

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

October 2010. Year 30 Number 9

Tom and Christina tie the Knot!



Tom Braithwaite and Christina Willatt married at St. Mary's, Shortlands on Saturday, 8 August. Tom has grown up in St. Mary's having been baptised there in 1985. Both families are very much involved at St. Mary's - Cecilia Willatt runs the Traidcraft stall and Patricia Braithwaite is one of our Christian Aid co-ordinators. Both sets of parents had their marriage services at St. Mary's.

Photographed are Tom and Christina after their wedding and Canon Paul Miller, before the service, with Cecilia Willatt, the bride's mother (left), and Tricia Braithwaite the groom's mother (right).

'This was a fabulous wedding' enthused Canon Paul Miller, 'Tom and Christina planned the service with great care and it was a privilege to officiate at their marriage. It is very special when a couple have met in church and are part of the church family.'

A reception was held at the bride's family house and garden in Durham Avenue and the honeymoon was spent in the Maldives.

Almost there!...

The major building work at St. Mary's which has been taking place over the summer holidays has almost reached its conclusion.

The Church Hall floor has been stabilised and the new patio built. The Accessible Toilet Project in Church House will, by the time SPAN is published, have been completed and we plan for the official opening to take place at our Harvest Festival morning service on 3 October.

We want to place on record our thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding during the disruption of the works and we are delighted to have added to our church plant these new additions.

St. Mary's, Shortlands Advent Dinner and Dance

Friday, 10 December, 7.30pm for 7.45pm
at Chislehurst Golf Club

Black Tie or Lounge Suit

Tickets £35, inclusive of three course dinner with coffee and all age
Dance/Disco, available from the Parish Office (8460 5682)
or from Churchwardens.

Special Services for the weeks to come

Sunday, 3 October - Harvest Festival
10.30am - Family and Parade Service
followed by the Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall

Sunday, 10 October - Pet Service
4.00pm - Bring your pets (or toy pets!) along!

Sunday, 17 October
6.30pm - Choral Evensong
Responses: Neary. Canticles: Brewer in E flat.
Anthem: Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).

Sunday, 7 November
4.00pm - Service to Remember Departed Loved Ones
A book will be placed in the church porch for you to enter the names of those you would like to be especially remembered at this service. Candles will be lit during the service in memory of our departed loved ones.

Sunday, 14 November - Remembrance Sunday
10.15am - Family Communion and Parade Service
to include the traditional Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes' Silence
and the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial.
6.30pm - Choral Evensong



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

- 25 July Ingrid Brailsford
Abigail Matthews
- 8 Aug River Blair
- 12 Sept Fabian Bailey
Daisy Brown
Ian Scott

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

- 7 Aug Thomas Braithwaite and
Christina Willatt

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

- 13 July Sarah Marie Roberts, aged 90
- 4 Aug Gordon Smith, aged 87



Remembering

Sarah Marie Roberts

Marie was born in Brynamman, Carmarthenshire. She was an only child and her mother died when she was young.

She met Marcel in 1939 and they married in 1942 in Porth in the Rhondda Valley. They had a son, James, who died in 2008, three grandsons, Paul, Mark and Adam, and one great-grandchild. They were married for sixty-eight years and for the last twenty years, after Marie suffered a stroke, Marcel was her dedicated carer.

By profession she was a teacher - her last post being at the Valley Primary School. She loved needlework and especially quilting.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium followed by cremation and was attended by Marcel, her husband, Sheila, her daughter-in-law and her grandsons, as well as friends and neighbours. The hymns at the service were Calon Lan and Cwm Rhonda.

Gordon Smith

Gordon Smith was born in 1923 in Streatham the younger brother to Derek and Rodney.

At the age of just one his mother died. She was just forty-three years old. Her younger sister, having no children of her own brought the boys up. She was later to marry their father.

The family moved to Herne Bay where Gordon spent his early school years and in 1934 the family moved to Hayes, Kent from where Gordon attended Haberdasher's Askes.

Further tragedy was to overtake the young family when his father collapsed and died in 1936.

On leaving school Gordon was employed by the National Provincial Bank until he was called up to serve in the Second World War. He was drafted into REME - the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and his postings included Holland and Sicily where he was engaged in building bridges. On demob, Gordon rejoined the Bank, this time working in the New Bond Street branch until his retirement, reaching the position of Chief Cashier.

His main hobby was gardening. He achieved great results with vegetables and even when he moved to Caton Court - his final home - he continued to tend the flower beds. He also loved to holiday abroad and was only stopped by an unfortunate motor car accident and the onslaught of Parkinson's Disease.

