

Heading for South Africa

Harriet Adam, a 16 year old from Shortlands, will be travelling to South Africa in August to work at an orphanage for children who have lost their parents through HIV/AIDs.

Harriet, a Young Leader with the 2nd Shortlands Brownies, has been selected to participate in a Girlguiding Project in South Africa. The team will be working at 'God's Golden Acre' orphanage. They will be working with the children as well as distributing food packages and painting small houses.

Harriet has to raise £2,200 by the end of June. On Mothering Sunday, 14 March, she and her family will be baking for England, in preparation for a cake sale in the Church Hall after the Church Parade service – there will also be a raffle, tuckshop sweets and refreshments. 'I hope that you will all come and sample some delicious home baking to support my fundraising for this exciting adventure. I am also offering my services as a babysitter to help boost my funds.'

The family will also be working hard in the Barbecue tent at the Parish Picnic later this year on Sunday, 13 June to help Harriet reach her target.

Any further information about supporting Harriet should be directed to the Parish Office (8460 5682).



Services and Events at St. Mary's

Sunday 7 March	3.00pm	Concert by the children and young people of Shortlands in aid of SOS Children's Village, Bethlehem and the Friends of St. Mary's
Mothering Sunday 14 March	10.30am	Family and Parade Service with the Blessing and Distribution of Posies
Saturday 20 March	2.00pm	Auction of Promises in the Church Hall in aid of the Accessible Toilet Fund

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 28 March	10.30am	Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week
Maundy Thursday 1 April	8.00pm	Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch
Good Friday 2 April	10.30am	Family Service led by Reverend Jane Peters
	2.00pm	'An Hour at the Cross' led by Canon Paul Miller
Easter Day 4 April	8.00am	Sunrise Eucharist
	10.30am	Eucharist of the Resurrection including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer in the Chapel

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.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

24 Jan Adam Woods

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

29 Dec Trudie Read, aged 94

9 Jan May Butler, age 95

16 Jan Kathleen Denman, aged 84



Remembering

Trudie Read

Trudie was born in Kentish Town, North London where she was to go to school. She married Alan Read in 1941. In the early 1950s they moved to Bromley where Alan became a local councillor and in due course an Alderman and Deputy Mayor of Bromley - Trudie becoming the Deputy Mayoress.

Alan died in 1975 and Trudie moved to Shortlands where she became a regular worshipper at St. Mary's.

For many years she supported the Red Cross and was awarded the Red Cross Badge of Honour for her long and outstanding service. She travelled extensively. She became an enthusiastic bridge player and served the teas weekly at Durham House.

A Service of Thanksgiving prior to cremation, conducted by Canon Paul Miller assisted by Ann Gimson, took place at Beckenham Crematorium and was attended by her sons, grandchildren, neighbours and friends.

May Butler

May was born in Greenwich in 1914, and after her mother died when she was only 14, continued living with her father in Deptford.

She became a teacher, and then Head Teacher of a church infant school in Charlton.

She was to form a great friendship with Gladys Phillips, and they moved together to Chatham Avenue, Hayes, and then eventually to Blenheim Court, Shortlands. Gladys predeceased her, but May continued living there until the final few months of her life.

May had a strong Christian faith and was a regular attender at our services in Durham House, but she also enjoyed a number of other interests such as her membership of the National Trust, gardening and music. She regularly visited her caravan at Newhaven for over 30 years.

A service of thanksgiving conducted by Peter Stotesbury and Ann Gimson took place at Beckenham Crematorium.

Kathleen Denman

Kath was born in Portsmouth where she grew up and was educated. She was one of seven children.

She met Bill who was a Royal Marine and continued to live in Portsmouth. They moved to Singapore but returned to England, firstly to Hull and then to the Beckenham area. Bill died in 1996.

Kath was a very sociable person. She had a close family and kept up her family ties.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, was held at Beckenham Crematorium prior to cremation. Her daughter Marina and her husband Robert were supported by many family and friends. She had 2 grandchildren, Rebecca and William.

Mission of the Month

CMS – the Church Mission Society – is committed to evangelistic mission, working to see our world transformed by the love of Jesus. Since its inception in 1799 at the time of the abolition of slavery, CMS has always had justice and evangelism at its heart.

Today it is a community of people working in over 50 countries, directly supporting more than 700 people and drawing thousands into local mission wherever they are.

St. Mary's currently supports Kathy Pinsent, a secondary school teacher, who works at Hebron school in Tamil Nadu, India. This is an international boarding school, whose aim is to support families involved in mission across Asia.

CMS is St. Mary's Mission for the Month of March. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during March and further information can be found on www.cms-uk.org

New Chairs Arrive!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of 100 new chairs to be used in St. Mary's Church on the occasions when the congregation is too many for the pews!

Not only are they very comfortable, but the colour matches the existing colour scheme of the interior of the Church. One of the huge advantages is that they are stackable, which means they can be kept at the back of the Church when not required, a facility we did not enjoy with the previous wooden chairs.

Some of the chairs were given in memory of the late John Swatton, a former Churchwarden at St. Mary's. His wife, Ann, is pictured presenting one of the chairs to Canon Paul Miller.



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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.

