

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

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January 2010. Year 30 Number 1

Into 2010...



by Canon Paul Miller

A new year always provides new challenges. But first of all let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year. And whatever it brings, may you know the peace of Jesus Christ in your hearts and home.

This year we will face a General Election. We shall welcome a new Member of Parliament for Beckenham. We shall have to prepare for what we are told will be a difficult year economically. In our Diocese we shall welcome a new Bishop. I was one of a number of clergy who recently met with the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Appointments Secretary who will both oversee the deliberation that will conclude with the nomination of a successor to Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali.

In our Parish we shall continue to do all we can to promote the love of God to enable many to engage with the spirituality of their life journey.

In August forty seven of us will go to Oberammergau for the Passion Play, held every ten years as a thanksgiving from the people of the village for their deliverance from the plague in 1633. Hundreds of thousands are expected during the summer to visit the village to see the play.

We live in times of uncertainty – internationally, nationally and personally. As Christians we believe that in times of uncertainty the promise of God in Jesus Christ will sustain us and strengthen us. Our life view stretches beyond death to eternity and to heaven. Our life experience on this earth is transformed by the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever (Hebrews 13:8).

May God bless you throughout 2010, and may I remind you again of those great words:

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

(Minnie Haskins 1875-1957)

One hundred years of Guiding!



It all began back in 1909, in an era when men wore the trousers and women had no vote - a few feisty girls turned up uninvited at the Crystal Palace Rally for Scouts wearing a variation of the Scout uniform with a fleur-de-lis on their hats, and carrying poles and haversacks. At first Baden-Powell was none too pleased, nor were the parents, at such unladylike conduct, but these "Girl Scouts" were undeterred and demanded "something for the girls"! They got their way, and years later when Baden-Powell was asked who started the Girl Guides, he replied "They started themselves by turning up at the Scout Rally". The pioneers who turned up at Crystal Palace called themselves Girl Scouts, but Baden-Powell decided to change the

name to Girl Guides to create a separate identity for the girls rather than an imitation of their brothers. His sister Agnes initially organised activities for them, then Olave, whom Baden-Powell married in 1912, became Chief Guide.

The organisation began in 1910 and grew quickly, with over 30,000 girls becoming members in the first six years. Today there are over 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 145 countries around the world. 50 per cent of women in the UK have been involved in Guiding at some stage in their lives.

Brownies started in 1915, originally called Rosebuds, but changed their name the following year to Brownies as the girls didn't like the name Rosebuds! Rangers, originally called Senior Guides, started in 1916, and the Rainbows started in 1987.

During WW2, the Queen and Princess Margaret were both involved in Guiding, and learnt skills useful to the war effort. The 1st Buckingham Palace Brownie Pack and Guide Company began in 1937, and the

Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were enrolled by their aunt, HRH Princess Mary, who was then President of the Guide Association. Princess Margaret later became President, and after her death the role was taken over by Sophie, HRH Countess of Wessex.

It was appropriate for the Guiding centenary celebrations to begin with in September 2009 with a centenary launch party at Crystal Palace attended by over 6,000 members, including many from Shortlands. Other similar events were held across the country, and numerous camps and other special events are planned during 2010. This will culminate in all the members of Girlguiding UK joining together at 20:10 20/10 2010 (Wednesday 20th October 2010) to renew their Promise, remember the first 100 years of Guiding and kick off the next 100!

The 1st Beckenham Girl Guide Company is thought to be the oldest Guide Company in the world. They used to meet in the "old" St George's

Hall in the High Street where Marks & Spencer is now located. The Company was formed after the Scout Rally in 1909, although the first registration date was October 1910.

There will be a celebration buffet lunch at St. George's Hall, Beckenham on 9 October 2010. Further details can be obtained from Jenny Poll (known as JB) on tel. 01825 761671 or by email to jennypoll@talktalk.net

by Gill Dawson, Guide Leader in Shortlands for 27 years.



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
29 Nov Ruby Muir
Eliza Welch



Remembering

Les Green

Les was born in North London in 1920 but for a great many years lived in a house that was built for him and his wife, Pat, in Cumberland Road.

They had been married for sixty years and had two daughters, Janet, who sadly predeceased him, and Sally.

During the war he served in a tank unit in Burmah. Afterwards he became a green grocer, and then a respected wholesaler in Covent Garden supplying many well known supermarkets and stores.

In recent years his interests included clocks, homemade wine and wine appreciation.

