

Pre-School Teachers Press On



Despite the loss of St. Mary's Church Hall for over a month, due to the breakdown of the boiler, St. Mary's Pre-School decamped to the Scout Hut and enabled the Pre-School to continue.

It was an enormous effort on behalf of the Pre-School Staff as all the equipment had to be moved and returned to the Hall every day.

'The spirit and commitment of the staff was fantastic' said Canon Paul Miller. 'The heating appeal has had a really good response and we are grateful for people's generosity.'

There is still a huge way to go and if you value the place of the Church in the community and would like to support our appeal you can do so by sending a donation to the Parish Office at 39, Kingswood Road, Shortlands, Bromley BR2 0HG. Cheques should be made payable to "St. Mary's, Shortlands PCC".

Cubs to the Rescue!



Freddie Taylor (aged 9), his sister, Ella (aged 7), and Daniel Schofield (aged 8), have been selling plants and cakes in aid of St. Mary's Heating Appeal. The boys, who belong to the Monday Cub pack came up with the idea of after Leader, Julia Garvey told the boys about the Church's plight. They

took it upon themselves to do something about it and came up with the brilliant idea. Canon Paul Miller was thrilled with the news when he heard 'what a great idea and such initiative!!'

Photographed from left to right are Ella, Freddie, and Daniel, who raised £230.00 from the sale.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday, 29 April at the end of the morning service. This is the first time the meeting has been held on a Sunday and we hope that all those attending the main Sunday morning service will be able to stay on and be involved in hearing a review of the past year and our hopes for the future.

The morning service will be shorter than usual to accommodate the APCM and to ensure that the meeting will conclude by 12.30pm.

Holy Week and Easter Services at St. Mary's

Palm Sunday - 1 April

8.00am
10.30am

Holy Communion

Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday

6.30pm

Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday - 5 April

8.00pm

Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch

Good Friday - 6 April

10.30am
2.00pm

Family Service led by Reverend Jane Peters
'An Hour at the Cross' led by Canon Paul Miller

Easter Day - 8 April

8.00am
10.30am

Sunrise Eucharist

Eucharist of the Resurrection

Including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

17 Feb Barry Farthing, aged 64

8 Mar Raymond Benfield, aged 88



Remembering

Barry Farthing

Barry was born in Beckenham, one of two children to George and Margaret. All his childhood was here. On leaving school he went to learn hairdressing and went to work for Graham Webb International becoming a top trophy winner there. Later he changed career and went from hairdressing to engineering working for Goodrow Engineering.

He met Margaret and on 16 August 1969 they were married. It was a good and happy marriage lasting 29 years until Margaret's sudden death in 1995. The couple had two daughters: Dawn and Lisa. Barry was a loving husband, a great dad and would later become a proud and interested grandfather.

After the untimely death of Margaret, Barry started to rebuild his life. He met Sue. Friendship grew into love and they spent the last 13 years in a happy and loving relationship together. His family grew when he and Sue's families came together. He was greatly loved by them all and an important part of all their lives, taking interest in Sue's children and grandchildren as well as his own.

In 2009 Barry became very ill and it's a tribute to his determination and love of his family that he pulled through. Sadly over the last 12 months his health deteriorated and, despite the wonderful care of the critical care doctors and nurses at Guy's, Barry lost his fight to live. He slipped away with all the family around him on 27 January.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Reverend Jane Peters, took place at Beckenham Crematorium on 17 February attended by family and many friends.

Raymond Benfield

Ray was born in Plaistow in 1924. He attended Priestmead Primary and then went to high school in Harrow. He began his career at Lloyds of London but when war intervened he served in the RAF where he qualified as a Pilot.

After the war he pursued a career

as a quantity surveyor. He met and married Edna and they moved to West Wickham. After a spell in Bahrain they settled in Shortlands where they lived from 1971. Edna passed away less than a year ago and Ray never really got over his loss. Ray loved music and played the piano. He enjoyed tennis and later took up golf. A Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate his life was conducted by Canon Paul Miller, at St. Mary's, Shortlands. Raymond's son John, and family and friends, paid tribute to his life. A private cremation followed at Beckenham Crematorium.



The Superwomen of Britain

She's a childminder who really cares, a teacher, a local friendly bank, a counsellor... without her, many modern families would fall apart. She's your child's grandmother.

Something like 48 per cent of all grannies now child-mind their grandchildren for at least 20 hours per week. A quarter of grannies child-mind for more than 25 hours a week. And one in ten grannies are childminding a staggering 40 hours a week.

In all, our grannies save us £2 billion a year in childminding costs. But grannies don't stop there. Six out of ten grandparents often go without things for themselves, in order to finance their children and grandchildren. A third of grandparents can struggle to pay heating bills and council tax, never mind afford a holiday – because overwhelmingly they are putting their family's needs before their own.

The average granny babysits 42 times a year, and a quarter of grannies babysit every week.

What does all this child-minding do for granny? Keeps her young! Grannies who care for grandchildren feel a whopping 14 years younger than their actual age.

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Jerusalem Priest Visits Shortlands



Canon Hosam Naoum, Canon Pastor of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, dropped into Shortlands for a short visit and to address a gathering about the challenges for the Church in Jerusalem today. Canon Hosam was visiting Rochester Cathedral to learn how an English Cathedral works. Pictured with him are Archdeacon Paul Wright (left) and Canon Paul Miller (right).

The Bromley Friends of Demelza are looking for people to volunteer to help with fundraising. There is an understanding that you can do as little or as much as you wish - absolutely no pressure. If interested to join our happy band please contact Janet Whitlock on 0208650 8749.

