

## 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](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

November 2010. Year 30 Number 10



## Guide Leader marries at St. Mary's

Gemma Dawson, until recently the Guide Leader of the Shortlands Tuesday Guide Unit, recently married Billy Whitfield at St. Mary's, Shortlands. The officiant was Canon Paul Miller.

They have known each other since school days at the Langley Boys and Girls Schools. They are now celebrating their marriage by touring the world!

## Special Services for the weeks to come

**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**

Responses: Sanders (RSCM)

Canticles: Walmisley in D minor

Anthem: Turn back O man (Holst)

**Sunday, 28 November - Advent Sunday**

**6.30pm - Advent Carol Service**

Readings, Anthems and Congregational Hymns

**Sunday, 5 December**

**10.30am Toy Service**



**"CHRISTMAS CRACKERS???"**

**(so are we!!!)**

it's

**St. Mary's Christmas Fayre**

on

**Saturday, 20 November**

**from 1.00pm - 4.00pm**

**in the Church Hall**

**Join in the fun of a  
Victorian Christmas.**

**Light lunches, cards, cakes, gifts etc.**

**We look forward  
to seeing you.**



## Strictly winners!



Fiona Bratt and Tony Wright-Jones won the first St. Mary's Strictly Come Dancing competition held in a packed Hall at the end of September. Four dance teams took part as well as the Langley School of Dancing. The evening enjoyed Ballroom dancing, Scottish country dancing, country dancing and ballet. The evening was organised by the Friends of St. Mary's.



## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

10 Oct Daniel Rogers

### Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

19 Sept William Whitfield and

Gemma Dawson

2 Oct James Hands and

Hannah Carrington

### Interment of Ashes

21 Sept Gordon Smith



## SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for recent donations of £2.00



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8460 2471/8828 or

Peter May: 8460 8828

# Accessible Toilet facility opened!



The new washroom and toilet facilities in Church House incorporating a new entrance and toilet for the disabled was officially opened on Sunday, 3 October, by Jonathan Baker, son of the late Paul Baker who had been a long-standing member of St. Mary's until his death in the summer of 2009.

The building project was completed at a cost of about £60,000 and will provide much needed facilities for the Church rooms.

'Many people have given generously to support the project and worked hard to achieve our goal' commented Canon Paul Miller, who is pictured with (L-R) Jonathan Baker, Jane Mortenson (daughter) and Audrey Baker.

## Mission of the Month

### Bromley Y

Bromley Y is a long established local charity offering free, confidential counselling to young people and their families. They work with young people within the borough of Bromley from secondary school age up to twenty-three years. The service has been in operation for forty-five years supporting adolescents and young adults who are experiencing difficulties including low mood and depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, relationship difficulties and anger.

They are based in a discreet location in central Bromley but also work out of two outreach posts in Mottingham and Orpington for easier access to the community and also in twelve secondary schools in the borough. These are particularly valuable aspects of their service as being on site in various parts of Bromley enables them to respond to the need in all areas of the borough and often young people who would not be able to access our service otherwise.

They are an experienced team of qualified counsellors, family therapists, art therapists and volunteers who all have a passion for working with young people and supporting them through difficult periods of their lives.

Bromley Y is St. Mary's Mission for the Month of November. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during November and further information can be found on [www.bromley-y.org.uk/](http://www.bromley-y.org.uk/)

# Pet service draws in local pets



The Annual Pet Service was held at St. Mary's at the beginning of October and drew in a wonderful variety of Shortlands pets. Every pet was welcomed by name and they were all exemplary in their behaviour. The photo shows owners and pets gathered outside the Church after the service.

## God and Grass - Isn't THIS the truth!

**GOD:** Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

**ST. FRANCIS:** It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD:** Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD:** The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

**GOD:** They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**ST. FRANCIS:** No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**GOD:** Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Yes, Sir.

**GOD:** These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**GOD:** What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

**GOD:** No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

**ST. FRANCIS:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**GOD:** And where do they get this mulch?

**ST. FRANCIS:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

**GOD:** Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:** "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about....

**GOD:** Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

### Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student stated that he had prayed for the assistance of God. The professor carefully studied the answer page and then said, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

## 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.

# Papal visit witnessed by Shortlands Resident

The words "historic occasion" are often over-used. But the Service of Evening Prayer in the presence of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, which took place in Westminster Abbey on Friday, 17 September, was genuinely such an occasion.

I was fortunate enough to receive an invitation, essentially because of my job and its location. I am the Chief Executive of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, which is located in the old Middlesex Guildhall on Parliament Square. The Supreme Court replaced the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords in October 2009. (For anyone who is confused if they look at the Court's website I should explain that I work under my maiden name). The working community in the buildings around Parliament Square – principally ourselves, Westminster Abbey, the QEII Conference Centre and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, extend neighbourly invitations to each other for certain events.

The roads around the Abbey had been closed for some hours and, throughout the afternoon, large crowds gathered – some supportive and some definitely not: placards ranged from "We love you Papa" to "No Popery". Getting into the Abbey, even with a ticket, was not straightforward.

There were a number of notable aspects of the service, and the atmosphere in which it was held. The congregation was genuinely diverse in every sense of the word, and the range of religious leaders represented was striking. The ecumenical nature of the service came through in the prayers, the hymns, and the addresses given by both the Pope and the Archbishop. The involvement of a number of young people from both the Church of England Youth Council and two local Catholic Youth Services, in reading the prayers was very welcome.

One of the most moving parts of the service was the spontaneous clapping, started by those present in the Sacrament and the Quire, when the Pope and the Archbishop exchanged the sign of peace. Those of us sitting in the Nave were able to see this and other parts of the service on large television screens which had been erected around the Abbey. A spontaneous wave of applause also accompanied the Pope and the Archbishop as they processed down the Nave at the end of the service.

When we emerged from the Abbey, it was getting dark. The whole area was still full of excited crowds and more Bishops and Cardinals than I have ever seen in one place before.

One of my colleagues was also present at the service, but in a working capacity. He previously worked in media relations for the Church of England. He had been asked to help manage some of the journalists attending the service. He had the unenviable task of supervising the Vatican press corps who were present when the Pope and the Archbishop were praying at the shrine of St. Edward the Confessor. They had received instructions as to the limited amount of time they were supposed to be filming, and Ben had been assiduously practising how to say politely in Italian "Please stop now". I gather, however, that the press proved to be rather a handful!



by Jenny Ellis...who was present at the historic service at which the Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury were present.

### South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen

AGM 3 November at 7.00pm  
in the Main Hall, Highfield Infants'  
School, Highfield Drive

### Franklin House Christmas Fair

Saturday, 27 November 2010  
10.00am - 1.00pm

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



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**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.

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**PARISH OFFICE** Tel/Fax 8460 5682  
e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com  
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**ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS**

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**SPAN**

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