

# Candlemas

The beginning of February sees a major festival in the Church's calendar called 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple'. With such a mouthful it became known as Candlemas, simply because a lot of candles were used at this service.

At this time of year it seems the darkness is all around us and if it is not the gloomy weather, it is the shorter days. Somehow the celebration of Christmas has completely faded, and our New Year's resolutions have been washed away by snow and rain or by overwhelming indifference, and it all feels a bit low-key. So a celebration such as Candlemas is a timely reminder that even in the darkest moments (and

there are certainly a good number of those across the world, as well as for our local communities and individuals) there is always the light, although sometimes that light flickers very dimly.

Now having been caught out in the odd power cut over the years, it is interesting what a difference just one small candle can make to the gloom and it can help me actually see the way forward and move around. When the light comes together, as it can do in families and communities across the world, somehow we have a better picture of the way forward. I hope and pray that the Light of the World, which is Christ Himself, will enlighten your life and provide you

with a sense of hope as we move forward to longer days and the Spring season. This of course includes the great celebration of Easter when Christ conquered death itself – the ultimate darkness – and liberated the world.

Paul Wright  
Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley



## What's happening about the new toilets???

Set out below is an update of where we are with the provision of the new toilet facilities in St. Mary's Church.

Q: What will the new toilets cost?

A: We will not know the exact cost until we have detailed plans drawn up, but the estimated cost is around £60,000.

Q: How much do we have towards them?

A: The gift day raised approximately £18,000, which along with the tax rebate when we receive it, make the funds raised to date of approximately £23,000. We plan to hold a further gift day in 2009 to raise further funds for the building. In addition, we are applying for a number of grants and we have set up a fund raising committee to identify other fund raising opportunities.

Q: What's happened to the money?

A: We have put this in a separate building fund to keep it separate from the Church funds.

Q: Don't we need planning permission?

A: Yes we do. Our surveyor has been in discussion with the Council Planning Department regarding planning consent. He is now preparing plans so we can apply for planning permission. In addition, once the plans are finalised, we can get an accurate estimate of the building costs. In addition we are also applying to the Diocese for a Faculty. This is needed before we can make changes to the buildings.

Q: When will the building work start?

A: We cannot start building until we have raised most of the cost of the work and we have received planning and building regulation consent. Work is unlikely to start until 2010 or 2011. It all depends on how quickly we can raise the rest of the funds. If you would like to make a contribution to the building cost, have ideas how we can raise funds, or want further information, please contact:

Vicar, Canon Paul Miller 020 8460 4989

Treasurer, Tim Dawson 020 8460 5884

Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee Charles Stokes 020 8460 0661

## Guide news!



During the autumn term, Harriet Adam (pictured left) was presented with her Baden-Powell Challenge, the highest award that can be gained by a Guide.

Of the many projects undertaken, Harriet most enjoyed the Baden-Powell Challenge Adventure. This is an overnight event involving a step into the unknown: Harriet had to arrive at a given location having been provided only with a kit list. She did not know any of the other girls taking part, but made lots of new friends. Each Adventure is different, but Harriet's turned out to be chocolate-themed as it took place just before Easter. Needless to say, it was much enjoyed by everyone!



An international evening was held at 2nd Shortlands Guides where Elizabeth Bingham, Harriet Adam and Eleanor Thompson shared their experiences from their recent international trips. The Guides and lots of invited guests were treated to a presentation with slides of Guiding in Malaysia, water activities in Austria, and working in an orphanage in South Africa. Elizabeth and Harriet are now Young Leaders with 2nd Shortlands Brownies, Eleanor is a Young Leader with the Guides, helped with Beavers for 18 months and is also an Explorer Scout.

All three girls would like to thank those who helped them raise the £4,000 for their trips – they really are grateful for everyone's support.

Pictured here in their international uniforms with Helen Beecher-Bryant, the County International Adviser for Greater London Kent, Left to right are Elizabeth, Harriet, Eleanor & Helen.



## From the Registers

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

21 Dec Mary Chalk, aged 87



## Remembering

### Joan Kemp

Joan was born and grew up in Beckenham and educated in Coney Hall.

