

## Confirmation at St. Mary's



On Sunday, 10 January at St. Mary's, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Brian Castle, the Bishop of Tonbridge, officiated at a service of Confirmation at The Eucharist.

This was a wonderful occasion at which the candidates confirmed their Christian faith, and despite the snow many family, friends and parishioners supported them.

Pictured with the Bishop are (left to right) Ann Parks (Churchwarden), Canon Paul Miller, Emily Romeril, Elizabeth Harrison, Sophie Webster, Aurora Andrew, Abigail Bailey, Taryn Smit, Harry Bailey, Duncan Swatton, Reverend Jane Peters and David Jefferys (Churchwarden).

## Twinning Group meets in Calais



The twinning committee of Douai and Shortlands recently met in Calais to plan the 2010 exchange in May to Shortlands. The photo shows Abbe Michel Rimaux (far right) with Gill Dawson and Robin Hogg (far left), Canon Paul Miller and Jane Green (centre and second from the right) with members of the Douai Link. Full details of the exchange in May will appear in next month's SPAN. The meeting spent some time sharing about the current situations of the respective churches in France and England and also learning about the sad news that St. Therese, Douai has had to temporarily close due to safety concerns about the building.



## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

3 Jan Taryn Smit

### Confirming their

### Christian faith:

10 Jan Aurora Andrew

Abigail Bailey

Harry Bailey

Elizabeth Harrison

Emily Romeril

Taryn Smit

Duncan Swatton

Sophie Webster

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

7 Dec Elizabeth Banfield, aged 66

15 Dec Geoffrey Guntrip, aged 88

16 Dec Connie Barter, aged 94



## Remembering

### Elizabeth Banfield

Elizabeth was born in 1943 in Lewisham, moved to the safety of Derbyshire because of the war, but returned afterwards. After leaving school she worked at Oxford Press, Bromley College and Lewisham Legal Department where she worked as a PA to the Head of Law. No surprise that all her working life involved people. She was very much a 'people person'.

In 1965 she married John and in the fullness of time they had three children: Philip, Laura and Zoe. She sat on PTAs at her childrens' school – always supportive and interested in what they were doing.

A woman with many interests, she was a member of the Housewives' Register, the Breakaway Club (of the WI), the West Wickham Panto Society and she helped at the Hospice Shop in Hayes. A creative, talented woman Elizabeth loved needlework and made her own

clothes. Elizabeth loved to travel.

During the last couple of years Elizabeth suffered from her illness but she always took a positive view and would have pursued anything which gave her a chance to be well.

The Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Rev Jane Peters at Beckenham Crematorium, was attended by family, friends, neighbours and representatives of the various organisations of which Elizabeth was a member: a tribute to her outgoing personality. She will be greatly missed by many.

### Geoffrey Guntrip

Those who knew Geoff remember him as the perfect gentleman.

He lived in Springpark Drive, Beckenham, but was born in Catford in 1921.

The youngest of three brothers, he was educated at Quernmore School and the City of London School. After War service in the RAF, during which he survived the sinking of his troop ship, he joined Guntrips, his family's very old established firm of turf accountants, where he spent his working life.

He married Heather in 1957, and there are two children of the marriage Jill and Martin, and now two grandchildren, Kirsty and Angus.

Geoff was a very talented sportsman, and especially excelled at tennis. He was a member of the Catford Wanderers and Park Langley Clubs, and amongst his achievements represented the County of Kent on many occasions.

In more recent years has enjoyed playing golf, and was a past Captain of the Langley Park Golf Club.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Geoff's life, conducted by Peter Stotesbury, was attended by his family and a large number of friends. This was held at St. Mary's prior to cremation in Beckenham. Sadly Heather was unable to be present due to illness.

### Connie Barter

Connie was born 94 years ago in Deptford - one of four children. She

went to school in that area and was a very bright pupil but in those days there were no opportunities for girls to go into further education and after leaving school aged 14 she worked in an office. That did not dim her thirst for knowledge and experience in life – a curiosity and appetite which never left her.

In January 1940 she married Ernest. He went to war with the Air Force and she left London to spend the war years in Holdsworth in North Devon and their daughter Jean was born there. In 1948 son John was added to the family.

Tragedy struck when Ernest was killed in a car accident, the children being only 17 and 10 years old.

Connie was a very artistic woman: she painted, loved her garden, arranged flowers to perfection, enjoyed collecting antiques, adored opera and ballet and was always interested in fashion. She was stalwart member of the congregation at St Mary's, at Durham House and a member of the 2WW's group, always interested in others.

The Committal at Beckenham Crematorium and Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's were both conducted by Rev Jane Peters. Connie will be remembered with much love and affection.



