

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

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April 2009. Year 29 Number 4

Charity Concert a great success!



The Charity Concert by the Children and Young People of Shortlands held at St. Mary's on Sunday, 1 March raised £700.55.

It was a fantastic occasion with over 250 people attending and more than 80 young people participating.

The proceeds will be divided between The SOS Children's Village, Bethlehem and The Friends of St. Mary's.

Well done to everyone who helped.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 5 April	10.30am Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday 6.30pm Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week
Maundy Thursday 9 April	8.00pm Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch
Good Friday 10 April	10.30am Family Service led by Reverend Jane Peters 2.00pm An Hour at the Cross 'The Passion of Christ in the Old Testament' led by Canon Paul Miller
Easter Day 12 April	8.00am Sunrise Eucharist 10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt 6.30pm Evening Prayer in the Chapel
Sunday 26 April	6.30pm Choral Evensong on the occasion of the AGM of The Friends of St. Mary's Responses: Neary Canticles: Wood in D Anthem: O Thou the Central Orb (Wood)

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.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

8 Mar Neve Jackson

15 Mar Evan Wood

Interment of Ashes

15 Mar Mary Chalk



Remembering

Patricia Grey

The death of Pat Grey means the loss of a fantastically loyal, creative and loving mother, mother-in-law, grandma and friend. Pat was born in Bexley but was to have a life which involved extensive travel. She was happily married to Derek, who sadly died four years ago, and they had two children: David – who died at the age of 18 – and Debbie.

Derek's work meant that they were to live all over the world, but her favourite area was the Middle East. They lived in Libya, Saudi, Kuwait, Pakistan, Guyana and travelled extensively.

Pat had nimble fingers, being involved in patchwork circles and doing cross-stitch, as well as having very green fingers. Her daughter, Debbie, talked about exotic cuttings she culled from all over the world – most of which 'took'!

Her family was her greatest joy and since getting her freedom pass she enthusiastically taught her grandsons all the local bus and tram routes.

She was just beginning to get her life back together after Derek's untimely death when her own illness was diagnosed.

Her daughter Debbie, son-in-law Jamie, their children Samuel and Matthew and close friend Ronnie will be supported in their loss by friends

and by our prayers. She will be greatly missed.

A Service of Thanksgiving, led by Reverend Jane Peters, took place at Beckenham Crematorium.

Thomas Speller

Mons Speller (as most people knew him - his father having been called up and fought at the Battle of Mons) died at home with his son at the end of January at the age of 94. His life had been very full right up to the end, a fact which was celebrated at his funeral.

Mons grew up in the area round the Old Kent Road. Introduced to his wife on a – successful – blind date, he and Violet were very happily married for many years. They had a daughter, Juliette, and a son, Tom. Sadly Juliette died in 2000 and his wife predeceased him 19 years ago.

An electrical engineer by profession he had the good fortune to work in the same company for over 40 years and, on retirement, was able to continue working up to the age of 67 – this last few years being for Cancer Research.

His life encompassed a changing world. When he was born cars and aeroplanes were in their infancy. He listened to the first radio broadcasts on a crystal set, saw the R101 airship passing over London, watched the Crystal Palace burn down and saw men walk on the moon. He was not impressed with 'blooming Dot.com' and global warming and considered he had lived at the right time.

He was a man who liked to know how things work and brought his children up to have enquiring minds.

He loved fishing, gardening, taking things apart and his family. One claim to fame was that he designed the early industrial toaster which was used to toast buns in the early Wimpy Bars!

A good number of people were able to join Tom to say good-bye to a much-loved gentleman, the warmth

of whose character shone through at the get-together after the funeral.

A Service of Thanksgiving, led by Reverend Jane Peters, took place at Beckenham Crematorium.

John Tout

John was born in Mayfair in 1912. He won a scholarship to the Mercer's School in Holborn and when he left school he joined the Prudential Assurance Company. He married Iris at St. Mark's, Mayfair in 1935.

He joined the Royal Artillery as an officer in 1939 and was posted to India and Ceylon. He attained the rank of Major.

After the war he was posted to India with the Prudential. When they returned they settled in Beckenham and worshipped at St. Paul's.

In retirement they moved to Bexhill but after the death of Iris in 1980 he moved to live with his daughter and family at the White

House in Kingswood Road. When they retired to Spain John moved with them.

John's interests included stamp collecting, gardening, travelling and socialising with his many friends at St. Mary's. He loved music and the theatre. He was a member of the 2WW's and a great supporter of the Parish Weekend even after he went to Spain!

His funeral took place in Spain and a Thanksgiving Service, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at St. Mary's, Shortlands attended by his grandson, Alex, and many of his friends.

Quotes of the month.....

When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

Bibles that are falling apart are usually owned by people who aren't.

Carpark: the place where you take your car to have little dents put into the sides.

A weekend in France...

For the last twelve years our parish has been linked to a Roman Catholic parish in northern France. The parish actually includes five churches in and around the town of Douai.

