

Bishop James to visit Shortlands



The Bishop of Rochester, The Rt Rev James Langstaff, is to make his first formal visit to the Parish of Shortlands on Sunday, 11 September.

He will preside at the 10.30am morning service, the occasion of St. Mary's Patronal Festival.

It will also be the occasion of the Church's Gift Day.

Bishop James, who became the 107th Bishop of Rochester in December 2010, has been to Shortlands on an informal visit to meet the clergy of the Beckenham Deanery in January, but this will be his first visit to the Parish.

Prior to coming to Rochester, Bishop James was the Bishop of Lynn in the Diocese of Norwich.

Canon Paul Miller, Vicar of Shortlands, and the Bishop actually served as curates in the same Parish of Farnborough in Hampshire. Canon Paul was there in the late 1970s and Bishop James in the early 1980s. They are also representing the Diocese in the 4-man Rochester clergy golf team at the National Diocesan Golf Day in July at Frilford Heath.

The PCC earlier this year agreed a 5 year Strategic Plan to develop the ministry and mission of St. Mary's within Shortlands.

There are a number of projects within the plan which are still being formulated and the current intention of this year's Gift Day is, subject to some final technical checks, to enhance and improve the sound system in the church.

The reason we need to do this is due to the expanding congregation which means the whole building is often full! 419 packed into the church on the Festival of Pentecost for the Scout Centenary service.

Scouts celebrate Centenary



Over 400 people packed into St. Mary's to celebrate the centenary of the Scout group in Shortlands and the Festival of Pentecost on Sunday, 12 June.

The service was followed by the Parish Picnic which for the first time in 10 years was held inside the Hall due to the rain. Many people stayed for lunch, however, and the popular barbecue and the bouncy castle were both well supported.

Giles Barnett, the Bromley Branch District Commissioner, presented an award to the Group Scout Chairman, Tony Chase, who is photographed with Neil Broughton, a Queen's Scout, who returned to Shortlands for the occasion.

Services and Events at St. Mary's

Sunday 10.30am **All Age Eucharist and Parade Service**
3 July led by Canon Paul Miller

Sunday 6.30pm **Choral Evensong**
17 July to celebrate 100 years of the Mothers' Union at St. Mary's
Preacher: Canon Ruth Oates
Vicar of St. Mary's, Gravesend and Rural Dean of Gravesend



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

29 May Amelie Vowls

5 June Scarlett Slee

Dylan Slee

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

26 Apr John Rees, aged 89

1 May Edna Benfield, aged 84



Remembering

John Rees

John Morris Rees was born in Sheffield where his father was working as a Factory Inspector for the Civil Service. His parents both came from South Wales with Welsh as their first language. John was born in 1921, his sister Dilys in 1923.

Education was highly valued in his family. He went to Jesus College, Oxford, reading first Maths then, after a spell in the RAF, returned to do Physics instead. He spent his wartime service in Egypt and Turkey working with radar. After Oxford he too became a Civil Service Factory Inspector, a job he did, with various promotions along the way, until he retired in 1981.

He married his first wife, Jeanne, a friend of his sister, in 1948. They settled in London and in 1952 a son, David was born followed by Catherine in 1954. After posting to Birmingham the family moved to Bromley in 1961 and stayed there. Sadly, soon after his retirement Jeanne was diagnosed with breast cancer and she died in 1982 aged only 59.

He later married Kathleen and they began to forge a new life together in which golf played a significant role, even living within the sight of the golf course.

