

Vicar on the move!

Canon Paul Miller, who has been Vicar of Shortlands since 2001, has been appointed Chaplain to the Isles of Scilly in the Diocese of Truro and will leave Shortlands in September.

Canon Paul, who is 63, will be instituted to his new role at a Licensing Service on St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, on Tuesday, 6 November by the Bishop of Truro. He will be resigning as Area Dean of

Beckenham at the end of July.

Canon Paul explained to SPAN his reasons for the move. 'I have been thinking for sometime about what the future holds. I came to the conclusion that I did not want to move from full-time active ministry to full-time retirement and the offer of this post has provided me with the opportunity of doing something entirely different for the next few years before retirement. I know the Isles of Scilly well and have been undertaking locum ministry there since 1983. My family are very fond of the Isles and my grandchildren have been christened there too.'

The Isles of Scilly consist of 5 inhabited islands; St. Mary's, Treco, St. Agnes, St. Martin's, and Bryher, and are situated 28 miles to the west of Land's End in Cornwall. The total population is about 2000, the majority of which live on St. Mary's. The Isles are reached by an all year-round helicopter service from Penzance and a fixed wing plane service from Land's End and Newquay. In the summer months there is a boat service from Penzance and there are flights from Exeter, Bristol and Southampton in addition to

Penzance and Land's End.

Canon Paul, is married to Lynne, who is a teacher at the Glebe School, West Wickham. They have 3 sons.

In reflecting on his time in Shortlands he told SPAN that he had really enjoyed his 11 years in Shortlands. 'It has been a great Parish in which to serve and I have learned an enormous amount. I have got to know many people and been involved in so many different situations. I shall miss Shortlands a great deal but it is time to move on and I feel that Shortlands is ready for someone to lead them on into their next chapter. I hope in some small way I have enabled our mission statement to be fulfilled...."to bring the love of God into the everyday lives of the people of Shortlands".'

Canon Paul's last service at St. Mary's will be on Sunday September 16th at 10.30 a.m. 'I hope many will be able to come so that together we can give thanks for the last 11 years that we have shared together. It will provide my wife, Lynne, and myself with an occasion to say "thank you" for your support of us and for being able to serve in this Parish.'



WELCOME TO THE REAL OLYMPICS...

By Canon David Winter, a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, continues his series presenting a point of view...

Just to set the record straight, the Olympic Games - yes, the events that will bring much of London to a standstill this month - were founded in 776BC in ancient Greece. They involved athletics, poetry and music and were held at Olympia (hence their title), a centre for the worship of Zeus. You may recall that mount Olympus - the highest point in Greece - was the dwelling place of the gods and goddesses of Greek and Roman religion.

Once the Christian faith prevailed in the Roman Empire the Games were abolished, in the

fourth century AD. What we have this month is a modern revival of the Games, the brain-child of a Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin. It was he who memorably declared that the object of the Games was not the winning but the taking part.

The ancient Olympic Games had no element of international competition, no rankings, no flags or national anthems. The youth of the world were invited to Olympia to test their prowess against others - not just athletically, as we have noted, but artistically.

By contrast, the modern Games have become a celebration of national triumphalism, a notion far removed from the original Greek model, but also foreign to the vision of de Coubertin. He would have deplored

medals tables, anthems, flag-raising and all the media hype that surrounds perceived national success or failure. Patriotic pride has attached itself to the accumulation of gold medals - many in Britain will write this year's Games off as a failure if Team GB does not win more of them than we did last time.

The ancient Games are conspicuous in the New Testament, especially in the letters of St Paul. He must have been a bit of an athletics fan, because time and again he reverts to the Games for illustrations of Christian pilgrimage. The marathon was the greatest of all the contests, and that provided him with the perfect picture of the faithful life, from the starting line to the distant finish.

The Christian competes, but not against the other runners. Our contest is with all the things that will distract us, slow us down, divert our eyes from the ultimate goal. And at the end of the marathon of life there is the prize, the 'crown of glory' - not just for the winner, but for everyone who completes the course.

'I have fought the good fight', he writes. 'I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' Not won, you notice, but finished. And for that, he says, he will receive the crown - 'and not only me but all who have longed to see him' (2 Timothy 4:8). The apostle and the founder of the modern Games would agree on one thing for sure. The prize is not for winning, but for taking part.

SHORTLANDS CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE DESPITE THE RAIN!

On Sunday, 3 June, the Parish of Shortlands came together to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen's Accession to the Throne. Like many other communities across the country we had to contend with the rain but we rose to the occasion and many people worked incredibly hard to ensure the day was a great success. We were delighted that the Mayor and Mayoress of Bromley, Councillor Michael and Mrs Turner, were able to join us as our principal guests. The Mayor planted a tree which was donated by the Uniformed Organisations of Shortlands to commemorate the Jubilee.



The Mayor of Bromley plants a tree in the front of the Church grounds to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.



A church service, attended by over 350 people started the celebration off. At the service the Choir of St. Mary's sang an anthem 'O taste and see' which was sung at the Coronation of the Queen. A superb lunch, attended by over 100 people, was held in the Church Hall and was overseen by Dr. Mark and Mrs Julie Fox (pictured below). Not only the Mayor and Mayoress attended but our 2 local councillors, Councillor Ernest Noad and Councillor David Jeffreys, as well as Councillor Alexa Michael, one of our Parishioners (pictured left). While the lunch was being enjoyed a Bar-b-Que was being served in the Church grounds (pictured below left). And the Mayoral car was looked after by Shortlands' former Parish Administrator, Susie Evans with husband Stephen, both suitably attired in Union Jack dress!



