

Pre-School Patio opened



The newly rebuilt patio attached to St. Mary's Hall was officially opened on Friday, 12 November.

Representing the London Borough of Bromley, who had co-ordinated the funding of the project through a Government grant, were Councillor Brian Humphreys, the Children and Young People's Deputy Portfolio Holder, Robert South, the Head of Services at the Early Years and Childcare Department and Rosemary Meissner, the Business Support Officer.

The children of St. Mary's Pre-School under the direction of its Leader, Pat Chase, sang two songs and then the patio was officially opened.

'We are delighted with the new facility,' said Canon Paul Miller, the Chairman of the Pre-School Committee, 'and would like to thank the London Borough of Bromley for their wonderful support.'

Photographed are the visitors from the Borough and Pat Chase with some of the children.

Special Events and Services

Sunday, 28 November

6.30pm - Advent Carol Service
*Including music by Archer, Quest, Hadley, How and Stainer,
as well as popular congregational carols.*

Sunday, 5 December

10.30am - Toy Service
*You are invited to bring one new, unwrapped toy, which will become a gift
for a local child in need of support through Welcare in Bromley.*

Friday, 10 December

10.00am - Highfield Infants' School Nativity Play

Sunday, 12 December

6.30pm - The Christingle Carol Service
*Come and see the children's faces glowing in the light of the candles, and
support the work of the Children's Society.*

Monday, 13 December

2.30pm - Sunnyfields Christmas Service

Tuesday, 14 December

9.45am - Highfield Junior School Carol Service

Wednesday, 15 December

11.00am - St. Mary's Pre-School Christmas Service
2.00pm - St. Christopher's School Carol Service

Sunday, 19 December

6.30pm - The Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas
in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Bromley
with music by Rutter, Pearsall, Head, Archer and Willcocks.

Christmas Eve: Friday, 24 December

3.30pm - 'How many miles to Bethlehem?' - Nativity Play and Crib
Service

*led by Fiona Bratt, Junior Church Co-ordinator. All children and adults are
welcome to take part, and if you wish, come dressed as angels, shepherds
or wise men.*

11.30pm - Procession by Candlelight, Midnight Mass of the Nativity of
Our Lord and Carols for Christmas

The Choir will be singing carols from 11.15pm to welcome you.

Christmas Day: Saturday, 25 December

9.00am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Family Communion for Christmas Day
You are invited to bring a newly opened present!

St. Stephen's Day: Sunday, 26 December

10.30am - Family Communion
(Please note this will be the only service on Sunday, 26 December)

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS !



From the Registers

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

29 Sep Hetty Archbutt, aged 95

14 Oct Freda Phillips, aged 90

16 Oct Bill Slade, aged 89

Interment of Ashes

30 Oct Margaret Lilley

7 Nov Paul McKinnon

Monica McKinnon



Remembering

Hedwig (Hetty) Archbutt

Hetty was born in Dutch Guyana where her father was a Dutch pastor and she was one of four children. When she was six they moved to Curacao where she continued her schooling. Needing further study, Hetty left on her own for the Netherlands where she was to gain her nursing diploma. It was while working as a nurse in war time Holland that she met and fell in love with Jim who was on military duties there. After only two weeks of their engagement, with Jim's awareness of an imminent transfer, they were married and had only a few days together. Eventually Hetty was able to get to England and meet her new family and resume her nursing here.

After the war they came to live in Beckenham, and in 1952 moved to St. Mary's Avenue with their growing family of Christopher, Jane, Jolyon, Sarah and Stephen. Hetty was a good and kind neighbour to so many as she was to the patients she nursed at Bromley Hospital. She was a woman of deep and profound faith who cared about people and listened and took time for them. A worshipper at St. Mary's for many years, her faith was deeply rooted in her prayer life. Sadly Jim died in 1992 but Hetty was always supportive and supported by her growing family. Hetty lived a long and faithful life and died peacefully with her family around her.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller and assisted by Ann Gimson, took place at St. Mary's, Shortlands, when many tributes were given, and which was attended by a large congregation of

family, friends and neighbours. The Cremation followed at Beckenham Crematorium

Freda Phillips

Freda was born 90 years ago in North Yorkshire, one of three children. She came to live in Shortlands in 2002 to be closer to her family.

On leaving school she became a teacher and when war loomed qualified to join the Air Raid Precautions Auxiliary Reserve of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Freda married James in 1948 and they had two children, Carolyn and James.

Proud of her northern roots, Freda was hard-working and conscious valuing decency, honesty and fairness. She enjoyed sport, particularly motor racing, and she regularly took part in the poetry mornings and Church services at Durham House.

A funeral service was held at Beckenham Crematorium conducted by the Reverend Jane Peters.

