

## 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](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk) August/September 2012. Year 32 Number 8

## M.B.E. FOR SHORTLANDS GUIDE LEADER

**We are delighted to announce that Gill Dawson, who has been Leader of the 2nd Shortlands Guides for nearly 30 years, has been awarded an M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.**

In commenting on the award Canon Paul Miller, Vicar of Shortlands, said 'Gill thoroughly deserves this award for outstanding service to the community and for her work in Guiding. I know she was thrilled to be honoured in this way and I am sure the whole community joins with me in offering her our warmest congratulations'.

Gill's first experience of Guiding was when she joined Brownies as a 7-year old in 1957. Apparently she wasn't the best-behaved in the pack, as she remembers having to sit next to Brown Owl when she went to church so she could keep her eye on her! When Gill became a Guide her favourite activity was camping, which hasn't changed to this day - running camps and outdoor activities is for her one of the best parts of being a leader. 'A lot of Guide units these days do not get the chance to have a week-long Summer Camp, so Shortlands Guides are very lucky, and we have a

great team of leaders to help the Guides get the most out of it', said Gill.

'I first took over 2nd Shortlands Guides when my younger daughter, Gemma, was a baby, and she has now become a leader herself for several years. A rota of Guide mums volunteered to look after my 3 young children in exchange for me running the Guides for their teenagers. Our first camp in 1983 was quite hard work, with 3 children under 6 and 25 Guides - there seemed to be as much baby equipment as Guide camping kit!

Things have changed a lot over the years - my Leader's uniform back in the 1980s was a tailored suit and smart shoes. Today's joggers, rugby shirt and trainers are much more practical and make it easier to join in with activities! Guide uniforms too have changed, with the "uniform" appearance giving way to a range of mix-and-match options.

But at the heart of Guiding is still teamwork, a good patrol system, with the older experienced Guides helping the younger ones and showing them the way.

I have to admit that I do spend a vast amount of time on Guiding, but I do get a lot out of it too. Seeing the girls have a great time at camp,

watching them master new skills, preparing them to go off and represent Girlguiding UK abroad ... all this is tremendously rewarding.

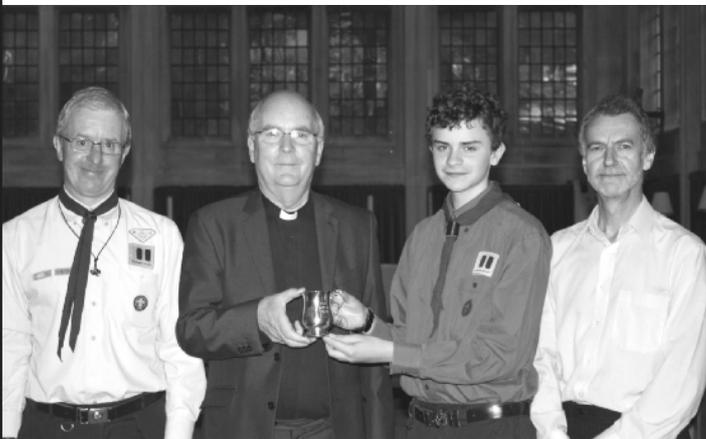
I actually heard about the MBE award back in April, as they write to ask if you would be willing to accept. At the time I had been busy organising 2 very big Guide events which had taken a ridiculous amount of time, and I was just thinking "Why do I do this, I must be mad!" ... and then the postman put the letter through the door!

I would like to say a special "thank you" to Tim, my husband, who has for decades put up with all the piles of Guiding paperwork and debris around the house, and a garage half full of camping equipment! Not to mention driving vans to and from camp, lugging heavy equipment around, and countless other things besides. His support has been invaluable.'

Gill will in due course be invited to St. James' Palace for the investiture.



## Tankard for the Vicar!



The 7th Bromley Scout Group presented a tankard to Canon Paul Miller at the last Parade Service he conducted at St. Mary's, Shortlands before he moves to the Isles of Scilly.

Photographed presenting the tankard are Christopher Bingham from the Scout group, Charles Wood Group Scout Leader (left), and Tony Chase, Group Scout Chairman (right).

## Canon Paul's Farewell Service

by the Churchwardens

As many readers will know Canon Paul will be leaving St. Mary's to become Chaplain to the Isles of Scilly. Paul and Lynne have made a great contribution to St. Mary's and to the life of the whole community of Shortlands over the last 11½ years. A special service will be held on Sunday, 16 September, at 10.30am to say thank you and farewell. The service will be followed by a reception in the Church Hall. We hope all who have known Paul and Lynne will come to these events on the 16th.

