

Farewell Canon Paul and Lynne!



Canon Paul and Lynne Miller are photographed (above) receiving gifts during the Service and then again (below) with past and present churchwardens during their farewell reception. Photographs were taken by Tony Chase.



Over 370 people packed St. Mary's for a special service on Sunday, 16th September, bidding farewell to Canon Paul and Lynne Miller.

Many representatives of the local community – including the Shortlands Residents' Association, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Highfield Infants' School and Bob Stewart MP – came to say thank you and goodbye. A party of visitors from Douai, St Mary's twin parish in France, also travelled to be there.

The church was decorated with flowers in the colours of Paul's football team – Torquay United.

In his final sermon, Canon Paul said he'd loved every minute of his time in Shortlands, and would remember fondly events such as trips to the Holy Land, parish weekends and picnics. He said 'what I will remember most is the inspiration I have gained from people who have faced illness or adversity - their Christian faith has shone through and sustained them.

I'm really looking forward to

what I think will be my next adventure – something completely different to conclude my ministry before retirement.'

The service was followed by a series of presentations when Canon Paul received a cheque and a motorised golf trolley. Guides and the Junior Church also presented their own gifts.

During a reception in the church hall, many people shared their fond memories of the Millers – ranging from the Pre-school to older members of the congregation, and from the community pantomime to choral evensong.

Canon Paul left many marks on the community of Shortlands, but perhaps one will be more visible than most – he presented the parish with a box of daffodil bulbs from the Isles of Scilly, where he has been newly appointed Chaplain.



Services & Events at St. Mary's

During the period of interregnum after Canon Paul's departure, our services will remain faithful to the usual pattern.

Whilst most of the day-to-day pastoral work and services will be led by Reverend Jane and the ministry team, we are also being supported by both our Bishops (who will each come and take a service), and by other priests and people from our diocese.

Sunday, 7 October

10.30am Harvest Festival and Parade Service to include the Presentation of Harvest Gifts, Celebration of Birthdays and Welcoming of the Newly Baptised
led by Reverend Jane Peters.

Sunday, 21 October

6.30pm Choral Evensong
led by Area Dean of Beckenham, Reverend Leon Carberry.

Sunday, 4 November

4.00pm A Service to Remember (Departed Loved Ones)
A book will be placed in the South Porch a few weeks prior to this service in which you may put anyone's name you would like read out at the Service.

Sunday, 11 November

10.15am Remembrance Sunday
All Age Eucharist and Church Parade with outdoor Act of Remembrance at 11.00am

6.30pm Choral Evensong for Remembrance Sunday
led by Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley: the Venerable Dr. Paul Wright.

Looking Forwards

While we're sad to say goodbye to Canon Paul and Lynne, life at St Mary's goes on as we enter into a time called an 'interregnum' before a new Vicar is appointed.

An interregnum is a time for the parish and community to pull together and develop new skills and whilst it may at times be challenging, we are also looking forward to it.

Most of the day-to-day pastoral work and services will be led by Reverend Jane and the ministry team: the Churchwardens

are also available to answer non-pastoral queries.

Look out for news in next month's SPAN about the work just beginning to find a new Vicar for the parish. We have a very full programme of events and major services in the run up to Christmas and then right through to the great celebration of Easter. Come and be a part of an exciting time at St. Mary's - keep an eye on SPAN for details, check out the website, or just come along!



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

22 July Daisy Carter
Oliver Cox
Violet Hackett
Eva Woolley

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

27 July Michael Scott and Charlotte Shaw

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

15 Aug Sue Levinson

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

17 July Eileen Bealer, aged 87
27 July Edith Driver, aged 68
29 Aug Margaret Lock, aged 86
6 Sept Joyce Golding, aged 85

Edith Driver

Edith was born in Enniscorthy in County Wexford, Ireland. She was one of 4 – her 2 sisters predeceased her and she is survived by her brother Roland.

Edith grew up on a farm and was educated at a convent. She qualified as a teacher at Bray, County Wicklow. She met Eric in Ireland and although they became engaged in London they married at Clanmore Church. In time they moved to London as Eric was serving in the police force. She was married to Eric for 42 years and they had 3 children Davina, Isaac and Rowena.

Edith was a key member of the North West branch of the Ramblers, the Shortlands' Ladies' Group and the Orpington and District Caledonian Society. She was a gentle and graceful lady admired by many.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, was held at St. Mary's, Shortlands prior to committal at Beckenham Crematorium. A very large congregation was present.

Margaret Lock

There can't be many sons-in-law who say: 'it would never have occurred to us to go on holiday and not include her – it was automatically assumed she would be with us'. But this was said of Margaret.

Margaret was born in Switzerland and came to England just after the war when she married Don in 1948. Before her marriage Margaret was a trilingual shorthand typist but later worked purely in a voluntary capacity for, amongst other things, a family planning clinic.

When the clinic wanted to pay her she was greatly amused – she did it because she wanted to help. And this was very much her attitude to life. Were she ever to see disaster or hear of need somewhere in the world she would act immediately.

She was a shy woman though more than capable of speaking her mind – particularly if anyone was rude or nasty.

It was a crushing blow to her 13 years ago to be struck down and confined to a wheelchair. Her mind was still so active she was doing the cryptic Daily Telegraph crossword right up to the end.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Reverend Jane Peters, was held at St. Mary's, where Margaret's daughter, Pauline, and the family were supported in a moving ceremony by friends and residents from Blenheim Court. This was followed by a private committal at Beckenham Crematorium.

