

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 August/September 2011. Year 31 Number 8

Krakow 2012

Unique opportunity for Shortlands group to visit Poland.

There is much going on in Poland in 2012. The UEFA Euro 2012 football championship will be held there in June. And in October Canon Paul Miller will lead a party from Shortlands to Krakow. 'For some time it has been my plan to lead a group to Poland. It is a wonderful country and Krakow in particular is an amazing place.' Krakow is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, ranking with Prague and Vienna as one of the architectural gems of our continent. The city gave us Chopin, Copernicus and Pope Jean-Paul II, and was the medieval capital of Poland. With 6,000 monuments, 140 churches and 2.5 million works of art, it is a city with a rich cultural heritage. But Krakow is far from just a collection of buildings, it has an atmosphere that is vibrant, alive, timeless and is the perfect destination for a European short break.

Canon Paul has arranged a visit from 25-28 October 2012 through Riviera Travel. It will be based at the 4 star centrally located Novotel Krakow Centrum Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. The hotel is situated in the centre of Krakow just 10 minutes from the magnificent Wawel Castle and 150 metres away from the main market square with its many shops, museums and galleries. It has a fitness centre and swimming pool.

The tour will include:

- Return flights from Gatwick to Krakow
- Executive coach for return airport transfers in Krakow
- Three nights at the 4* centrally located Novotel Krakow Centrum Hotel, including breakfast
- A sightseeing tour of the preserved old town of Krakow
- A visit to the Wawel castle district, home of the Royal Palace
- A visit to Auschwitz - Birkenau
- Fully escorted throughout by an experienced Riviera Tour Manager

The inclusive cost is only £399. There are single rooms available at a supplement of £100.

This is a specially arranged tour but we have to book early to secure this special price. We will arrange coach travel to and from Gatwick airport at a small extra cost. Booking forms are available from the Church porch or can be e-mailed to you from the Parish Office (contact office@stmarysshortlands.plus.com) The deposit is only £50. Cheques to be made payable to Riviera Travel.

So - what are you waiting for. If you would like to join the Krakow party, please reserve your place as soon as possible.



Harvest Lunch

The Harvest Lunch will take place in the Church Hall after the 10.30am Family & Parade Service on Sunday, 2 October.

Tickets will be available from the Parish Office or at the back of the Church after Sunday Services from 1 September.

This year's *reduced* ticket prices are:

- Adult** £7 to include a glass of wine
Child £5 to include a soft drink
Family £20 to include 2 glasses of wine and 2 soft drinks

The proceeds from the lunch will go to the Church Urban Fund project in feeding the homeless in London.

Services and Events

**Sunday, 11 September
Patronal Festival and Gift Day**

10.30am - Family Communion
President and Preacher: The Bishop of Rochester
The Rt Rev James Langstaff

Gift Day envelopes are available in Church. All giving on this day will be to support the improvement of the Church's sound system and rewiring the Church.

**Sunday, 18 September
6.30pm - Choral Evensong**

**Sunday, 2 October
Harvest Festival
10.30am - Family & Parade Service**



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

26 June Tobias Saggar

10 July Lucy Diamond

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

13 June Jacqueline Pitt-Payne, aged 63



Remembering

Jacqueline Pitt-Payne

Jacqui was born at Hillingdon hospital, she was a twin and had an elder sister Jan. In her early years her family moved to Wigan but when she was 10 they returned south.

Jacqui was a nurse, beginning her training at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth and later working in the Casualty Department at Guy's Hospital where she met her husband James, a doctor. They married in 1972 in Great Missenden. They had two sons Charles and William and then moved to Top Park, Beckenham where James set up in private practice and she supported him in his work. Her twin sister, Gill, tragically died in a car accident in Australia, but she is survived by her sister, Jan.