Douai is at the centre of what was a major coal-mining area and is now the site of the Renault factory that produces Scenics. Not far from Douai is Arras, which was a major objective for both sides in the First World War. Many of the towns and cities in this area have tall bell towers, dating from the time of the Duchy of Flanders. These towers were erected at the instruction of the Duke to allow early warning of trouble and to allow communication between parts of his fiefdom.

Parishioners from both parishes enjoy weekends in each others' company exploring the area they live in and discussing issues of faith. We take it in turns for a party from Shortlands to visit France alternating with years when a party from Douai come to us.

This year we plan to visit our friends in Douai on the 2 & 3 May. The outline itinerary is:

- Coach and Shuttle from Shortlands to Douai – meet some of the French parishioners
- Climb the bell tower in Douai
- Transfer to St Francis of Assisi church
- Move on to our hosts for dinner
- Church service on Sunday morning
- Communal lunch
- Return to Shortlands

For those who are interested in finding out more about the Link please contact Robin Hogg (8464 3129).

The Friends of St. Mary's are holding an Antiques, Collectables and Promises Auction

on Saturday, 20 June

in the Church Hall from 2.00pm

in aid of the New Toilet Facilities Appeal Fund

Full details next month

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:
11 April, 2 May & 13 June

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks for donations during Jan & Feb of £8.50

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Outstanding School that goes the extra mile

Pupils and staff are celebrating after an inspection decided their school is outstanding. Ofsted visited Highfield Junior School in Shortlands, Bromley and gave it top marks.

So what is the school's winning formula for success?

Parents say that 'staff are caring, considerate and encouraging, promoting the best from the children.' The inspection report states that 'the school provides a wide range of opportunities for their parents to become involved in their child's learning such as weekly open mornings where they can view their child's work.'

Pupils are 'very proud of what they do at school, and take a leading

part in many events, such as assemblies.' They are exceedingly polite and courteous and respond very well to the school's strong focus on manners and respect by interacting very well with one another. They greatly enjoy coming to school and told Ofsted that Highfield is 'just like home, except you learn.' Pupils talk about the school being 'child-friendly' and about the adults 'putting others before themselves'.

Teachers are said to have 'high expectations and make lessons exceptionally challenging by involving pupils fully in assessing their work and that of their peers.' Pupils at Highfield Junior School are enthusiastic learners because they

find lessons interesting and exciting. One pupil commented 'We learn best when lessons are interactive, for example we got to argue today.' Others spoke enthusiastically about the extensive range of clubs on offer after school.

The report adds: "There is no doubt that the leadership and management of the school have played a large part in its success. The highly effective head teacher, very ably supported by a talented leadership team, has instilled a culture of accountability and self-reflection among the staff."

Head teacher Karen Bigg said: "I am delighted the report recognises the outstanding commitment of



everyone involved with the school. It's this commitment that enables all of our pupils to make exceptional progress, enjoy their learning and leave Highfield as confident, rounded young people."

Easter - the greatest of all Festivals

Easter, of course, is the most special day of the Christian year: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are unbelievably complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' - a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



Aussie Girl!



At the time of going to press, Sarah Bingham, a member of the Friday Guide unit, had just learnt that she has been selected to attend an international camp in Australia to celebrate the centenary of Guiding. Sarah will be going to Australia as part of a unit of 10 girls representing London & South East England. In all, the UK contingent will be made up of 52 girls and 7 leaders from different regions. The camp, an international jamboree for 1,500 girls, is at the beginning of January 2010, with home hospitality being offered either before or after the event.

Guiding started in 1910, and Australia is the first of the special centenary events as its camping season is during our winter. Lots of special events will be held in the UK and around the world during 2010 to mark the occasion. The first Guides appeared at a rally at Crystal Palace for the newly-formed Scouts - they were mainly sisters of the Scouts who turned up saying they wanted to be Girl Scouts. In those days girls were supposed to stay at home to learn embroidery and become young ladies, so many of the parents were not too keen on the idea! Baden-Powell asked his sister Agnes to organise activities for the girls, and that is how Guiding began. He later married Olave, and they eventually became Lord and Lady Baden-Powell to reflect their achievement in founding what has become the largest youth organisation in the world.

There are now a total of five girls from St. Mary's Guides busy fundraising for international trips to Mexico, Belgium and Australia, and between them they need to raise over £5,500! They will be bag packing at Sainsburys and are working hard on other projects to raise money for their trips. If anyone would like to support their efforts, this would be very welcome. Cheques should be made payable to "2nd Shortlands Guides International", and given/sent to the Parish Office, 39 Kingswood Road, Bromley BR2 0PU.



Flower Festival

"In the Footsteps of Jesus"

3, 4 & 5 July 2009

Date for your diary - there will be a Flower Festival at St. Mary's on 3, 4 & 5 July 2009.

**The Parish Church
of St. Mary,
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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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e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
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Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. A. Bailey	8133 3745
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