Bill Slade

Bill was born in Croydon 90 years ago and was brought up and educated there. Bill met his wife Phyl in Penge and they were happily married for nearly 67 years. They had two sons, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

He was General Montgomery's driver during WW 2, and it was Bill who carried a heavily shrouded plan of the D-Day landings into the War Room – although he didn't know what it was he carried. He was also in the room when the Peace Treaty was signed.

In his working life he found he could turn his hand to anything practical, and worked as a coalman, lorry driver and mechanic amongst other things.

A funeral service was held at Beckenham Crematorium conducted by the Reverend Jane Peters.



SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for recent donations of £10.00

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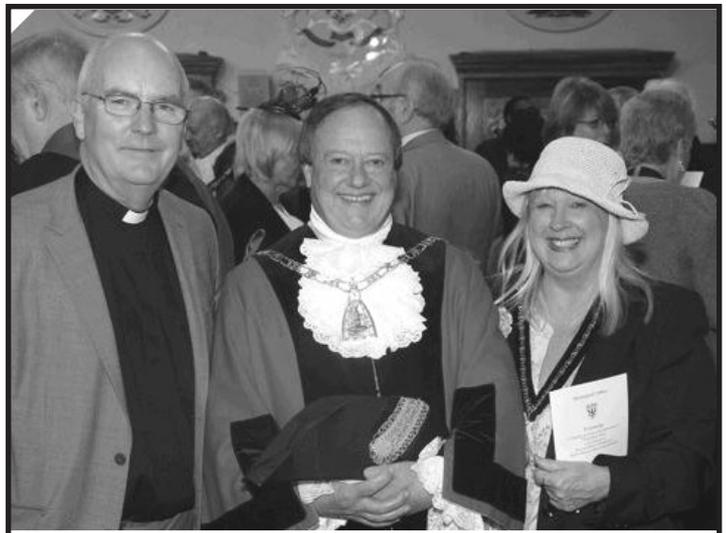
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Canon Paul Miller with the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor George Taylor, and the Mayoress, Mrs Carole Selden at the reception after the Annual London Mayoral Service held at Westminster Abbey.

Photo: Picture Partnership

Maritime St.Mary's

During the summer St Mary's welcomed the Rev Ray Trudgett back to Shortlands. Ray is the Pastor at Tilbury Docks for the Mission to Seafarers which we regularly support.

Armed with a bag of goodies and a pizza, he demonstrated how much we all rely on seafarers travelling the world over to bring us the necessities and luxuries that we take for granted – the armchairs we sit on and eating our pizza whilst watching the TV for instance!

These hard working seamen are away from their homes and families for many months at a time and rely heavily on the pastoral care and support that they receive from the Mission. Imagine facing any crisis when you don't speak the local language, have no money nor friends to help you! You really would be "all at sea!"

For the last two years and again in 2010, the St. Mary's youth organisations have been making Christmas cards for these isolated seafarers as a contribution to their well-being.

We all wish him well in his worthwhile work and must thank God for all those men who strive, often in tempestuous seas, to provide us with most of the goods in our homes or look after us on our cruise holidays.

Mission of the Month

The Children's Society

The Children's Society is a leading national children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK. It provides vital help for tens of thousands of children every year:

- It provides specialist support at a local level for those forgotten children who face the greatest danger and disadvantages in their daily lives; children who are unable to find the support they need anywhere else.
- Its work in children's centres, schools and churches gives children the chance to develop the skills and confidence they need to make the most of their childhood and play a full part in their local communities.
- Its thought-provoking research influences everyone – from people like the general public to politicians and decision makers – about how to create real change.
- Its hard-hitting campaigns attract large public support and make institutions, government bodies and authorities take action to make childhood better for all children.

Its mission is to make childhood better for all children in the UK.

Its vision is to see a world where every child enjoys a good childhood.

Its values are Love, Justice and Forgiveness.

You are warmly invited to attend our Christingle service in St Mary's on Sunday, 12 December at 6.30pm, which will highlight our financial support for the Children's Society this year.

The Children's Society is St. Mary's Mission for the Month of December. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during December and further information can be found on www.childrenssociety.org.uk



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Remember how to play?

This Christmas you have a great opportunity to relearn something you may have forgotten: how to simply play with your children. It seems that one in five parents has 'forgotten' how to play with their own children, according to recent research. Constant lack of time and a shortage of inspiration were given as the main reasons. But one in three parents admitted they found playtime 'boring'.

Sadly, more than half of the children surveyed said they would like to spend more time playing with their parents.

The survey, commissioned by

Disneyland Paris, concluded that play is in danger of becoming a 'lost art' for British families. Prof Tanya Byron, a clinical psychologist and television presenter, stresses that play is crucial to a child's development, and advises parents to hark back to simple games from their own childhoods such as dressing up, drawing, and 'let's pretend'.

