

Coming Together

When I meet people who are not regular church goers they often say 'I don't go to church but I am a Christian'. I have heard it argued that you need to be a member of a worshipping Christian community in order to be a Christian. However, I think it is possible to be a Christian and not go to church, but it can be much harder.

Imagine a coal fire and the burning coals in the grate: they have a bright yellowy orange glow amongst the heat of the flames. If you remove one of the coals (with tongs, not your fingers!) and place it on the hearth the coal loses heat and the warm glow fades and diminishes. If you then place the coal back in the fire amongst the other coals it quickly regains its heat and bright glow.

I think that describes how we as human beings work too. If we spend time worshipping and being with other Christians we absorb some of the heat from them and share our heat with others - we find out more about what it means to be a Christian and are able to share our joys and sorrows with others who are on the same journey as us.

We can look to the example given to us by Jesus. He often found the need to take time out away from his disciples and the crowds but he always came back to the community and shared with them in companionship and food. This was then carried on by the new Christians which you can read about in the Acts of the Apostles.

If you have never been to church or haven't been for a while you will be very welcome to join us at St Mary's and to find out more.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews says: 'And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another'.

Rev Morag Finch



Some of St Mary's gentlemen went on an evening stroll in July in the Darenth Valley – followed by some refreshment in one of Eynsford's public houses.

SAVE THE DATE!
STMARY'S
CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY
2 DECEMBER

Special Events and Services

Sunday 8 October - Harvest Festival

10.30am Harvest Parade Service

followed by Harvest lunch

Harvest gifts will be given to Bromley Women's Aid

Sunday 15 October

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Spicer

Canticles: Sumsion in G

Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord Always - Purcell

Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is office@stmaryshortlands.church
To keep up with news from St. Mary's in between editions of SPAN, you can like our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter – search for 'St Mary's Shortlands'.

Don't forget our website
www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk





From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

3 September Dora Sewell

10 September Eleanora Peachey
Maxwell Toms

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

2 September

Karl Allen and Nicole Mckenna

16 September

Keith Mills and Valerie Burton

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Alan Beaumont 21 June aged 74

Phyllis Cross 22 June aged 92

Brian Goodliffe 8 Aug aged 83

Pamela Delasaux 23 Aug aged 75

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Jean Luckhurst 1 September

My Day Job

I am a doctor working in the field of radiology – that is looking into the body to assist in making a correct diagnosis when we fall ill. I now work for two days each week.

Radiology is central to the practice of modern medicine, and I find modern imaging quite amazing. I marvel at the human body in its beauty and complexity as shown on ultrasound, CT and MRI. I often call to mind the words of the psalmist: 'I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made' (Psalm 139:14).

I am also a visiting professor at Canterbury Christ Church University where I teach postgraduate radiographers the principles of reporting X-ray examinations. I have had an interest for many years in role development in radiography. Radiography is a graduate profession, and role extension involves the taking on of tasks traditionally performed by doctors. Our department at Canterbury has been a pioneer in clinical reporting, and it has been a privilege to be a part of this since the early days of this advance.

I am very grateful to those who taught me with often an insufficient appreciation on my part at the time. It is only when we are teachers ourselves that we realize how much we owe to our own teachers, and how hard they must have worked. I cannot now thank my teachers; however, I can do the next best thing, and by teaching others I can 'pass it forward.'



Adrian Thomas



Remembering

Brian Goodliffe

St Mary's was filled with the sound of Mozart on 8 August for a thanksgiving service for the life of Brian Goodliffe.

Cynthia, his wife of 55 years, Nick, Laura, Robert and his many grandchildren were joined by other family members and several hundred friends, colleagues and associates from his many and varied interests. Brian lived life to the full right up to the very end.

He was born and brought up in Streatham and after school became an officer in the Royal Artillery for his National Service, positioned in Egypt and Cyprus, where he was appointed to the prestigious position of aide-de-camp to the Governor.

He then joined the family firm which became the OCS Smarts Group in 1953. He built up Smarts Laundries into a national group serving commerce, industry and government institutions and served as Chairman to the company for many years.

Brian's management ethos was the three Es – enthusiasm, encouragement and example.

He loved the textile care industry and the industry loved him. He was President of the Trade Association and Master of the Worshipful Company of Launderers.

He published several books including a history of the laundry industry, and 'Wolfgang and his music', having been a fervent admirer of Mozart.

Brian was a member of a number of organisations, including the Langley Park Rotary Club. He was a longtime supporter of Fulham, Crystal Palace and the national team. In 1966 he attended all of England's matches including the famous victory over Germany in the final.

Brian will be much missed by his family and many friends.

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Invite you to a Wine-Tasting
on **Saturday 14 October**
in the Church Hall at 7.15pm

Tickets £10 available after church
services or from the parish office.

(A raffle will also be held during the evening)



Changing times in education

When I became a governor of Highfield Infants' School in 1991 it was still under the control of Bromley Council. The educational landscape was changing though and within about a year we had chosen to become "Grant Maintained" - funded by the government rather than directly by Bromley, employing our staff ourselves, and taking on freehold ownership of the land and buildings and consequently responsibility for all repairs and maintenance.

A further change came in 2013 when it became clear that Bromley wanted to shed direct responsibility for all schools in the Borough. After much discussion and consultation we converted to an Academy. There were few external signs of this, partly because we decided to keep exactly the same name and logo, but overnight governors all became company directors!

