

Christmas Lights by Reverend Jane Peters

As we finish 2012 with all its celebrations and razzmatazz we look back with varied feelings. For some 2012 has been good. For many of us it has been a roller coaster and we won't be sorry to see it go.

Looking forward to Christmas and celebrating the birth of the Christ-child, I was thinking about the names by which we know our God and Saviour. Many of us have nicknames or pet names within the family and Jesus was no exception.

Jesus was often called The Light of the World, and talking to Jesus in prayer can often lighten the burdens we are carrying, helping us to see our situation more clearly.

One of my favourite names for Jesus is The Morning Star. There is that strange phenomenon which occurs just before the dawn when the

darkness of the night appears to deepen. It is at that moment that the Evening Star appears in the East and the darkness is dispelled. Certainly in my own life there have been times when the world has seemed particularly dark, and it's been my experience of knowing Jesus which has given me hope.

For those of you for whom 2012 has been difficult, it is my prayer that you will find for yourselves that Jesus brings light and peace into your lives, gives you hope for the future and walks with you through life.

For those of you for whom 2012 has been good, may you know that God delights in the good times as well as accompanying you in the dark and may 2013 be a year when your relationship with God deepens.



Special Services & Events at St. Mary's



Sunday, 2 December - Advent Sunday

10.30am Toy Service with Parade – with music from the Music Group

You are invited to bring one new, unwrapped toy, which will become a gift for a local child in need of support through Welcare in Bromley

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Readings, anthems, congregational hymns

Sunday, 16 December

8.00am Holy Communion

- The Bishop of Rochester: The Rt. Reverend James Langstaff

10.30am Family Communion

- The Bishop of Rochester: The Rt. Reverend James Langstaff

5.30pm Christingle Carol Service

Please note changed time

Come and see the children's faces glowing in the light of the candles



Sunday, 23 December

6.30pm The Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Monday, 24 December - Christmas Eve

3.30pm Crib Service for Families

- Reverend Jane Peters and Sally Aldred (Junior Church Leader)
All are welcome, and children may come dressed as angels, shepherds or wise men

11.30pm Procession by Candlelight, Midnight Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord and Carols for Christmas

The Choir will be singing carols from 11.15pm to welcome you

Tuesday, 25 December - Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Communion (Order Two)

- Reverend Dr. Margaret Wilkinson

10.30am Family Communion for Christmas Day

- Reverend Jane Peters

Please bring a newly opened present to show everyone

They've got it licked!



Find out why Susie Shelton and Ann-Marie Jefferys were licking rocks in Poland recently.

Did you know? - Shortlands Residents' Association

The SRA was founded in 1934 in response to local residents' concerns regarding the number of school places which did not meet the increased demand created by the many families moving to the area.

The SRA is a non-political association promoting the interests of Shortlands and responding to issues that arise. We work with local organisations and the London Borough of Bromley to ensure that we are an effective voice for our residents.

We exist to ensure that Shortlands retains the atmosphere and attractions that made you settle here in the first place! We cover issues including controversial development projects, resolving parking and traffic problems, and ensuring that our footpaths and roads are well maintained. We are involved in preserving and improving local green spaces and produce a quarterly newsletter. Recently we have run quiz nights, supported our local schools and the church, organised very informative local history walks, and placed banners at our boundaries to put Shortlands on the map!

If you would like to become a member, or require more information please contact our Membership Secretary on 0208 460 6030 or email annmarie.jefferys@btinternet.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS !



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
20 Oct Mylee Dudson Belletty
21 Oct Mabel Buckingham

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
4 Nov Dorothy Ann Tarrant



SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks this month for gifts amounting to £18.37.

Heating Appeal Successfully Concludes

The appeal which we opened in February to pay for a new heating system for the church, church house and hall concluded at the end of October, having raised nearly £47,000. This sum has enabled us to pay for a new boiler and reconditioned radiators that will take care of our heating needs for the foreseeable future.

We are most grateful to the many of you who have given so much, and so often, to the appeal, and hope you enjoy being warm in church during the coming months.

Charles Stokes, Chair of the Heating Fundraising Committee

Remembrance Day



Photograph: Tony Chase

A large congregation attended the Remembrance Sunday service on November 11th and many more joined them at the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Church, the Mayor of Bromley, Shortlands Residents' Association, Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools and the many youth organisations of St. Mary's. In addition this year wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal Marine Association Trustees in memory of those Royal Marines killed in action, and by a serving officer, 2 Lt. Christopher Yapp, on behalf of A Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers and all military personnel currently deployed in Afghanistan.

St. Mary's Visit Krakow



Photograph: Tony Chase

A group of 39 people from Shortlands - members of St. Mary's congregation and friends - enjoyed a 3-night break in Krakow in October. Rejoined by Canon Paul Miller for the weekend, the party enjoyed walking tours around the city's old town and Jewish Quarter, and a visit to the nearby Salt Mines.