The survey also found here is a generation gap in how to have fun. Children say they want to play computer games on their own, but they want to play board and outdoor games with their parents.

A Christmas Carol

Silent Night is one of the world's most popular Christmas carols. Every year it is sung in many different languages across the world evoking the spirit of Christmas. Popularly it is said that the carol was composed in one night, to be accompanied by a guitar, because the mice had eaten the organ bellows! But what is the real history of this carol?

The carol 'Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht' was first heard in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf on Christmas Eve 1818. The congregation at Midnight Mass listened as the assistant pastor, Father Joseph Mohr, and choir director, Franz Gruber, sang to the accompaniment of Father Mohr's guitar. The priest had composed the words two years earlier in 1816 as a six verse poem.

Since then this Christmas carol has achieved world wide appeal and has been translated into over 40 languages including English. It has been sung on a variety of occasions and in some unexpected places. On Christmas Day 1918, during the First World War, German and Allied armies faced one another in France. The song was sung simultaneously in French, English and German by the troops during a Christmas truce, as it was one of the few carols that soldiers on both sides of the front line knew.

So what is the reason for the enduring popularity of this carol? The simple words and tune communicate the heart of the Christmas message. The eternal God has made himself known, by entering time and space, in the person of Jesus Christ. The baby in the manger is not just fully divine, but he is born as a real human being. Jesus comes as a Saviour to rescue us from the mess of our lives, so that we might share the life which Jesus has with his Father. Now there is something worth singing about!!

**Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

**2. Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born**

**3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth**

QUIZ NIGHT THANKS

Laura Andrews of 2nd Shortlands Guides would like to say a very big "thank you" to everyone who supported her fund-raiser for her World Scout Jamboree trip to Sweden next year. She is delighted to report that a magnificent total of £600 was raised.

Morning

There are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

20:10 20/10 2010



Bromley Central District Guides - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section members and adult leaders from St Mary's Shortlands and Bromley Parish Church came together for their final celebration of 100 years of Guiding.

The girls enjoyed decorating trefoil-shaped biscuits and making a huge collage in the church hall to mirror the badge designed by Nicola Blake, Brownie Guider, which they would all receive as a souvenir of the evening. They then processed down into Church Gardens with their lanterns and into a darkened church where many former leaders and friends were waiting. The lanterns were placed in the chancel to form a Guide trefoil, and then the Guide band, specially convened for the occasion, struck up "Colours of day".

The girls enjoyed sharing their centenary highlights with everyone, and predicting what Rainbows, Brownies and Guides would be doing in 100 years time! District Commissioner Sue Tight read Baden-Powell's last message, and then at exactly 20:10 20/10 2010 around 150 girls, old and new, re-affirmed their Promise. This coincided with similar special events all over the UK, including 6,500 members of Girlguiding UK assembled in Trafalgar Square.

Glory to God in the High Street

Many years ago in Finchley, north London there was a local Methodist Church which would offer various inspirational messages in illuminated lights to the passers-by on the main road. Their Christmas one, very appropriately, was the song of the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest'.

Unfortunately some inclement weather or a simple technical failure put out one of the lights. Just as appropriately, however, it now read, 'Glory to God in the high st'. An electrical fault, perhaps – but how wonderfully true it was. In fact, nothing could better sum up the deep meaning of Christmas than that splendidly distorted message.

Those same angels told the shepherds in the fields that the 'sign' to identify the special baby to be born that night in Bethlehem would be that they would find him 'lying in a manger'. Well, 'manger' is a fancy word for a simple thing. The truth is that they would find the infant Son of God lying in a feeding trough.

At Bethlehem the Creator entered the Creation. 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us' - and the 'Word', John's Gospel tells us, 'was God'. In Jesus the divine became human. 'In him (Jesus) all the fullness of deity dwells bodily', St Paul tells us (Colossians 2:9). 'Hail the incarnate deity', we sing - but it's hard sometimes to recognise his identity in the bonny baby in the traditional crib scene. It's a pity that the Christmas story can so easily be sentimentalised, because in fact this was the most radical and revolutionary action of God since the creation itself. God, in Jesus his Son, actually came among us - not as a super-being, not even as a fully grown adult, but as a baby.

You will find the baby lying in a feeding trough.' Exactly. Right where we are, in all the mess and muddle of ordinary life, in the fun and tears, in the feasting and the poverty, the glory of God was seen in a tiny scrap of human flesh. In that helpless baby God showed how far he was prepared to go to bring us back to himself. When God took flesh he did it properly. Glory to God in the high street!

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of St. Mary,
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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.

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