The Garden of Remembrance Memorial



The memorial stone in the Garden of Remembrance, which was installed in Canon Paul's time as Vicar and generously donated by Francis Chappell & Sons, has had a clean!

We are grateful to H. Copeland & Son at Beckenham for arranging this for us. The Garden brings comfort to many - and is a place of burial for the cremated remains of a large number of people, many of whose funerals we have conducted here at St. Mary's. Every plot is individually recorded in the church register. Thank you to Jo at H. Copeland for arranging the clean!

Gift Day Sunday 14th October

The response to the heating appeal since its launch in February has been magnificent - over £40,000 raised to date. A big THANK YOU to all who have contributed so far. We now need another £10,000 to complete the appeal, so we can instal an effective heating system before the weather turns colder.

Many people don't realise that St. Mary's Church receives no state funding and is dependent upon voluntary contributions, most of which come from regular giving by church members. To supplement

this every year we ask our congregation and supporters to make a special financial contribution on our annual Gift Day. We are mindful of the strain on people's finances at this time, and for this reason did not have one last year. However, in light of the need to complete our heating appeal, we are holding a Gift Day on Sunday, 14th October.

Please give as generously as you can so that the building will be as warm as the welcome at St. Mary's this winter. You can post a cheque

made payable to "St. Mary's Shortlands PCC", with 'Heating Fund' written on the back, to Parish Office, 39 Kingswood Road, Bromley BR2 0HG.

Even better, bring it with you to the church one Sunday morning at 10.30am, we'd be delighted to see you!

If you are a UK taxpayer you can Gift Aid your donation and make it worth 20% more. Write 'I am a UK income tax payer and wish this to be gift aided' and put your name and address on the back.

St. Mary's Family Fun Day Games This Summer



Children, parents and helpers had fun parading with homemade banners and flags during the Opening Ceremony of the St. Mary's Family Fun Day Games, where Scotland triumphed over England and Wales!

MISSION BEYOND THE PARISH

Each year St. Mary's supports a mix of 12 local, national and international charities. Details of the charities can be found on the notice board at the back of church. The meeting to decide the charities for 2013 will be held in the choir vestry at 8pm on Tuesday 30th October. To make a nomination, put it in writing and give it to the Parish Office by Tuesday 23rd October.

Each charity requires a representative, usually the person nominating it, to liaise between the charity and St. Mary's. The representative is responsible for creating a display on the notice board for the month their charity is supported. There may also be a request to help provide a speaker one Sunday at the 10.30am service.

Mission of the Month October - St. Mungo's

St. Mungo's is a charity that works with homeless people. Their vision is that everyone should have a decent place to live, enjoy good health, and have something meaningful to do - and also have satisfying relationships.

St. Mungo's mission is to house, support and care for vulnerable and excluded people who either have been, or are at risk of, sleeping rough or of homelessness. Their aim is to make sure that homeless and excluded people can improve their quality of life.

One of the things that sets St. Mungo's apart is that they not only help people but they also help their pets. They are one of the very few shelters that accept animals and value their importance to the people they support.

One such person is Jamie who grew up in Paddington but when his parents split up, everything changed. Unfortunately Jamie was

made redundant and had to move around, staying with various friends and family. When he and his girlfriend separated, Jamie left and stayed on his mum's couch for a bit but, due to her tenancy agreement, he and his dog soon had to leave.

"I was ashamed and embarrassed to sleep on the streets so I would walk all night with my dog. I didn't want people to see me looking like a tramp. I tried to get help from the council several times but, because of my dog, they wouldn't help me."

Fortunately, Jamie met St. Mungo's Westminster outreach team, who found him a place at their emergency shelter in Islington. From there, Jamie and his dog Chuck moved into the Cromwell Road hostel. He now raises money for the charity through sponsored walks (with his dog). This October we are supporting the good work that St. Mungo's does.

News from Zambia

Harriet Adam writes Thank you to everyone who supported me and gave me the opportunity to visit Zambia.

I spent an amazing and eye-opening three weeks working with the Book Bus charity offering small group teaching and reading, writing and craft activities to children who have very little. The children were all very eager to learn and loved the activities we had planned for them, getting especially excited when glitter was involved!

The range of ability was surprising as within a year group some were completely unable to read while others read very well. We sometimes had to change our activities and teaching styles to match the varying levels of ability.

The children liked getting a turn at reading individually, looking at the pictures as they did not have any picture books themselves and having one to one attention. It was very rewarding, especially when one child told his teacher that it was the best time of his life!

In the third week we were able to experience Zambian culture - we tried traditional Zambian food, visited a traditional Zambian village and went to a church service. We did some tourist activities including visiting Victoria Falls and going on safari.

I had a wonderful time, learnt so much and will never forget it.
(Pictured below: Harriet Adam with Zambian school girls.)



SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION QUIZ NIGHT Saturday, 20th October at

Highfield Junior School, South Hill Road

Doors open at 7.00pm

for a prompt 7.30pm start!

Tickets cost £10 including a fish and chip supper. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

To register, please contact

Mark Dempsey on 0208 460 6060

or Sally Guttridge on 0208 325 3490.



Have you got news?

Do you have an idea for an article that will interest SPAN's many readers in the Shortlands community? Then the small team producing SPAN during the interregnum would like to hear from you! Drop a note into the Parish Office with your contact details, or you can email us at this address: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com

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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

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Honorary Curate	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/ 8460 5682
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
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	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
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Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
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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
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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.)	Mrs. D. Allen	8650 1720
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Cllr D. Jefferys	07944 565455

LOCAL NUMBERS

Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN

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