

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

February 2011. Year 31 Number 2

Parochial Church Council meets to plan future.



The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Shortlands met in mid January to explore a strategic plan for mission for the next five years. It included discussion on the use of the church building, how we might use environmentally friendly ways of getting the best out of our resources, our work with young people, how we can support new Christians, our outreach in the local community, our music and worship and our links with the church overseas. The meeting was chaired by Dr. David Jefferys, one of St. Mary's Churchwardens.

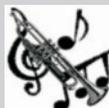
In the photograph above are Canon Paul Miller with the P.C.C., Readers, who assist in the leading of services and conduct services in the Residential homes in the Parish, and Pastoral Assistants who assist with pastoral care and visiting.

Concert at St. Mary's, Shortlands

by the children and young people of Shortlands



on
Sunday, 13 March
at 3.00pm



in aid of SOS Children's Village, Bethlehem
and the Friends of St. Mary's

Special Services

Sunday, 6 February

10.30am - All Age Eucharist

Sunday, 20 February

6.30pm - Choral Evensong

Preacher: The Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley
Responses: Neary.

Canticles: Brewer in E flat.

Anthem: O come ye servants of the Lord (Tye).

Wednesday, 9 March - Ash Wednesday

10.00am - Holy Communion

7.30pm - Holy Communion



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

12 Dec Abigail Banks

19 Dec Betsy Campion

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

2 Dec Hilda Judge, aged 99

25 Dec Marian Steadman, aged 59



Remembering

Hilda Judge

Hilda, known to all as Judy, was born in Sunderland in 1911, where she grew up.

On leaving school she went into service and then to work in a children's home.

She married John and they moved south to Deptford and had four children. Tragically Jean died aged only 2. Peter and Derek died aged 18 and 21 respectively and within a month of each other – both in motor bike accidents.

Keith, her youngest child died seven years ago having been unwell for much of his life. But he married Cathy and gave Judy three grandsons: Wayne, Cy and Clay and two great grandchildren: Charlie and Brooke.

Judy worked hard all her life and retired at the age of 66, finishing her working life as a housekeeper at Bromley Hospital. She was very proud of her independence and her hobbies included bingo, reading and her family.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Reverend Jane Peters, took place at Beckenham Crematorium prior to cremation.

Marian Steadman

Marian was born at the Maternity Home in Bromley in 1951. She was educated first at Hayes Primary School, later at Hayes Secondary and then at Buller's Wood.

She left school and among other hobbies took up ballroom dancing and it was there she met David whom she married in 1972.

Before her children arrived Marian worked as a PA. Later she worked as a teacher at a nursery school and after the children had grown up she became a dental nurse.

She took up playing the violin at the age of 30, taking every opportunity to play: trios, quintets

and with the Bromley Symphony Orchestra. Her other hobbies included walking, cycling, tennis and the sea.

She had recently come to find St. Mary's a good place to be. As her illness became harder, she found solace in being in the chapel and began to try to understand where God was in her suffering. She was quite sure he was with her. As a result of her thinking more deeply about her faith she joined the Confirmation Class at St. Mary's with a view to being confirmed in the Christian faith at the end of January. It became clear that things were not going as she and her family hoped. We asked the Bishop of Tonbridge if he would confirm her and he came to St. Christopher's Hospice to meet her and confirm her. It was a great joy to be able to give Marian Communion a few hours before she died.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Reverend Jane Peters, took place at Beckenham Crematorium prior to cremation.

Bishop James

James Langstaff was welcomed and inaugurated as the 107th Bishop of Rochester on 11 December.

On a bitterly cold morning, 1400 people travelled through the snows of Kent to our cathedral. The service was a wonderful mixture of church and state pageantry combined with personal touches as both civic leaders and church members gave prayer and welcome. The occasion revealed the best of the Church of England.

As Bishop James knocked on the Great West door, a fanfare sounded and sunlight streamed in. During the service the Bishop was given his mandate and symbols of office. He was welcomed by the civic leaders and by organisations across the Diocese.

Bishop James sermon was on the theme of the abundance and generosity of God's love, he challenged us to respond in our lives to match that generosity in our relationships with others. The hymn following the address had been specially written by the Bishop and focused on God's love to his people, with the chorus line "O lavish love poured ever free to heal and save humanity".

At the end of the service all were to stay in the Cathedral and meet fellow Christians, as under each seat was a donated lunch box. 1400 people became as one, meeting old friends and making new friends. That day, to quote the words of the hymn of Rochester diocese was "God's family ablaze with fire divine."

We will be welcoming Bishop James to St Mary's later in the year.

Mission of the Month

Biggin Hill Romania Group

The Biggin Hill Romania Group was formed as a result of a television appeal in 1990. The previous year saw the end of Nicolae Ceausescu's repressive regime, and the rest of the world finally saw the truth of the country's poverty and suffering. This was expressed in no small part in the faces of around 150,000 Romanian orphans who were living in deprived conditions.

Initially the BHRG intended to relieve the distress of the sick and disabled children, but its work moved on to include distributing aid to hospitals, dental surgeries, schools and churches. In 1997 the group opened the Robert Cole Centre in Comanesti, in north east Romania, for children with special needs. More than 70 children attend regularly as well as others from mainstream schools who come for physiotherapy and speech therapy. The Centre's aim is to help each child reach his or her potential, as well as to encourage their acceptance by wider society.