## Mission of the Month

Care of Police Survivors (known as COPS) was founded in 2003 and is a UK registered charity dedicated to helping rebuild the lives of the families of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It aims to ensure that survivors have all the help they need to cope with such a tragedy, and that they remain part of the police family. Nobody understands the trauma of a line of duty death better than those who have endured it. COPS places new survivors in touch with those who are prepared to help others through the difficult times that lie ahead. COPS is run by survivors for survivors. Only another survivor can fully understand what new survivors endure, and that shared experience is the basis for the peer support programme. Membership is open to spouses, partners, children, parents and siblings of officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

COPS aims to build a network of survivors around the UK, developing the capability of having a local survivor as soon as required. Sometimes an understanding listener is needed. Sometimes more practical help is required. Whatever the need, COPS will be able to put survivors in touch with those who truly understand.

COPS is St. Mary's 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.ukcops.org](http://www.ukcops.org)

## Auction of Promises in aid of Accessible Toilet Fund

You will probably all be aware that the church is currently undertaking a major fundraising initiative to provide us with much needed accessible toilets in Church House. This is a huge project for us which will cost over £60,000.

Our next major undertaking is our second Auction of Promises on Saturday, 20 March. So, how can YOU help? We have decided on an auction of promises as it is an occasion where everyone in the church community can offer something.

I can see a number of you scratching your heads and saying 'there's nothing I can do' or 'I'm not good at anything'. The answer is we all have skills and talents and if you are happy to 'donate' them there is someone out there who is willing to 'pay' for them. We will be producing a catalogue of everything that we will be auctioning so in addition to promising we hope you and all your friends will come and bid on the day.

So what can you promise? In the past we have had everything from a week's holiday in a cottage on the coast, to babysitting; from gardening to tutoring for an examination; children's party entertainment to a lift to the airport; a celebration cake to a meal cooked in your home for four people; a celebration buffet for up to 30 people or tickets for the theatre; the list is endless.

Forms are available at the back of the church or from the church office, for you to complete, to provide details of your 'promise' which will be used as a basis for the auction catalogue. Once you have completed your form please would you either place it in the box at the back of the church or hand it in to the office by the 3 March at the latest.

Thank you in advance for all your support and look forward to seeing you on 20 March.

## SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for recent donations of £12.20



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# Lent 2010



**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!

We will again be following one of the York Courses especially written for Lent. This year the five sessions will come under the heading of ‘When I survey,, Christ’s cross and ours’.

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.

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.

Wednesday, 24 February - David & Jane Green, 84 Barnfield Wood Road - supporting Sight Savers International

Thursday, 4 March - Cliff & Shirley Broughton, 1 St. Mary’s Avenue - supporting Demelza House

Friday, 12 March - Sue Slaney, 31 Elwill Way - supporting St. Christopher’s Hospice

Saturday, 27 March - 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 addresses entitled ‘Meet the Deanery’.** The Vicar has invited four clergy from the Deanery of Beckenham to preach to give everyone an opportunity to hear someone else other than the Shortlands clergy!

February 21	Reverend Chris Smith	Vicar, St. Michael with St. Augustine, Beckenham
February 28	Reverend Leon Carberry	Vicar, St. James, Elmers End
March 7	Reverend Maggie Wilkinson	Hon. Curate, Holy Trinity, Beckenham
March 21	Reverend Malcolm Hancock	Rector, St. George, Beckenham

## 4. A Lent Retreat Day

Saturday, March 27 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 you name to the sign up sheet in the porch if you would like to attend. Donations of £10

## 5. Endeavour to participate in the experience of Holy Week

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is Wednesday, 17 February. There will be two services at 10.00am and 8.00pm.

### March 28

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10.30am	Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	A Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week

### April 1

<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	8.00pm	Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch
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### April 2

<b>Good Friday</b>	10.30am	Family Service led by Reverend Jane Peters
	2.00pm	An Hour at the Cross led by Canon Paul Miller

### April 4

<b>Easter Day</b>	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 the Parish Office on 8460 5682.**

## Concert at St. Mary’s

by the children and young people of Shortlands

on  
**Sunday, 7 March  
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in aid of SOS Children’s Village, Bethlehem and the Friends of St. Mary’s

If you would like to perform at the Concert, please contact Victoria Stafford (020 8290 0955)

**The Parish Church  
of St. Mary,  
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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 61 7302
(Sunday Monday and Wednesday)		
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	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
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	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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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.

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Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. D. Hope	8466 5545
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admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Miss G. Dawson	8249 1799
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Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
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**SPAN**

Website	www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
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