If you would like to make a donation towards a gift for Paul and Lynne, you can either leave a cheque or cash in the Parish Office, or post a cheque to the Parish Office at 39 Kingswood Road, Shortlands, Bromley BR2 0HG. Please write on the back of the cheque "Canon Paul's Leaving Present" and make it payable to "St. Mary's, Shortlands, PCC". Or you may hand your gift to one of the Churchwardens or Sidesmen after a Sunday service.

## Harvest Festival

Sunday, 7 October

10.30am Family and Parade Service

to include the Presentation of Harvest Gifts  
led by Reverend Jane Peters

# 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'

This is the title of one of my favourite anthems by John Rutter. It is based on some words we find in the Bible, in the Book of Numbers in the Old Testament, in which God's people are assured that they will always be under God's protection. Here they are;

**'The Lord Bless you and Keep You,  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you,  
The Lord lift up His  
Countenance upon you,  
and give you peace!'**

John Rutter is one of my favourite composers. His Christmas music is wonderful! This particular anthem, 'The Lord Bless you and Keep You', was sung at the Thanksgiving Service for the late

Queen Mother's 100th birthday, at St. Paul's Cathedral. My middle son, Ben, who was married here at St. Mary's, chose this anthem for his wedding. And I have asked our choir to sing it at my farewell service on Sunday, 16 September at 10.30am to which you are all warmly welcome.

As this is the last SPAN I will edit (and it is the 127th I have edited!), I would like to thank all those who make SPAN possible. From Rachel in the Parish Office who designs it, to the small and loyal group who collate it, to the 70 or so people who distribute it - thank you all so much. I trust that SPAN will continue to be welcomed and supported by the community.

Moving brings change and adjustment. All of us are confronted

by change from time to time and it begins at an early age with children starting nursery and pre-school and then changing schools. Sometimes change is welcome and sometimes it is not. Within the Christian life we must remember that we are under God's protection even though the circumstances in which we find ourselves may be challenging and bring change. It's important always to look at God's bigger picture, to keep our horizons wide and to know we live in His love which is eternal and from which we can never be separated.

When I came to Shortlands as your Vicar I said I wanted to be a Vicar of the Parish and not a Chaplain to a Congregation. I have really valued coming into people's

lives right across the Parish at significant moments for them. By the time I leave Shortlands I will have conducted 204 baptisms, prepared 14 children for admission to Holy Communion, prepared 94 people for Confirmation, officiated at 46 weddings, conducted over 200 funerals, and officiated at 48 burials of ashes in our Garden of Remembrance. I hope above all that we have become a more inclusive church where all are welcome and everyone feels valued. I hope St. Mary's will always be a 'home' for many.

So as Lynne and I prepare to take our leave and move to the Isles of Scilly my prayer for you all is.. 'May the Lord bless you and keep you'...

**by Canon Paul Miller**



## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

15 July Robert Aitken  
Annabel Rogers

### Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

12 July Douglas Parfett

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

11 July Hannah Marshall, aged 45



## DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED FOR SPAN

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# AFGHANISTAN BOUND!

**Christopher Yapp, the son of Susie and Stephen Evans of Kingswood Road, has recently been commissioned as an officer in the Queen's Royal Lancers and is preparing to be deployed to Afghanistan.**

Chris first put on a uniform at the tender age of four, when he joined Highfield Junior School - shortly after then he donned the grey and green of St. Mary's Seventh Mowgli Cub pack, and after that the colours of Ardingly College in Sussex where he was, in due course, made Head Boy.

Following his degree and travel to the Far East, South Africa, Alaska and New Zealand, Chris took up the greatest challenge of his life to date; the Regular Officer Commissioning Course at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. On Friday, 13th April this year he completed his year's training and Commissioned as an Officer in the Queen's Royal Lancers, his chosen Regiment, whose role is to act as Armoured Reconnaissance in advance of the rest of the Army.

The Queen's Royal Lancers are based at Catterick in Yorkshire, but Chris will be spending the majority of the summer in Dorset, where he is carrying out his specialist training, and acquiring the skills needed to lead a troop of 4 vehicles and 12 men.