In 1946 she married Bernard whose work from 1957 to 1971 took them to Nigeria. They had a son Malcolm, who now works in Hong Kong and they regularly visited him there.

Her interests included ballroom dancing and cycling.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium prior to cremation where friends joined with Bernard, her husband, Malcolm, her son, and his wife Liz and grandchildren, Tom, Emma and Richard.

### John Edwards

John was born in Keston where he was also educated. He left school at the age of 14 and joined the Post Office where he was to work his entire working career apart from a time during the war when he served in the mines near Mansfield. He married Jean at St. George's Shirley - they had met at a Post Office dance. They were married for 50 years.

He was one of 4, and the youngest. He had 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. His interests included gardening - he had an allotment - golf and reading.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium prior to cremation, and was attended by family, neighbours and former work colleagues.

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### Audrey Loder

Audrey was born in London. She was one of 8 children. After school she trained to be a hairdresser and in due course became a trainer of hairdressers. She married Gordon in 1951 at St. Mary's, College Road, Bromley. They had 3 children, Jane, Simon and Mary Ann, and 2 grandchildren, Emily and Chloe.

She joined the WRVS and for several years helped deliver meals on wheels. She was a regular worshipper at St. Mary's supporting Christian Aid week in the house to house collections, delivering SPAN and as on the coffee rota. She loved sport and watching murder mysteries.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller and Ann Gimson, took place at St. Mary's Church followed by cremation at Beckenham Crematorium. A large congregation attended.

### Mary Chalk

Mary lived for most of her childhood in Herne Hill. She was one of 2 children. She was educated in Clapham.

She loved sport, she was chosen to represent England at high jump when she was just 17. She played golf until she was 80.

She married Peter and they set up home in Dulwich and they had 2 children, Penny and Nick. Sadly Peter died in 1979 after which she moved to Elwill Way and worshipped regularly at St. Mary's. Tragically her son Nick died in 2006.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller and Peter Stotesbury, took place at St. Mary's Church prior to cremation at Beckenham Crematorium, at which family and friends supported Penny, her daughter, John, her son-in-law and her grandchildren Neil, Amanda and Jenny.



### SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for donations during December of £16.

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# Bethlehem...the story so far



I have been asked to write a short account of the music therapy project currently taking place in Bethlehem.

I would like to start by thanking everyone at St. Mary's for supporting this project not just financially but spiritually as well.

As you aware I have been training Social Workers, Psychiatrists and Psychologists from all over the West Bank on how to work and provide musical activities for children suffering with trauma. This has been successful and on a recent visit to Bethlehem I observed a Social Worker working in the SOS school and using musical activities which I had shown him with the children.

The second strand to the project was to identify a musician from Palestine who could train as a music therapist in the U.K and take the profession back to Bethlehem. I am pleased to say that having spent all day in the Bethlehem Music Conservatoire in sweltering heat last July someone has been found and has already been invited for an audition. So fingers crossed and lots of prayers please.

We have now joined with a charity which will provide music therapy support for me and who will be able to send out music therapist volunteers to SOS Bethlehem until the Palestinian musician has finished his training. This will make my life easier as I will only need to go out as a supervisor rather than to train. This charity is called Music as Therapy Bethlehem. We are still supported by McCabe Educational Trust and are very grateful to them.

I would ask for your prayers to continue for SOS Childrens Village particularly under the current climate and also that our musician is successful.

Thank you all once again.

Claire Tillotson

**Concert at St. Mary's**  
by the children and young people of Shortlands  
on Sunday, 1 March at 3.00pm  
in aid of SOS Children's Village, Bethlehem  
and The Friends of St. Mary's

If you would like to perform at the Concert, please contact  
Victoria Stafford (020 8290 0955)

### Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood Team

will be holding 'open surgeries'  
at Unit 3, Albemarle House, Albemarle Road, Beckenham.  
between 3.00pm and 4.00pm

These meetings provide an opportunity for you to speak to the local Police team about any issues or problems.