Jacqui had a generosity of spirit and was always ready to help those in need. She loved her dogs, reading novels and watching cricket, golf and rugby.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at St. Mary's Church at which her husband James, sons Charles and William, daughter-in-law, Elaine, granddaughter, Jasmine, and sister Jan were supported by a large congregation. A service of committal at Beckenham Crematorium followed.

Shortlands Golf Club Long established (1894) Family Golf Club

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Barnado's Big Toddle



Children from St. Mary's Pre-School took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for Barnado's, the children's charity.

Forty children walked around local roads, some dressed as animals, and stopped at various gardens with jungle themes on the way. In the first garden the children 'negotiated a swamp', and in the next they found animal stickers. In the third garden they found a 'talking parrot' which repeated what the children were saying and in the final garden they found animal biscuits in a real treasure chest!

The children raised over £700 for Barnado's and St. Mary's Pre-School, and they all received a medal for taking part. Well done everyone!

What NOT to do before you go on holiday

Criminals just love Twitter and Facebook. Now they can locate unattended homes so much more easily - often within seconds of people posting comments about being on holiday on these social networking websites.

Thieves once had it hard - having to wander about neighbourhoods, peering over hedges, bribing milkmen, looking for empty houses. Now it is so much simpler: they stay at home and surf the internet - and can track down your address from a one-line posting within 60 seconds, according to researchers. Thieves look for messages such as 'packing my cases' and 'just landed' with a smiley face, only hours after the sender's location was given as an airport.

How do they do it? A check on the family name and, for instance, the name of their child's school, cross referenced with an online address database, shows the location of the home. The study, by Co-operative Travel, goes on to warn people that their children are the worst offenders, as 51 per cent of young people tell all their friends about the forthcoming holiday....

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for recent donations of £5.



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Talk to your baby

One in five new parents believe that their baby will only benefit from being talked to after it has reached three months old. Five per cent of parents do not even think they need to teach their baby speech. They assume that language skills just sort of 'happen'.

Instead, The National Literacy Trust urges parents to start talking to their babies the moment they are born, and to use every opportunity to teach them words and meanings. "Few moments in life are more magical than the first time you hear your baby talk. It's the start of a lifelong conversation." There are some excellent Bible stories available for young children, with which you can begin to teach not just words, but a meaning in life.

Meanwhile, recent tests by scientists in Paris' Descartes University have found that babies can even remember melodies they heard in the womb, after they are born.

The Way I See It

This summer the Duke of Edinburgh reached his ninetieth birthday. Those of us who can remember the tall, fair-headed naval officer who married Princess Elizabeth in 1947 have become used to his figure walking just behind the Queen on royal occasions over the last 64 years, often raising a laugh as he follows her along a line of well-wishers with a few well-chosen (or occasionally not quite so well chosen) remarks. His has been a remarkable life and his continuing energy and individuality as the Prince Consort have been remarkable. It's hard to believe that he is ninety.

Yet the truth is, we are becoming increasingly aware that more and more people around us are reaching that once rare milestone. I remember being taken as a child to see a great-aunt who had just had her ninetieth birthday. We were ushered into the room to be confronted with a frail figure, mouth open, pale eyes almost invisible - a kind of living wax-work. Today among our friends, neighbours and fellow church members there will probably be many ninety year olds - and even centurions- who are far from being wax-works. People may not yet match Methuselah in the Bible, who (it is claimed) reached 969 years, but we are on average living longer, and that prolonged life more often retains a degree of good health and activity.

Yet we live in a world which worships youth! The reason the Bible lists all those legendary men of old in Genesis (chapter 5) is that old age was seen as the mark of wisdom, something to be valued and revered. The leaders of Israel, and the leaders of the early churches, were called 'elders', because it was inconceivable that younger men could do it. None of that 'too old at fifty' in those days!