Bishop of Jerusalem meets Rochester visitors



On a recent study tour for over 40 clergy from the Diocese of Rochester the Bishop of Jerusalem, The Rt Revd Suheil Dawani, hosted the leaders of the tour.

From left to right - Dr Louise Lawrence, travelling New Testament Lecturer from Exeter University; Mrs Claire Tillotson, travelling musician; Canon Paul Miller, Leader; the Bishop of Jerusalem; the Revd Chris Dench, Acting Director of Training; and Fr Zahi Nasir, Pastor for the Palestinian congregation at St. George's Cathedral.

Hospital update

A 75 year old lady rang her local hospital with a polite enquiry. "Please could you give me some information on one of your patients? She is Mrs Tiptree in Ward 3. She was admitted last week with chest pains and I just want to know if her condition has deteriorated, stabilised or improved?" The nurse on the ward checked the notes. "I'm pleased to say that Mrs Tiptree's condition has improved. She has regained her appetite, her temperature has steadied and after some routine checks tonight, she should be well enough to go home tomorrow." "Oh that's wonderful news, I'm so happy, thank you ever so much!" "You seem very relieved, are you a close friend or relative?" "No, I'm Mrs Tiptree. Nobody tells me anything in here!"

The French Connection

On Saturday, 1 May members of our link parish in Douai will be coming to stay with us for the weekend. Robin Hogg writes:

"This link has been going now for a dozen years (or more). Over time some of us have formed close friendships with our "cousins in Christ" and meet separately. However, another fantastic feature of the twinning relationship is that new people get involved each year - it is not a "closed club". I wasn't involved in the first few trips, but now wouldn't dream of missing it.

You don't need to speak French, as a number of our group and theirs can get by in each others languages. We try to ensure that there is always a mix of abilities in any group we arrange. What always amazes me is how the girl guides get on together, especially now that more and more of our youngsters aren't taught French at school anymore."

If you are interested in becoming more involved the outline itinerary is:

Saturday	Sunday
12.30 Arrival at Rochester	Eat breakfast at hosts
Attend part of Sweeps' Festival,	10.30 Church Service
Picnic Lunch, Tour of Cathedral,	11.45 Photographs
Choral Evensong, Refreshments	12.15 Buffet lunch
6.30 Return to hosts	c3.00 Party departs for France
Cluster Dinners	

How could you be involved?:- Meet for a picnic at Rochester; host a family, couple or individual (only providing Bed and Breakfast); help with the catering or Buffet Lunch; act as a translator; attend the service.

On a separate sadder note, we recently heard that one of their church buildings - Ste Therese - has had to be closed because it failed an H&S inspection due to:- Electrical strip lighting not sufficiently earthed; no gas cut-off device in case of problem/leak; extra emergency exit needed - for their congregation size 3 exits are needed and they only have 2; extra water reservoirs needed in case of fire.

Churches in France built before 1905 are now state-owned, but more recent ones are the responsibility of the diocese. Ste Therese was started before WW2 but finished in 1945, so has no state funding. The diocese is their only source of financial help towards the estimated Euros 100,000 cost of repairs.

We hope to collect some donations to forward to our friends in need.

If you would like further information, please contact the Parish Office (8460 5682).

Friends of South Hill Woods - update

If you use or travel past South Hill Woods you may have noticed a more open feel to the area. Visitors will have noticed laurel and rhododendron clearing so that native species may re-establish, and other preliminary steps to tidy and improve the woods.

This is thanks to extensive work from the Parks Department at Bromley Council. This is the first phase in reclaiming the area for the local community. The Parks Department has proposed a phased plan for improvements to the woods, including extending the formal garden and a possible children's playground.

There is a small and dedicated committee helping to set up the friends group. Thanks to Rachel Bailey for offering to be Group Secretary, and to Dot Kilsby for offering to Chair the committee whilst the group is being established - they would welcome interest from anyone who wishes to join them.

The Friends of South Hill Woods Committee would welcome input, and are also appealing for information from anyone who knows anything about the history of the area or the family who owned it. Do you have any photographs of the woods, especially the fountain area as it is hoped to try and restore it.

In due course there will be a public meeting. Watch this space!

If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact the Parish Office (020 8460 5682) who will pass your details on to the Committee.

Not my Favourite Things

Facebook and Bebo and E-bay and Twitter	Letters from loved ones in handwritten packets
Texting and typing - they won't make you fitter,	Walks in the park with no 'phones in our jackets,
Sore eyes and fingers are all that they bring,	Capitals used when a sentence begins,
They're not remotely my favourite things!	Those were a few of my favourite things!
Viruses, Trojans, and spamming and phishing,	For those old days, and those old ways,
Data on laptops that seem to go missing,	I am feeling sad,
Sitting on trains when a telephone rings,	Then I switch off my i-phone and PC,
These aren't exactly my favourite things!	And I don't feel so bad!
When they break down, when they spam me,	By Nigel Beeton
When they make me mad.....	(With apologies to Messrs Rogers and Hammerstein!)
Then I remember how things used to be -	
And I don't feel so bad!	

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



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)		
Honorary Assistant	Archdeacon P. Wright	8467 8743
Priest		
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	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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	Rev. J. Peters	8460 5682
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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
Beavers &		
admissions	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
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Residents' Association	8460 4060
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SPAN

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