Next meeting dates: **7 February, 21 March and 11 April**



# Lent 2009



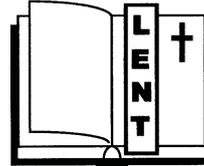
**Lent is an opportunity before the great Festival of Easter to take time out and reflect on our journey through life. There are a number of ways we would like to help you to get the most out of Lent.**

## 1. Join a Homegroup

There will be a series of Homegroups meeting in Lent starting 2 March. These will be held at various homes in the locality, and anyone is welcome to come. The Homegroups will be following the 2009 York Lent Course, 'These three... Faith, Hope and Love'.

'These three... Faith, Hope and Love' is based on the three great qualities celebrated in 1 Corinthians 13. This famous passage begins and ends in majestic prose. But the middle paragraph is practical and demanding. St Paul's thirteen verses take us to the heart of what it means to be a Christian. The 5 sessions are: 'Believing and Trusting', 'The Peace of God', 'Faith into Love', 'The Greatest of these' and 'All shall be well'.

Monday - 2.30pm	at 55 Kenwood Drive
Monday - 8.00pm	at 75 Scotts Lane
Tuesday - 8.00pm	at 8 Springpark Drive
Wednesday - 8.00pm	at 102 Elwill Way
Wednesday - 8.00pm	at 31 Elwill Way
Wednesday - 8.00pm	at 7 Scotts Avenue



## 2. Lent Lunches

A simple lunch for up to 10 people to provide an opportunity for hospitality and to support a charity.

Thursday, 5 March	- Cliff & Shirley Broughton, 1 St. Mary's Avenue - supporting Demelza House
Friday, 13 March	- David & Sue Slaney, 31 Elwill Way - supporting St. Christopher's Hospice
Wednesday, 18 March	- David & Jane Green, 84 Barnfield Wood Road - supporting WaterAid
Saturday, 28 March	- Paul & Lynne Miller, 37 Kingswood Road - supporting SOS Village Bethlehem

If you would like further information please contact Canon Paul Miller, telephone 8460 4989

**For both the Homegroups and Lent Lunches there are sign up sheets at the back of the Church.**

## 3. Attend the main Sunday morning service at 10.30am every Sunday to hear a series of addresses by members of St. Mary's, entitled 'My faith, my life and my work'.

March 1	Tim Aldred	Advocacy Manager, Progressio - an international development charity
March 8	Coreen Corbin	Financial Officer, Teachers TV - a resource for educational professionals
March 15	Mark Fox	Senior Lecturer, Pathology & Infectious Diseases, Royal Veterinary College
March 29	Heather Willis	Head of Equalities and Community Cohesion, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

## 4. A Lent Retreat Day

Saturday, March 7 'Roll Back the Stone' led by Reverend Jane Peters  
This will be a quiet day in the Church buildings - a time for reflection and fellowship and will include lunch.  
Please add you name to the sign up sheet in the porch if you would like to attend. Donations of £10 suggested.

## 5. Endeavour to participate in the experience of Holy Week

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is Wednesday, 25 February. There will be two services at 10.00am and 8.00pm.

<b>April 5</b>		
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10.30am	Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	A Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week
<b>April 9</b>		
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	8.00pm	Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch
<b>April 10</b>		
<b>Good Friday</b>	10.30am	Family Service led by Reverend Jane Peters
	2.00pm	An Hour at the Cross led by Canon Paul Miller
<b>April 12</b>		
<b>Easter Day</b>	8.00am	Sunrise Eucharist
	10.30am	Eucharist of the Resurrection including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

## 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 Molly Tout on 8464 9593.**

## Quotes with Valentine's Day and Love in mind:

Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction. - Antoine De Saint-Exupery

It is astonishing how little one feels poverty when he loves. - Bulwer

Men should keep their eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterward. - Madame Scuderi

Two souls with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one. - E F von Munch-Bellinghausen

The Christian is supposed to love his neighbour, and since his wife is his nearest neighbour, she should be his deepest love. - Martin Luther

One of the best legacies a father can leave his children is to love their mother. - C Neil Strait

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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

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