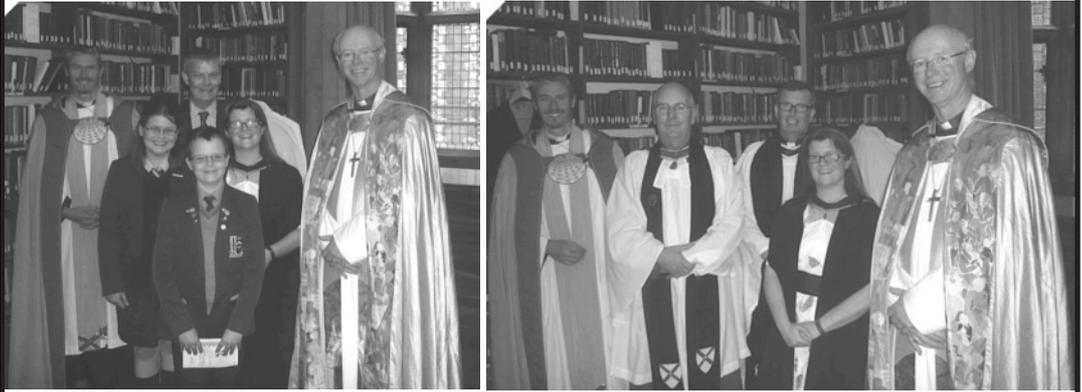
Catherine, meanwhile had married and gave him two grandchildren, Eilise and Owain. He later became a great-grandfather to three boys, Lian, Raif and Logan.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium at which friends from university and the golf club supported his wife Kathleen and other members of the family.

Edna Benfield

Edna was born in 1927 in Willesden and grew up in Kenton, near Harrow. She attended Priestmead Primary School, where she first met her

Canon Claire's installation



On 17 May Claire Tillotson was installed by the Bishop as an Honorary Lay Canon at Rochester Cathedral.

A large contingent from Shortlands joined Claire and her family, some of whom had travelled from Wales, for this significant occasion.

The choir sang Evensong at which the lessons were read by the Dean and Claire. Claire was then presented to the Bishop by Canon Paul who explained Claire had been appointed as Lay Canon in recognition of her music therapy work in Bethlehem. Claire was installed by the Dean into her stall named after William of Perth.

William of Perth was a Scottish baker who, in 1021, set out from Perth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. During his journey he spent a night at the priory of St Andrew of Rochester. He was murdered shortly after he left the monastery on the way through Rainham, and his body was brought back and buried in the Cathedral. Numerous miracles were reported to have occurred at his tomb, which became a place of pilgrimage. The present Quire was built, under the leadership of the Sacrist, William of Hoo, from the offerings made at his tomb. Sadly, nothing is left of his burial place, but there is a stained glass window commemorating him in the north wall of the north quire transept. The Stall named after him can be found on the south side of the Quire.

The photos show:

(left) the Dean, The Very Rev Adrian Newman, and the Bishop, The Rt Rev James Langstaff with Claire's family, her husband James and children, Rachel and David, and (right) Claire with the Dean and the Bishop and Canon Paul Miller and the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, The Ven Dr Paul Wright.

A reception was held afterwards in an Italian restaurant in Rochester.

The Leprosy Mission - a Thank You

The Leprosy Mission was January's Mission of the Month at St. Mary's, following which a payment of £413.50, including donations from regular donors, has recently been sent to the Leprosy Mission. Their grateful acknowledgment is displayed on the Mission of the Month board at the back of the Church - Thank You.

husband-to-be, Ray, at the tender age of 8. She then went on to Peterborough High School for Girls where she excelled academically. It was only the on-going war in the early 1940s that prevented her from going to University. Instead she left school and went out to work and one of her close friends from that time remained a close friend to this day.

After the war Edna met Ray again and they married in 1950. They had a son, John, born in 1956. They lived in West Wickham, and after a spell in Bahrain between 1967 and 1969 they returned and settled in Shortlands where they remained.

Edna was an active member of the Women's League of Health and Beauty attending every week and making many friends.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at St. Mary's, Shortlands attended by family and friends, followed by cremation at Beckenham Crematorium.

St. Mary's Pre-School Table Sale

Saturday, 2 July from 3pm - 5pm
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The word "Recession" conjures up hard times for many people these days. However, it's not half as bad here as in the many poorer nations which Christian Aid supports the world over.

Thanks to your generosity and the unstinting work of our 44 collectors, this year we amassed a total of £3616.43 for Christian Aid - £233.80 of this emanating from the joyful contributions of our youth in their annual Pennies from Heaven circle inside the Church.