The biggest step of all will happen this autumn when, all being well, we will join the Nexus multi-academy trust, which will have overall control over the School. We have come in very much 'on the ground floor' of Nexus and negotiated a considerable degree of autonomy and there will be no loss of ethos or 'identity'. Highfield is however looking forward to being part of a wider organisation firmly focused on each child's education and to sharing resources, experience and good practice.

The governors have played a big part in moving the school forward and keeping it strong and I have enjoyed my part in this immensely although it has been hard work. However, after some 25 years, including the last seven as Chair of Governors, it is time for me

to step away - and in any case, under the new structure, governors will need some specialist skills which I fear I don't have! I have no doubt however that the school will continue to be in very good hands.



Tony Chase

Mission of the month

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza is a children's hospice charity in the south east of the UK, providing vital care to families across East Sussex, Kent and South East London.

The charity supports around 500 seriously ill babies, children and young people and their families every year.

Demelza aims to make life better for babies, children and young people who have life-threatening or life-limiting conditions, and to support their parents, brothers and sisters, and all those who love them.

It looks after children with life threatening illnesses and their families in two residential hospices, Demelza House at Sittingbourne and Demelza Eltham. Demelza Community provides nurses who go directly into the children's homes, offering hospice style care.

At Demelza House Sittingbourne there are now ten bedrooms and six bathrooms: two of the bedrooms have ensuite facilities specifically for teenagers. Facilities include a music room, an art room, a sensory room, a soft play area and a Hydrotherapy Pool. There are large grounds outside with quiet reflective areas and a large pirate ship playground.

At Demelza Eltham there are six bedrooms, all with ensuite bathrooms, a sensory room, a wet play room, a family room and a small outdoor playground.

Demelza is all about life – to help those who may not live a long life to live a full life.

As a charity, its bespoke support is free of charge to families and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.demelza.org.uk or see the board at the back of church.

Remembering

Our annual memorial service this year will be on Sunday 5 November at 4pm. We have an opportunity at this service to remember our loved ones who have died, whether recently or many years ago. We will give our thanks for their lives and for how they were woven with ours.



As you arrive at church you will be given a card on which to write the name or names of those you wish remembered and these will be collected during the service and placed on the altar. Towards the end of a service you will be invited to light a candle if you wish and leave it burning at the front of church.

All are welcome to join us and to stay for coffee and tea at the end.

Lighting a candle is a prayer: When we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them.

Lighting a candle is a parable: burning itself out it gives light to others. Christ gave himself for others. He calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol: of love and hope, of light and warmth. Our world needs them all.

Harvest Festival - 8 October

Harvest is from the Old English word haerfest, meaning 'Autumn'. It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. Therefore, coinciding with ancient tradition, Harvest Festivals are usually held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon this year is on 5 October

By the sixteenth century a number of customs seem to have been firmly established around the gathering of the final harvest. Early English settlers took the idea of harvest thanksgiving to North America. The most famous one is the harvest Thanksgiving held by the Pilgrims in 1621. The custom is carried on every year on the fourth Thursday in November.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain. Sometimes neighbouring churches will set the Harvest Festival on different Sundays so that people can attend each other's thanksgivings.

Until the 20th century most farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called the harvest supper, to which all who had helped in the harvest were invited. Some churches and villages still have a Harvest Supper or Harvest Lunch as we do at St Mary's.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when a vicar invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. As is still the case today, they sang hymns such as We plough the fields and scatter and All things bright and beautiful which helped popularise the idea of harvest festival, and the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service started.

At St Mary's this year we will be donating our Harvest gifts to Bromley Women's Aid (www.bcwa.org.uk), who provide shelter for women of any age, race and creed – and their children – who have been subject to domestic abuse (both physical and emotional). They are particularly keen to receive dried and canned food, also formula milk for babies, washing powder, washing up liquid, baby wipes and nappies size 1-4.

THANK YOU

to Sue Harrison and Jan Boam who cleaned and tidied the Toddlers' Group toys ready for their return in September.



A REMINDER: we have appointed an architect to help us consider what we need from our church hall and meeting rooms in future, and whether any replacement buildings are needed.

The architect is now hard at work considering everything he heard from those who contributed their thoughts earlier this year – about the wide range of activities on offer at St Mary's and the classes and groups which meet in our church hall.

He's now developing some options for us to look at later this year – we'll keep you posted.

Rev Morag Finch

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WORSHIP

Every Sunday

- 08.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Communion, except when notified. During term time there are separate groups in the Church Hall for children aged 0-18.
- 18.30 Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday in the month)

Every Monday

- 17.30 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 Holy Communion

Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. M. Finch	8464 8065
(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Vicar	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/8460 5682
(Sun, Mon, Wed)		
L.L.M.	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Readers	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
	Mr. S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mr. A. Williams	07914343495
	Mrs C. Corbin	07973295134
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Prof. M. Fox	8650 3365
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
PCC Secretary	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Electoral Roll	Mrs. M. Shaw	8460 9681
Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978
Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178

PARISH OFFICE Tel: 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmmaryshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Mothers & Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8650 4553
Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
Friends of St. Mary's	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947

For admissions to Beavers, Cubs & Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
Cubs (Tues)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers	Ms E. Hay	07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides please tel: 08001695901 or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07516 650940
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Kateswaran	8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
	or 07960 988552	
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. M. Parr	8249 7127
Mission Chairman	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai Link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246
Mobility Class	Mrs. Jan Boam	8460 7101

LOCAL CONTACTS

Clr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Clr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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