In 2007 the new Foundations for Life Centre was opened on the first floor of the Robert Cole centre. This vocational and life skills centre has been created to help the first "graduates" of the centre who are now reaching 20 years of age.

St. Mary's has been supporting the work of the BHRG for some years. The annual family and shoe box appeal takes place in the Autumn. Gift boxes are transported directly to Comanesti to be distributed amongst the most needy, including many Roma children who would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas.

Susie Shelton will be speaking about the work of the group on Sunday, 13 February during the 10.30am service.

This charity is our Mission for the Month of February. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during February and further information can be found on www.bigginhillromaniagroup.com

Fairtrade Fortnight 28 February - 13 March

This is an event held by Traidcraft each year.

This year at St. Mary's we are marking the fortnight by asking you all to join in to see how many fairly-traded meals you can have in the two weeks.

There will be plenty of ingredients on sale at the Traidcraft stalls on Sunday, 13 February after the 8.00am and 10.30am services at St. Mary's. To get you inspired there will be recipe sheets and ideas for lunch boxes on display in the church porch.

Also look out for promotions of Fairtraded goods in your local supermarkets.

By changing to and using Fairtraded goods we can all bring about positive changes

in the lives of thousands of producers in the developing world. Many farmers and workers struggle to provide their families with basics, such as clean water, schooling and healthcare.

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Lent 2011



Lent is an opportunity before the great Festival of Easter to take time out and reflect on our journey through life. There are a number of ways we would like to help you to get the most out of Lent.

1. Join a Homegroup

It seems no time since we were celebrating Christmas, yet Easter is already in sight – such is life in the Church!

Lent is a great time to get together with other people to learn more about our faith. Lent Groups meet in people's houses during the day or during the evening on different days of the week. You do not need to be academic or have a degree in theology to join – in fact it's better if you come with a completely open mind and fresh point of view. This year we shall be looking at a series entitled 'Life Attitudes'.

Why not join a group this year if you haven't done so before? You don't have to be able to attend every week. Lists will be at the back of the church with sign up sheets.

If you wish to know more please ring the Parish Office on 8460 5682.

2. Lent Lunches

A simple lunch for up to 10 people to provide an opportunity for hospitality and to support a charity.

Thursday, 10 March - Cliff & Shirley Broughton, 1 St. Mary's Avenue - supporting Demelza House

Thursday, 17 March - Sue Slaney, 31 Elwill Way - supporting St. Christopher's Hospice

Wednesday, 23 March - David & Jane Green, 84 Barnfield Wood Road - supporting Water Aid

Saturday, 2 April - Paul & Lynne Miller, 37 Kingswood Road - supporting SOS Village Bethlehem

If you would like further information please contact the Parish Office on 8460 5682.

For both the Homegroups and Lent Lunches there are sign up sheets at the back of the Church.

3. Attend the main Sunday morning service at 10.30am every Sunday to hear a series of Lent addresses by Canon Paul Miller to help you understand a little better some of the characteristics of the Church of England.

March 13	Lent 1	'Why we do what we do.' The Services we use in the Church of England.
March 20	Lent 2	'What you see or don't see in Church.' An explanation of what you need to know.
March 27	Lent 3	'High days and holy days.' An explanation of important occasions in the church's calendar.
April 10	Lent 5	'Bishops, Archdeacons and the like.' How the Church of England works. This address will be given by The Ven. Dr. Paul Wright.

4. A Lent Retreat Day

Saturday, 26 February led by Reverend Jane Peters

This will be a quiet day in the Church buildings - a time for reflection and fellowship and will include lunch.

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the porch if you would like to attend. Donations of £10 suggested.

5. Endeavour to participate in the experience of Holy Week

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is Wednesday, 9 March. There will be two services at 10.00am and 7.30pm.

April 17		
Palm Sunday	10.30am	Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	A Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week
April 21		
Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch
April 22		
Good Friday	10.30am	Family Service led by Reverend Jane Peters
	2.00pm	An Hour at the Cross led by Canon Paul Miller
April 24		
Easter Day	8.00am	Sunrise Eucharist
	10.30am	Eucharist of the Resurrection including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

Easter Lilies



If you would like to remember a departed loved one at the Great Festival of Easter, we invite you to make a donation to the Flower Fund as a memorial to that person.

A list of the names of all those to be remembered will be placed on the altar on Easter Day, to affirm our hope in the Resurrection to eternal life and the Christian's eternal security in Christ.

Please contact Molly Tout (8464 9593) or the Parish Office (8460 5682).

The long search for a parking spot

Ever look back on how you have spent your life? Somewhere in all those years there will be a YEAR of your life spent just looking for a parking spot. Research among 9,000 drivers has found that drivers spend an average of more than six days a year searching for a parking space... they are simply circling streets and car parks. If you then reckon a motorist drives for 50 years, the lost time adds up to 7,600 hours, or more than 45 weeks.

The parking company NCP did the research.

**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 2½-14.
- 10.30 All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time).
- 18.30 Evening Service

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
Priest	Wright	
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
Parish Administrator	Mr. R. Vickers	8460 5682
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
	Mr. C. Stokes	8460 0661
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
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Assistant Organist	Mrs. 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 9.00 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 G.S.L.	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
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	07825 648472
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
Brownies		
admissions	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 8120
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The TWO 'W's'	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537

OTHER NUMBERS

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Mission Chairman	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246

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Cllr. E. Noad	8462 3295
Cllr. G. Taylor	8289 7893

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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