A Service of Thanksgiving conducted by Peter Stotesbury prior to cremation at Beckenham Crematorium, was attended by his family, including four of his five grandchildren, and many friends.

Those New Year resolutions

Some New Year Resolutions can be bad for you. Mind, the mental health charity, has warned that New Year resolutions based on our insecurities - such as being overweight, feeling unhappy, or not living up to our family's expectations - can be doomed to failure. We can end up feeling worse than when we started.

Instead, here are three New Year Resolutions which will do you good: First, get more active. Even gentle exercise releases endorphins, which will lift your mood. Second, visit somewhere green: being in the countryside also promotes well-being. Thirdly, join a group with the aim of giving, not receiving. It seems that helping out in your community or church can help you as much as it does them.



"We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning Winter services"

New Year's Message from Douai



Happy New Year! Along with all our parishioners I would like to send you our greetings and very best wishes for 2010. We have followed your achievements and high spots in SPAN, and I am sure you must have had your challenging moments too. May God give you plenty to rejoice about in the coming year, and courage to face the difficult times!

For our part, we have had our joys and our sorrows. Among the former I have particularly noticed the increased awareness in the message of Saint Francis, the patron saint of our four ancient churches which were united into one parish

six years ago. I am filled of wonder at the steadfastness of prayer and generosity of our older Christians, the hard work put into our religious celebrations, and people's commitment to helping others in the community. Catechism classes for children are still of major importance, and we are reaching out to adults more and more through our preparation for marriage and for children's baptism, and other family gatherings.

We have also faced sorrow, particularly with the recent passing of Deacon Pierre Moibert. He leaves a grieving widow, Maguy, family and many friends. His son, Jean-Michel, is known to many of you. However we celebrate his life which is a shining example to us all.

The current recession is giving us great cause for concern. The "Priestly Year" campaign planned for all our communities helps us to face the problem of clergy recruitment which is already apparent in the wide gulf

between young people and our normal religious practices. We also face the daily challenge of how we can achieve a greater understanding and tolerance between our two churches. Perfect unity is truly an ideal towards which God calls us. Even if it is beyond our capabilities, it should still focus our prayers and actions.

From 18 to 25 January we would like to join with you in prayer for Christian unity. Here we can follow the good example of Saint Francis. May God's love work within us so we can together strive to bring about his kingdom and achieve a true and happy fellowship with those around us. We ask you to help us to bring this about.

A very Happy New Year to you all

Your brother in Christ,
Michel Rimaux,
Parish Priest of Saint Francis of Assisi

Mission of the Month

ZANE (Zimbabwe a national emergency) helps the poor and needy in Zimbabwe. It is a small charity but has a big impact. Without the generous support of donors over the past seven years, many hundreds if not thousands, of pensioners would have died from lack of food, essential medicines and financial aid. During that time ZANE's brave and dedicated staff have distributed money to many, including WW2 pensioners and their widows.

This is what John Simpson CBE (World Affairs Editor of the BBC) said recently, 'I have seen a little bit of ZANE's work on the ground and what I have seen is very, very impressive. ZANE is one of those lovely organisations that makes a small amount of money go a very, very long way. It's not my job to recommend one organisation over another, but what is perfectly reasonable to say is that ZANE is a good cause and the money is properly and well spent.'

ZANE is St. Mary's Mission of the Month for January. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during January and further information can be found on www.zane-zimbabweanationalemergency.com

Special Services for the weeks to come

Sunday, 10 January - Confirmation

10.30am - Confirmation Service

President and Preacher - The Bishop of Tonbridge
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Brian Castle will visit Shortlands for the Annual Service of Confirmation.

Seven young people and one adult are being confirmed.

Sunday, 17 January

6.30pm - Choral Evensong

Responses: Sanders (RSCM). Canticles: Sumsion in A.
Anthem: Lo, star led chiefs (Crotch).

Sunday, 31 January

10.30am Family Communion

The sermon will be given by a representative of ZANE (Zimbabwe, a national emergency) which is St. Mary's Mission for the month of January

6.30pm Songs of Praise

Come and listen to your favourite hymns.



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All the fun of the Fayre

St. Mary's Christmas Fayre took place in November. The Fayre had a Dickensian theme and the stalls and stall-holders rose to the challenge to make the event a great success.

In spite of the dreadful weather the event was well supported by the Community and over £2,300 was raised to support St. Mary's Accessible Toilet Appeal and the work of Bromley Welcare.