This money will be used in many ways to help third world communities to stand on their feet and enable them to improve their way of life in a more rewarding and sustainable manner.

So, to all our collectors, youth leaders and to Richard & Brenda Vickers (who counted the Pennies from Heaven), may we say:

'very well done indeed and a very big thank you!'

God Bless you,

Tricia Braithwaite & Sara Craggs

What happens in heaven when you pray?

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was deputised to show me around. Our first stop was at a large room filled with angels. They were unfolding, reading and stacking thousands of bits of paper, of all sizes. My angel guide explained, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around the area, and it was terribly busy. Angels were sorting out petitions from all over the world. Some were long and involved and weighty, others merely a sigh on a scrap of paper.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings that have been asked for are processed and delivered to the people who need them." I noticed again how busy it was there. The angels were working hard to package and send back to earth all the blessings that had been requested. Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor, we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, doing nothing much.

"This is the Acknowledgement Section, my angel friend said quietly. He seemed a bit embarrassed." How is it that there is no work going on here? I asked. The angel sighed. "Well, after people receive the blessings that they ask for, it seems very few think to send back any acknowledgement." "How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.. "Simple," the angel answered. "Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.' And mean it."

Mission of the Month

Mission to Seafarers

If you search for Mission to Seafarers in Google, the results include Belfast, Scotland, Bombay, Dubai, Antwerp, Mombasa and many more. It shows that there is nowhere in the world or in our lives that is not connected in some way to the people who work on ships. It is a hard and often dangerous life.

The Mission to Seafarers is a Christian charity and works in more than 230 ports around the world caring for the practical and spiritual welfare of seafarers of all nationalities and faiths.

The Mission helps the seafarers by visiting them or welcoming them to their centres, helping them stay in contact with their families by phone or email after spending months at sea, helping an abandoned crew, or helping a crew member in hospital many thousands of miles from home.

Just look in your kitchen cupboards, fridge and freezer - much of what you see will have come by sea. We are all much indebted to these seafarers.

The address at St. Mary's on Sunday, 10 July at the 10.30am service will focus on the work of the Mission to Seafarers.

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

Mothers' Union - 100 not out!

Mothers' Union [MU] at St Mary's is either 100 years old this year – or it was last year! We know that Mothers' Union was active at St. Mary's by 1911... but we have been unable to find a record of a formal start date.

MU is a Christian organisation, founded in 1878 by Mary Sumner, the wife of a Hampshire clergyman and mother of three. She believed in the importance of family life, and set up a group to help women prepare for motherhood and the physical and spiritual needs of their children. MU has grown to a worldwide organisation of some 4 million members in 80 countries, with its headquarters in London.

Here at St. Mary's we have 34 members. We meet monthly for talks on various subjects, and we have several purely social events every year. As well as our meetings, we collect toiletries for use in women's refuges; support the MU Literacy & Development Programme in Sudan and other developing countries from our Mission of the Month proceeds; this year we have sent £118 to "Make a Mother's Day"; and more....

We will celebrate 100 years of the Mothers' Union at St. Mary's at a special Choral Evensong on Sunday, 17 July at 6.30pm. We hope both former and current members will be present and that Church and community will support this occasion.

The preacher will be Canon Ruth Oates who is Vicar of St. Mary's, Gravesend and also Rural Dean of Gravesend.

There will be drinks served after the service.

Get knotted!!!



Eleanor and Rachel from 2nd Shortlands Guides mastering a clove hitch in their first steps to producing a pot stand for their Advanced Camper badge. Square lashing and snake lashing were also needed to complete their gadget, one of the clauses of the Advanced Camper badge. This badge was completed by a record number of 18 Guides on the Outdoor Skills Weekend recently at Cudham, with others gaining their Outdoor Cook badge or "Try your Hand at Firelighting" for new campers.

Organised for Guide units in Bromley North Division, this very popular weekend had a bumper attendance this year: 70 Guides and leaders camped overnight, with a further 38 joining them just for a day. All 8 Guide units in the Division, which covers Plaistow, Shortlands, Hayes and Coney Hall, participated in the weekend.

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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 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

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SPAN

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