbey that portrays over 900 years of British history. Those visitors first become elated, then absorb and praise its monuments and breathtaking Gothic architecture.

As they eventually approach the high altar their faces light up when they realise they are standing at the actual spot of 38 Coronations and the recent Royal Wedding.

Westminster Abbey is one of thirteen Royal Peculiar churches which fall directly under the jurisdiction of the British monarch, a concept dating from Anglo-Saxon times. It has been a front-row witness, and sometimes protagonist, of British history.

It is always challenging for me to explain and come up with the right historical references as I feel surrounded by this collection of monarchs, politicians, musicians, warriors, poets and scientists.

A couple of hours spent on a devout journey around this magnificent landmark will help you make sense of your place in a busy world. To me personally, this opportunity provides me with the great honour of sharing the British culture with others.

Morning Prayer, Evensong, and the Eucharist are open every day to the public free of charge.

Adolph J Williams



Advent Dinner & Dance

Saturday, 16 November

7.15pm for 7.45pm

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Tickets £37, available from the Parish Office (0208 460 5682) or in church

All the fun of the Fair

Scary as it may seem, Christmas is not so very far away - which means all the fun of the Fair at



St. Mary's Church.
**This year the Fair will be held on
Saturday 23 November
from 2-4pm in the Church Hall.**



Preparations are well in hand but for it to be its usual success, we need you!

Please do come and support us - and maybe solve some Christmas present problems.

Bring your books, bric-a-brac, toys, raffle prizes, old jewellery, bottles or other clean saleable goods to the Parish Office Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

A Free School in Shortlands?

On 25th September local residents filled the church hall to express views and raise concerns about the proposed Harris Primary Free School to be built on the site of Kingswood House. The meeting was organised by Shortlands Residents' Association.

Both Shortlands councillors attended, along with a Bromley Council Highways Planning officer and the Project Manager from Harris Federation.

The proposals for the school, which is due to open in September 2014, have already been approved by the Secretary of State for Education, but a planning application will have to be made and plans still have to be drawn up for the site. Many local residents have expressed concerns that the site is not appropriate for a two-form entry primary school.

The meeting heard criticisms about a lack of consultation by Harris Federation with the local community. Specific concerns expressed by residents included traffic and parking problems and the potential impact on other local primary schools. Few answers were given by the Harris representative but he did promise that all the concerns would be considered and that there would be a full public consultation as part of the planning process.

Attendees at the meeting were surprised to hear that the school will not be ready in time for the first intake and that it will open in temporary accommodation at a site yet to be found.

The Residents' Association is proposing to have a dedicated page on its website to keep residents informed: see

<http://shortlandsresidents.org.uk/>



Pat Chase

SPAN needs you!

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Mission of the month

SEEDS4Tanzania

Five years ago, Rev Canon Yolande Marcussen visited the villages of Chitemo and Nyhinila in Mpwapwa Diocese, Tanzania. She found around 300 orphan children, whose parents had died of AIDS, dysentery, malaria or childbirth, being cared for by the local churches and villagers.

SEEDS4Tanzania wants to change this. The charity believes that if the children can have their own pre-schools, this education will help them have a future. At age 7, the children attend government schools which may have 100 children to a class, with one teacher and no facilities other than a blackboard.

SEEDS4Tanzania assists with funds to employ building technicians and buy the building materials: the pre-schools will be built by villagers. Funding will also be provided to train women from the villagers as pre-school teachers. The teachers will be paid through the supply of animals, to be used initially for breeding and thereafter trading and food supply, enabling them to become self-sufficient and independent.

It is estimated that £25,000 is needed to complete the project. All of the bricks are now made and the foundations completed. Building of the walls is underway and will continue until November 2013, when the rainy season starts, commencing again in May 2014.

A water borehole will be situated in Nyhinila where at present there is no water and people have to walk to Chitemo to get it. This will also alleviate demand on the supply in Chitemo. One young mother has nearly completed her teacher training, and another will begin in February 2014. SEEDS has also donated 300 mosquito nets to be used by the villages' most vulnerable children. 85% of malaria deaths occur in children under 5 years of age: malaria transmission can be cut by 50% through use of these nets.

For more information see the display at the back of the church, visit www.seeds4tanzania.org or the blog <http://seeds4tanzania.blogspot.com>

Brownies have fun in the country



Representatives from all of the St Mary's Brownie packs attended Revels in Cudham in September where the theme for the day was princesses. As the event was outdoor they were very lucky with the weather.



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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
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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 9.30 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 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	8650 0184
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
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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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