Gordon felt the loss of his brother Derek, with whom he lived, very keenly. They used to do so much together. Over the last few years his world became smaller and he became very depressed, but he was always glad to see people who popped in, and remained interested in the world around him. He was always a joy to visit.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by the Reverend Jane Peters, took place at Beckenham Crematorium followed by Cremation.



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What would you ask God for?

If you could ask God one question, and knew he'd answer it, what would it be? When a church in Cheltenham invited its congregation to do just that, the minister was startled to receive 423 responses - all questions. The top three were: Why does God allow suffering? Why am I here? What happens when I die? These were then made into widely announced sermon topics, which drew 25 visitors the first Sunday.

Should our church do something similar? Think about it: If you could ask God one question, and knew he'd answer it, what would it be? Replies to the Parish Office.

The mathematics of riding your bike

Do you feel confident on a bicycle? Although most children of 10 can ride one, it seems that the skill involved is actually extremely complicated.

After three years of research, scientists in universities in England, Holland and the US have come up with the mathematical formula that describes riding a bicycle. It covers such factors as inertia, gyroscopic and centrifugal forces as well as gravity, has 31 numbers and symbols, and nine sets of brackets.

Basically, the equation boils down to this: inertia forces + gyroscopic forces + the effects of gravity and centrifugal forces = the leaning of the body and the torque applied to the handlebars of a bike.

Or - put more simply: if you don't pedal fast enough to keep moving while keeping the bike straight, you fall over. (Most of us learned that the hard way!)

Whose fault is it, anyway?

In a small town a businessman put in planning permission to build a nightclub complete with dancing girls. The local church started a vigorous campaign to block it from opening. The church launched a petition and held prayers in public. Work progressed, however, right up until the week before opening. Then one night a bolt of lightning strike hit the nightclub and it burned to the ground. The church members were rather smug after that, until the nightclub owner sued them all - on the grounds that they were responsible for the fire. Loudly protesting their total non-involvement and innocence, the church members were all taken to court. As the case began, the judge looked over the paperwork and observed: "I don't know how I'm going to decide this. It appears that we have a nightclub owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn't!"

Mission of the Month

The Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union 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 so set up a group to help women prepare for motherhood and meet the spiritual as well as physical needs of their children.

From this small beginning the Mothers' Union has grown into a worldwide organisation of some 3.6 million members in 78 countries, with its headquarters in London. Membership is open to men and women, single or married, and here at St Mary's there are 34 members who meet monthly.

While the values and aims of the Mothers' Union remain the same, to demonstrate Christian faith in action through the nurturing of the family in its many forms, the work undertaken has developed over time. This is partly a reflection of the many changes in society. While some paid workers are employed, the majority of the work is undertaken by volunteers.

The money raised during this month will go towards projects providing short and long term support to individuals, families and communities in the UK and abroad, as well as emergency relief

In the UK the Mothers' Union is involved in prison visiting, running courses in marriage preparation and support, as well as separation and divorce recovery. It helps families in need to have a holiday, and runs play schemes and child contact centres. Abroad, one of the Mothers' Union's most important projects is the running of language and development programmes in parts of Africa. Course participants, especially women, are helped to become literate and numerate, which has positive implications for their families. There are also small farming initiatives, and at the moment, emergency relief in Kenya because of drought conditions.

The funds received through the Mission of the Month initiative will surely be put to good use.

The Mothers' Union is St. Mary's Mission for the Month of October. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during October and further information can be found on www.themothersunion.org

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for recent donations of £4.50



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Oberammergau

Passion Play seen by ½ million people



Maria Alm and Oberammergau August 2010

Foto Jellinek



The Passion Play in Oberammergau, southern Germany, has once again taken place honouring the vow the villagers first made in 1633. After the 30 years war, the Black Death reached Oberammergau in 1632. By October 1633 80 deaths had been recorded and the villagers made a vow that if they were spared further deaths they would perform the Passion of our Lord. The first play took place in 1634 and this year saw the 41st - it is now performed every ten years. To be in the play you must have been born in the village or have lived there for twenty years. This year one hundred and twenty performances of the play took place - it lasts five hours. People seeing the play usually combine it with a holiday and Canon Paul took a party of forty-four people, many of whom came from Shortlands. They stayed in the delightful Austrian alpine village of Maria Alm.

Photographed (top) is the party that travelled, (middle) some of the group enjoying refreshment in Oberammergau before the play and (bottom) Canon Paul with The Ven Dr Paul Wright, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, alongside Clive Shelton in a gondola on the way up a mountain.

**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 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

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Mothers' Union	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
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Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. D. Hope	8466 5545
Beavers &		
admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07825 648472
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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SPAN

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