It's an observable fact that congregations in our churches are, on the whole, well above the national average age. That probably doesn't matter too much, so long as they are constantly fed with the rising age-groups. As one shrewd observer commented to me, 'It's quite natural to mug up for finals!' St Paul told Timothy not to let the people among whom he ministered 'despise his youth' (he was well over thirty at the time). We now need the balancing advice. Let no one despise the elderly! We're not just hanging around. Like Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we'll faithfully do our bit until we topple off the perch.

by David Winter

Mission of the Month

for August - Welcare in Bromley

Welcare in Bromley is a social work organisation supported by many churches within the borough which aims to help families address problems arising from poverty, isolation and relationship difficulties including domestic violence. The staff encourage positive parenting as a means of improving the quality of family life, and try to enable parents and children to fulfil their potential.

Welcare in Bromley recognises the needs of disadvantaged families particularly in this time of general austerity. Welcare are seeing an increase in demand for their services at a time of reducing resources. In order to keep parents and children at the heart of their work help is needed through financial contribution, prayer and volunteering.

Local fundraising can help to provide outings and activities for parents and children during the summer holidays and beyond, this can make such a difference to families in financial need.

If you would like further details as to how to help, possibly by becoming a Friend of Welcare in Bromley, please contact Marion Westropp 020 8650 5178, the Welcare in Bromley office 020 466 0399, or pick up a leaflet at the back of the church during the month of August.

Save the date: Quiz night in aid of Welcare in Bromley, Saturday, 15 October, at St. Mary's, Shortlands.

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

Beavers on fire!



On Wednesday, 6 July the 7th Bromley (St Mary's Shortlands) Beavers made their biennial visit to Beckenham Fire Station. We spent a terrific hour there seeing what happens behind the scenes. After seeing round inside, we went outside to look at the fire engine. Ladders, grass beaters, axes and much more were inspected. The boys even had a chance to sit in the vehicle, before the highlight of the visit as they operated a hose throwing out water in a great sparkling arch. Most of us inevitably got a little damp and, for the boys, the resulting puddles exerted a magnetic attraction to their shoes - sorry Mum! Our thanks to Red Watch for their kindness, good humour and patience while showing us round. *Polar Bear*

Parenting Course in Shortlands

We are delighted to announce that a second Parenting Course is to be offered in Shortlands in September.

Julianne Medway, a trained facilitator for the Triple P - Positive Parenting Program Course, is to lead a course in Shortlands for parents of teenage children.

'I am excited by this opportunity,' enthused Julianne. 'The course equips parents from every walk of life with skills that can directly and positively affect their teenagers' welfare.'

Triple P is an eight week course. It is a support strategy aimed at the prevention of behavioural,



emotional and developmental problems in teenagers. This is achieved by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents. It helps to improve parenting skills and assists parents in building positive relationships with their children.

The course will commence on 27 September.

If you would like to register your interest please contact the Parish Office on 020 8460 5682.

Mission of the Month

for September - Railway Children

Railway Children reaches out to street children in India, East Africa and the UK. Most street children are unable to adequately provide basic human needs for themselves: food, shelter and protection from harm. The first priority of Railway Children is to help these most vulnerable children. Their outreach workers identify children and young people alone and at risk of harm and engage with them on the streets, on their own territory.

Children living alone on the streets in any society face exploitation from people who view them as commodities to trade, use and abuse. In areas of extreme poverty this problem is increased since the opportunity to use, sell and abuse children is both available and rarely punished. Railway Children works to increase awareness in communities and help people see that they are children in need of care and protection, not commodities.

Last year Railway Children helped 25,076 street children around the world. Concurrently Railway Children aspires to create a safer, brighter future for these children and believes that to achieve this they must effect the sustained change that can only come about by educating communities and lobbying governments.

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

**The Parish Church
of St. Mary,
Shortlands**



Link Parish

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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

STAFF

Vicar	Canon P. Miller	8460 4989
Honorary Curate	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302 (Sunday, Monday and Wednesday)
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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
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Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
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Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. D. Allen	8650 1720
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LOCAL NUMBERS

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

SPAN

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