Of his time at Sandhurst, Chris says: "The course pushed me to levels of pressure, concentration, exhaustion and determination I had never previously experienced. We were quite literally broken down,



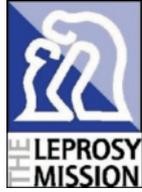
before being built up into something better than we were before. It gave me some of the worst moments of my life - times when I would have given anything to stop and give up, but it also taught me that I now know I never will. It was at all times those around me who provided that strength, and the friends and sense of belonging fostered then will be something that stays with me for ever. Sandhurst is a place of heritage and tradition, and while for the moment my image is

still one which recalls its white pillars and screaming Colour Sergeants, I am hugely honoured to have spent such a pivotal year of my life there."

The pips on Chris' uniform show his extraordinary rank, awarded to just 3% of the intake just before his graduation from Sandhurst.

The Queen's Royal Lancers will be deploying to Afghanistan for 7 months in October of this year. The thoughts and prayers of all at St. Mary's will go with Chris and his colleagues.

## Mission of the Month - August The Leprosy Mission



Founded in 1874, The Leprosy Mission (TLM) is a leading Christian organisation working in around 30 countries across Africa, South Asia, and East Asia, transforming and empowering the lives of people affected by leprosy, a disease that attacks the nervous system.

Whilst research to produce a vaccine to prevent the spread of leprosy continues, an effective and complete cure for the disease - multidrug therapy (MDT) - has been freely available since 1982 but early diagnosis and treatment with MDT is vital to prevent sufferers from consequential injury and disability.

Leprosy is the least contagious communicable disease and is not hereditary and cannot be caught by touch, but fear and stigma can lead to social exclusion which can be more damaging than leprosy's

physical symptoms. TLM continues to work hard in reversing this injustice and its work includes treatment, health care, surgery, physiotherapy, health awareness training and education, and provision of small business loans to enable those affected by leprosy to escape poverty and become independent.

St. Mary's has a long record of supporting this charity and further information is available from the display that is featured at the back of the church throughout August, and further information can be found on The Leprosy Mission website; [www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk)

## Farewell to Basel



A farewell reception was held at Bishops Court, Rochester for Basel Zayed, the Palestinian musician, who has qualified as a Music Therapist and will return to Bethlehem to work at the SOS Children's Village beginning in August. Basel was supported by the Diocese of Rochester and the McCabe Educational Trust. He trained at the Guildhall School of Music where he graduated with a M.A. in Music Therapy. Over 100 parishes, including St. Mary's, Shortlands, supported him.

Photographed at the reception from left to right are the Bishop of Rochester, Canon Claire Tillotson, who with Canon Paul Miller co-ordinated the Project, Basel Zayed and Rachel Simpson representing the McCabe Educational Trust.

## Mission of the Month - September Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza Hospice Care for Children supports almost 800 life-limited children and their families. Across Kent, South East London and East Sussex. Demelza has two hospices, one in Eltham, Greenwich, and one in Sittingbourne, Kent, as well as a community nursing team based in East Sussex.

Demelza House, Sittingbourne, was opened in 1998 and last year an Appeal was launched, 'Bricks and Mortar' to raise money to bring the bedrooms up to the state of the art rooms at the Eltham Hospice. The children's bedrooms have been modernised and a bathroom built between two bedrooms giving eight bedrooms and four bathrooms. In addition two teenage bedrooms have been built away from the other rooms, with en-suite facilities and also an Hydrotherapy Pool. This will be of great use to our children with muscular conditions and can

also be used by everyone to have fun.

Demelza Hospice Care for Children has to raise £8 million per annum and we receive virtually no Government funding. The Bromley Friends of Demelza do as much as they are able to help with fundraising, but sadly after 15 years our numbers have become depleted through various reasons, and if anyone thinks they would like to help in any way, for as long or as short a time as they can offer, we would welcome their phone calls to Janet Whitlock 020 8650 8749 or Tricia White 020 8460 9357. Find out more at [www.demelza.org.uk](http://www.demelza.org.uk)



**Demelza**  
Hospice Care for Children



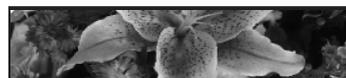
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at

7.00 for 7.30 pm start



## Band: Whirling Skirmish

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## GARAGE SALE

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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
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Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

**PARISH OFFICE** Tel/Fax 8460 5682  
e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com  
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**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	07954 437658
Beavers & admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
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
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Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

**SPAN**

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