Within the Church grounds a number of stalls were set up including a jewellery stall run by Hannah Jaroudy and also a display by the Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen. Pictured on the right is their Chairman Dot Kilsby and Rachel Bailey, Secretary, along with Councillor Ernest Noad (left) and Councillor David Jeffreys (right).



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

23 Jun Arthur Hamilton
Amelie Holden
Jake Trim
Christian Verazzo

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

23 May Eric Bailey
13 Jun Sue Levinson



Remembering

Eric Bailey

Eric was born in Peckham and attended St. Dunstan's School. He was one of 7 children. He was a civil servant and worked in Customs and Excise reaching the position of Senior Officer.

He was secretary of the Forwell Football Club, which played in the Brockley and District League, and he very much enjoyed spending time studying the stock market and investing.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium which was attended by many family and former colleagues at the football club. Eric never married and he is survived by his brother, Len, with whom he lived.

Sue Levinson

Sue was born in Crawley Downe, Sussex. Her family later moved to Otford and from there she went to boarding school in Caterham.

Sue qualified as a nurse, training at St. Mary's, Paddington, subsequently joining the Q.A. serving

in Egypt. On the flight out she met her first husband, Jack, and they married in 1946. Within a year he was tragically killed.

Sue joined the nursing staff of King's School, Canterbury where she met the school bursar, Dick Levinson, whom she married in 1951. They had 2 children, Ann and David. They moved to Beckenham in 1954. Dick died suddenly in 1975. Sue was a regular and loyal member of St. Mary's, Shortlands. She was one of the founder members of the 2WW's group and a regular attendee of the Lent Home Study Groups, from where her Christian faith flourished. She was involved in flower arranging, catering of the Harvest Lunches, and church cleaning. She was a great supporter of Demelza House.

She loved travel, played tennis and loved watching Wimbledon, she was a member of the National Trust and enjoyed watercolour painting. Her final years were lived happily at the Sloane Nursing Home and she had recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at St. Mary's, Shortlands, prior to cremation at Beckenham Crematorium.

Christian Aid

You collected £3973.14 which soundly beat the 2011 total. This is really heart-warming given the tough economic times in which we find ourselves. Thanks to everyone who contributed, not only in donations, but all those stalwart (and rain bespattered) collectors who defied the weather.

"Pennies from Heaven" garnered £178.16 - the result of the leaders, uniformed and youth organisations in the Parish, who had such fun placing their coins around the Church - not forgetting Pat Chase who unlocked it everyday for them!

The underprivileged communities around the world who receive this money will benefit tremendously from your generosity!

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Love her, love her corgis!

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee has had an unexpected impact on little dogs with short legs, short tails and big ears: the Pembroke Welsh Corgi. After years of decline in popularity, there has been a 37 per cent interest in the breed in the past four months, as people go online, looking to buy a puppy.

The Find a Puppy website reports that nearly 6,000 people so far this year have been looking to buy a Pembroke corgi puppy. "It is a wonderful tribute to the Queen," says Caroline Kisko of the Kennel Club. "Dogs go in and out of fashion, so after a long period of worrying decline for the corgi breeds, it is reassuring to see an increase in numbers."

Corgis were first introduced to the Royal Family by King George VI. In 1933 he bought a Corgi puppy, called Dookie, from a local kennel. For her 18th birthday, the Queen was given a Corgi named Susan. The Queen currently owns three corgis: Monty, Willow and Holly. The dogs travel with her to the various residences, with Her Majesty looking after them herself, as far as her busy schedule will allow.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

are holding a BARN DANCE

in aid of the Heating Fund

in St. Mary's Church Hall,
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on Saturday, 22 September

at

7.00 for 7.30 pm start

Band: Whirling Skirmish

Bring your own refreshments

Raffle

Individual tickets: £6 Family tickets: £18 (no more than 2 adults included on family tickets)

Tickets are available from the Parish Office and after services from Sunday, 26 August.

Mission of the Month MOTHERS' UNION LITERACY AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Mothers' Union is a Christian charity of some 4 million members (single and married, male and female) in 83 countries that seeks to support families worldwide through prayer, policy work and programmes.

The Literacy and Financial Education Programme is one of these. It started in 2000 to help those living in Burundi, Malawi and Sudan by teaching literacy and numeracy skills. So far, 70,000 people have benefitted. Now it has expanded to include education in financial and small business matters. Teaching is in groups, which are open to all irrespective of age, gender or religion. They are led by local volunteer facilitators, and as £250 is enough to train and support each one, the scheme is very cost effective.

Among the communities of the poor and marginalised who have been empowered it is especially the women who have benefitted. With their new found knowledge they have gained financial independence and more autonomy.

If you would like to find out more about this scheme and the other work that Mothers' Union is involved with, please visit the website at: <http://www.themothersunion.org/>



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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

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	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989
	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
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Assistant Organist	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
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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

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Friends of St. Mary's	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
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Scouts (Fri.)	Mr. T. Watson	8650 0184
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	8285 3968
Beavers &		
admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
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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Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN

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