Pearl wedding anniversaries!

On Easter Day, the festival of the resurrection, St. Mary’s also celebrated the Pearl wedding anniversaries of The Ven. Dr. Paul and Mrs Jill Wright (pictured left) and Professor Mark and Mrs Julie Fox (pictured right). Paul and Jill were married at St. Georges, Beckenham where Paul and Jill met and where Paul was the Assistant Curate. Mark and Julie were married at St. Mary’s, Shortlands the same day. Both couples had had their Banns of Marriage read at St. George’s at the same time.

A reception was held after the Easter Day morning service where a large congregation of over 300 enjoyed wine and nibbles to celebrate the great Christian festival and two significant wedding anniversaries.

The Vicar of Shortlands, Canon Paul Miller, had arranged to display both marriage registers which showed Paul and Jill were married by the then Bishop of Tonbridge (the late Rt. Rev. Philip Goodrich) and Mark and Julie were married by the then assistant curate of Shortlands, the Rev. John Oliver, now Rector of Capetown, South Africa.

New Prayer Tree Dedicated

A new Prayer Tree has been dedicated at St. Mary’s, Shortlands.

The Tree, which is widely used, was first introduced by Canon Paul Miller ten years ago. A Prayer Tree provides an opportunity to make a prayer request by writing an intention on a piece of card and tying it to the tree. All are welcome to do this, and at every service the intentions will be offered to God in the intercessions.

It was around a tree that we first became separated from God. It was around another tree that God was, in man, reconciling himself to us.

To hang a request on the Tree is to keep company with God - which is what prayer is!

The tree is made of oak by David Merritt, who is pictured by the tree after its dedication on Easter Sunday.

Parish Picnic & Barbecue, Fun & Games

Sunday, 12 June 2011

in the church grounds, following the 10.30am Family and Parade Service in the church.

Bring your own picnic - barbecue food and refreshments available to buy.

There will be a toddler play area, and many fun games for adults and children.

Come and enjoy the Shortlands community!

Services and Events at St. Mary’s

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ascension Day</td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td>Eucharist for Ascension Day followed by drinks and the lighting of the Ascension Day Rocket</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>Parade Service and Scout Centenary Service followed by the Parish Picnic and Barbecue</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>The Three Choirs Festal Evensong Preacher: The Rev. Alan Mustoe</td>
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From the Registers

Holy Baptism
We welcome into God’s family:
17 Apr Mia Smith
At Rest
We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
15 Apr David Pollard, aged 79

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Remembering

David Pollard
David was one of four and he is survived by his sisters Teresa and Jean. His brother Greg predeceased him.

David was married to Kay for 52 years and they have lived in the Parish of Shortlands since 1974. They had two sons, Mark and Neil, and three grandchildren.

His working life was spent in Covent Garden. His interests were his family and sport. He was a good cricketer and after he retired he loved watching cricket as well as horse racing. It was a nice touch that at his funeral service the BBC Grandstand theme tune was played at the end!

funeral service the BBC Grandstand was conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Hither Green Crematorium, in which his son, Mark, grandson, Austin, and sister Teresa took part.

On Sunday, 8 May Colin Walklin achieved the significant milestone of having sung in the choir for 50 years at St. Mary’s, Shortlands.

The main morning service was dedicated to Colin’s achievement and at the service Canon Paul Miller referred to major events which took place in 1961 when Colin joined the choir, including the building of the Berlin Wall and the start of the Vietnam War!

Colin was presented with a Royal School of Church Music Long Service medal, a certificate, music voucher and a golden anniversary rose bush.

Pictured with Colin is Frank Roddy, the Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary’s, and some of the children of St. Mary’s who had made a special anniversary card and gave him 50 sweets!

The significance of Ascension Day

Surely the most tender, moving ‘farewell’ in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: “When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them.”

As Christmas began the story of Jesus’ life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus’ last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: “While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.” (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: “I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God…” (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder, then that Luke goes on: “they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.” (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! “I am going to prepare a place for you… I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the good news to every nation on earth.

Mission of the Month
SOS Village, Bethlehem

The Bethlehem Project has been set up to support the introduction of music as therapy in the SOS Village and School in Bethlehem and to enable a Palestinian musician, Basel Zayed, to qualify at the Guildhall School of Music as a Music Therapist.

Basel has nearly completed his first year of training. Canon Claire Tillotson has been overseeing Basel’s training as well as providing support to the staff of the SOS Village to use music as therapy and to prepare for Basel’s arrival.

Basel Zayed will be speaking at the main morning service on Sunday, 19 June at 10.30am.

This charity is St. Mary’s Mission for the Month of June. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during June.

SPAN THANKS
We record our thanks for recent donations of £10.
The annual exchange visit between Shortlands and Douai took place in early May when over 50 parishioners from Shortlands made the journey to Douai, Northern France.

The visit started with a stop at Vimy, the Canadian War Memorial, before the Guides linked up with the French Guides for evening games and overnight sleep (well a few hours at least!) in the hall in Douai, and the rest of the group divided up to enjoy the hospitality of French families.

On Sunday morning Abbe Michel Rimaux celebrated Mass and Canon Paul Miller gave the address. The visit concluded with a shared lunch.