The guided tours of Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps will stay long in the memory. 'It is the immense scale and bleakness of Birkenau that I will remember' said Tim Dawson. 'Standing in the middle of the railway tracks, it was possible to imagine the camp as it was at the time, with new arrivals being 'selected' for work, or to go straight to the gas chamber.'

Coreen Corbin said 'it left me speechless. It was both moving and thought-provoking. Having seen the huge display of shoes of all those who died, it made me feel I never want to see another pair of shoes again.'

At the Salt Mines, the group saw immense chambers, carved out of the rock salt and decorated with sculptures by the miners, who took great pride in their work. Scenes included the nativity and the Last Supper. Our tour guide encouraged the group to lick the rock to see for themselves the purity of salt in the mine.

Marion Westropp said 'as well as Auschwitz, I shall remember Krakow's beautiful main square, the largest of any medieval city in Europe.'

At an early morning service before leaving for the airport, Canon Paul spoke about finding an approach to life which both 'stretches and sustains' us. Our weekend in Krakow certainly did that: while we were sustained by good fellowship together, the harrowing images of Auschwitz-Birkenau stretched and challenged us all and will stay with us forever.

Heather Wills

Family Carols by Night

Highfield Junior School
invite you to a
Carols and Christmas Market
on
Wednesday 19th December
at Highfield Junior School, South Hill Road,



From 6.30pm till 8.30pm
Carols start at 7.00pm

Live music from the Salvation Army Youth Band, Christmas stalls, mulled wine, festive treats, tombola, raffle...

Entry £1.50 on the door
Bring a torch and wrap up warm!



Facebook Connection

Are you aged between 18 and 25? Would you like to stay in contact with friends and contacts from Shortlands - particularly if you or they are moving away to go to college or get a job?

To support local young people to stay in touch, St. Mary's, Shortlands is considering setting up a Facebook group. What happens next is up to group members, but they could use it to keep up with what's going on in

the area, to let people know when they're back and available to meet up, or to meet up 'virtually'.

If you're interested in joining such a group, please email office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com and we'll be in touch - if there's enough interest, we'll set up the group. Please pass this on to any young people you know who have moved away but may be interested in staying in touch.



Dear St. Mary's

Thank you for all the support and prayers, lovely cards and messages during my recent major operation. I cannot begin to tell you how much it has helped me to make progress, and keep me going.

It is around 50 years since I first attended St. Mary's, Shortlands and it has been my spiritual home in all those years, helping to strengthen my faith through the ups and downs of life, which we all go through. Sometimes it is hard to put our trust in God completely when we feel worried and anxious, but I can honestly say that he helped me every step of the way.

Anne Yeulett

Mission of the Month The Children's Society

The Children's Society is a leading national children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK.

Its mission and vision is to see a world where every child enjoys a good childhood. Its values are Love, Justice and Forgiveness. It provides vital help for tens of thousands of children every year. The Children's Society provides specialist support at a local level for those forgotten children who face the greatest danger and disadvantages in their daily lives; and for children who are unable to find the support they need anywhere else. Its work in children's centres, schools, and churches, gives children the chance to develop the skills and confidence they need to make the most of their childhood and play a full part in their local communities.

Its thought-provoking research influences everyone – from people like the general public to politicians and decision makers – about how to create real change. Its hard-hitting campaigns attract large public support and make institutions, government bodies and authorities take action to make childhood better for all children.

You are warmly invited to attend our Christingle service in St. Mary's on Sunday, 16 December at 5.30pm, which will highlight our financial support for the Children's Society this year. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during December and further information can be found at www.childrensociety.org.uk

Dancers turn up the heat!

The Langley School of Dance held a Choreographic Competition on Saturday 27th October in the church hall, raising £150 for the church heating appeal.

Pupils made up their own dances, either classical ballet, tap, modern or street jazz, and could perform solo, as a duet or in groups. An audience of 40 people enjoyed the show, and the judging panel picked 2 winning dances and 2 runners up.

Leanne Coverley of the Dance School said 'I'm hoping to make this a yearly event, the children enjoyed it so much.'

Pictured above are all of the children who participated, with their certificates.



Looking forward to Spring



Mowgli cubs recently enjoyed a visit from Jane Wiseman of Coolings Garden Centre. Jane helped the boys to plant bulbs which are being taken to a local home for elderly people this Christmas.

The boys enjoyed getting involved, and asked Jane many questions as they are keen to develop their green fingers for the future!

Wanted - Your old kitchen cupboards for St. Mary's

If you are having your kitchen replaced could we have your old kitchen cupboards? We are looking for 3 or 4 cupboards approximately 6ft 6inch tall variety, to use for storing flower arranging equipment.

If you can help please call the Treasurer, Tim on 07774 633333.



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Peter May: 8460 8828

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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

Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/ 8460 5682
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
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	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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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 9.15 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
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 telephone 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. A. Watson	8650 0184
Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8650 1720
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 1599
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704 or 07960 988552
The TWO "W"s	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
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LOCAL COUNCILLORS (L.B.B.)

Cllr. E. Noad	8462 3295
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 INFORMATION

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