Thank you to the organising committee, all the stall-holders and helpers and all those who attended.

The photos show some of those who joined in the fun.



Christmas News from the Flying Angel



It was good to be invited to share some aspects of my work with seafarers with both the young and adult members of St Mary's. Memories of the cubs hurling Wellington boots into the woodland behind the church on a pleasant summer evening and enjoying the warmth of welcome when I spoke at the Sea Sunday service in July seems an age away as we adjust to the wet blustery weather and dark nights.

As regular as the trains passing through Bromley South and Shortlands the container ships continue to arrive at our local ports, with seafarers working to a tight timetable to deliver the goods that arrive in our supermarkets and shops. For those who have been watching the hugely enjoyable James May's "Toy Story" on BBC you may have noticed that when building a Scalextric track around the motor racing track at Brooklands in Surrey all of the model track (almost two real miles in length) arrived in brown boxes marked "Imported through Thamesport" which is less than thirty miles from your church! Most presents that we will receive this Christmas will, at some stage, have involved a seafarer. The weather at this time of the year is seldom calm, so please, if you can, pray for the safety of seafarers and the well-being of those separated from their families this Christmas.

Thank you for your support and an extra big thank you to the young folk who made 180 beautiful cards and 20 bookmarks to go in the seafarers' Christmas presents which are being delivered to the ships' crews during December.

Have a blessed and joyful Christmas,

With best wishes,

Ray Trudgett

Chaplain, Mission To Seafarers, Medway and Thames Ports

Bishop encourages commuters to get to work on prayer

The Church of England has published a book of prayers and reflections to help frazzled commuters cope this winter – and then unwind on the way home. The Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, newly-retired Bishop of St Albans, wrote the book after reflecting on the "turbulence" of the modern working day, beginning with the search for a space to park, and the struggle on the packed train into work.

On the way home, commuters have to deal with "crowds in the street hurrying, heads down, eager to get to the station or the bus... and then an infuriatingly unruffled and disembodied voice saying, 'We apologise for the late arrival of...'. It's a turbulent way to live."

In *Pocket Prayers for Commuters*, the bishop offers brief reflections and prayers for the morning rush and evening exodus, drawing on the idea that in spite of all the hassle and stress of commuting, "real peace is waiting to be found".

Pocket Prayers for Commuters £5.99, from Christian bookshops or www.chpublishing.co.uk

Incentive to succeed

An old gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery. He had insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son, to encourage him. 'Don't be nervous, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, and something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife.'

That's telling

Young Jimmie finished his Christmas holiday and headed back to school. Only two days later his teacher was on the phone, telling his mother that he was misbehaving. "Wait a minute!" protested Jimmie's mum. "I had him here for two weeks over the Christmas break, and I never once rang YOU when he misbehaved!"

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

St. Francis of
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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) | | |
| Honorary Assistant | Archdeacon P. Wright | 8467 8743 |
| Priest | | |
| Readers | Mrs. A. Gimson | 8460 6494 |
| | Mr. P. Stotesbury | 8650 3259 |
| Pastoral Assistants | Mrs. S. Harrison | 8464 0284 |
| | Mrs. L. Miller | 8460 4989 |
| | Mrs. M. Westropp | 8650 5178 |
| Parish Administrator | Mr. R. Vickers | 8460 5682 |
| Assistants | Mrs. J. Fiddeman | 8460 5682 |
| | Rev. J. Peters | 8460 5682 |
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| | Dr. D. Jefferys | 8460 6030 |
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| | Mr. S. Clark | 8464 0696 |
| | Mr. D. Cooper | 8460 0682 |
| | Mr. C. Stokes | 8460 0661 |
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| Stewardship | Mr. J. Westropp | 8650 5178 |
| Junior Church | Mrs. F. Bratt | 8460 6947 |

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.

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| | | |
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| Scouts (Fri.) | Mr. T. Watson | 8650 0184 |
| Cubs (Mon.) | Mrs. L. Swatton | 8650 0397 |
| Cubs (Tues.) | Mr. D. Hope | 8466 5545 |
| Beavers & admissiions | Mr. J. Westropp | 8650 5178 |
| Guides (Tues.) | Miss G. Dawson | 8249 1799 |
| 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 admissiions | Ms. N. Blake | 8460 7951 |
| Rainbows | Mrs. V. Jones | 8290 6531 |
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| | or 07960 988552 | |
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| Website | www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk |
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