"LONG TO REIGN OVER US" SHORTLANDS' DIAMOND JUBILEE PARTY

Sunday 3 June - 12.00 noon - 6.00pm

Celebrate this historic event by joining us for:-

- 2-course lunch to include glass of wine*
- Lunchtime Bar-B-Q
- Refreshment Marquee
- Afternoon Tea
- Picnic Area
- Thames Pageant - large screen presentation
- Entertainment - all the "fun of the Fair"
- Shortlands Community Exhibition



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* tickets only (see May issue of SPAN)

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'The Way I See it: Back from the Dead?'

by Canon David Winter, a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, considers the place of Easter in the Christian calendar. Christmas packs them in, but Easter, which falls this month, is undeniably the defining Christian festival. It was St Paul, no less, who set out the stark truth: 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile'.

Without the resurrection of Jesus which Easter celebrates, the whole Christian story collapses. He would simply take his place with all the other great religious teachers of history who died and are buried somewhere. But the Christian creeds are adamant: 'on the third day, he rose from the dead'. The resurrection is not, for Christians, an optional extra.

In the current western atmosphere of scepticism, that claim is regarded as self-evidently ridiculous. We all know what 'dead' means, whether it's a dead bird or flower or person. Death is the termination of life - as people say now, 'end of'. Many people are attracted to the teaching of Jesus, but they simply can't accept as credible the claim that he rose from the dead. They assume that the whole idea is the product of gullible minds. His followers wanted to believe that he was alive again, and simply talked themselves into believing that he was.

However, this scepticism about the resurrection of Jesus is itself the product of preconceived assumptions. The sceptics don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead and assume that it is self-evident that he didn't. In fact, their position is not based on evidence, but on an assumption that it simply couldn't have happened. Yet strangely enough, what evidence we have suggests very strongly that it did.

We can, for instance, be pretty clear about a number of facts - well established, incontrovertible facts. One is that Jesus of Nazareth was a real person who lived in the early decades of the first century (as we call it). Another is that he was put to death by crucifixion during the period 26-37AD, when Pontius Pilate was the prefect of the Roman province of Judaea. Another is that by 70AD - within a life-time - Christianity was flourishing (though in places heavily persecuted) all over the Roman empire, and that its core belief was that Jesus had been raised

from the dead after his execution, and had appeared alive to anything up to 500 different people, in various places and on various occasions over a period of about forty days. Many of these witnesses (listed by the apostle Paul in his letter to Corinth written in about 55AD, just twenty years or so after the event) were still alive as he wrote - they could speak for themselves!

It shouldn't, surely, be hard for a regime as efficient and ruthless as the Roman empire to prove that a wandering Jewish preacher they had executed had remained dead. Yet it did prove impossible, to the point that Christianity eventually became the official religion of the empire.

Were those gullible times? No, they weren't. One of the two leading Jewish schools of thought, the Sadducees, didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead, and neither did one of the leading schools of thought in the Greco-Roman empire of the time, the Stoics. The characters in the Gospels, friends of Jesus or his enemies, reacted exactly as you or I would - it can't happen. The story of 'doubting' Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus, is evidence that even among his closest followers there was a reluctance to believe the evidence of their own eyes.

No, they weren't gullible, but they became completely convinced. Ten of the twelve apostles probably died for that conviction. You've got to be pretty sure of something to do that. When we sing 'Jesus Christ is risen today' on Easter morning, it's a lot more than a pious wish!

The taxi

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!"

The passenger apologized and said he didn't realize that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

Mission of the Month *Bromley Mind and MindCare*

Bromley Mind helps people learn to manage their dementia or mental health problems. This can lead to significant improvements in quality of life.

'MindCare' services are provided in clients own homes, where staff visit to provide personal care and support, and in three Dementia Support Centres in Beckenham and St. Paul's Cray. Training in dementia care skills is also provided for family carers and for professionals working in other settings such as residential care.

Bromley Mind also provides individual and group support for people with long-term mental health conditions from centres in Bromley, Beckenham and Orpington, including outreach support for mothers with young children. Psychological therapy programmes are also offered in partnership with Bromley Healthcare to help young people recover from anxiety or depression.

For more information about Bromley Mind see the display at the back of the Church, or look at the Bromley Mind website at www.bromleymind.org.uk, or call them on 01 689 81 1222.

Douai to visit Shortlands

The community of Shortlands is looking forward to the visit of the people of Douai during the first weekend of May. Bob Stewart, MP for Beckenham, will lead a joint visit to the Houses of Parliament on Saturday, 5 May and the Bishop of Rochester will preside at a Eucharist on Sunday, 6 May. Bishop James, who speaks fluent French, will lead a dual language service.

We shall also say farewell to their Parish Priest, Abbe Michel Rimaux who has recently retired.

Parish Pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey

Wednesday, 20 June
6.00pm to 7.45pm



Meet by the Great West Door at 5.50pm

The private tour, which will be led by Canon Jane Hedges (the Canon Steward of the Abbey), will start at 6.00pm and will take the form of a prayer pilgrimage through the Abbey. It will conclude with Night Prayer at about 7.30pm.

There will be no cost for the pilgrimage.

This is a unique opportunity and there is a maximum of 50 places. Please sign up on the notice board at the back of St. Mary's Church.

**The Parish Church
of St. Mary,
Shortlands**



Link Parish

St. Francis of
Assisi, Douai, France

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

STAFF

Vicar	Canon P. Miller	8460 4989
Honorary Curate	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302 (Sunday, Monday and Wednesday)
Honorary Assistant	Archdeacon P. Wright	8467 8743
Readers	Rev. J. Donnelly Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494 8650 3259
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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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Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	8285 3968
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Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07516 650940
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Brownies (Wed.)	Ms. H. Preston	07754 444453
Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8650 1720
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Residents' Association	8460 4060
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SPAN

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