

Proud of their Church and Proud of their School



Standing here before the door of St. Mary's Church are four members of the congregation. On the left is Pat Chase, deputy Churchwarden and leader of St. Mary's Pre-School. Beside her is Annette German, a member of St. Mary's choir, a retired teacher and grandmother of children at Highfield schools. Next in line is Brenda Vickers, a member of St. Mary's for almost fifty years. The Vicar's Vestry is a memorial to her husband Frank who died in 1990. Her son Richard is Parish Administrator. On the right is Peggy Smith, a very sprightly 94 year old. After the Sunday morning service she can be seen striding out along St. Mary's Avenue towards her home, having turned down any offer of a lift. She knows all about fitness and exercise, having had a long career as a physiotherapist.

These four women share an enthusiasm for the Shortlands community that centres on St. Mary's. However they have discovered another link: they were all pupils once upon a time at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Girls' School at New Cross. Their school days stretch across half a century. Peggy started at Aske's in 1920 and she stayed for thirteen years. In those days Aske's was a private school, owned by the Haberdashers' Company of the City of London. In 1937, four years after Peggy left at eighteen, the eleven year old Brenda won a scholarship to Aske's. Her time there was sadly cut short by war. In September 1939 the school was evacuated to Hove. Brenda spent just ten days there with her friends. Her family circumstances meant that she was needed back home by her parents who were both

deaf. So she left Aske's and joined the Sacred Heart Convent at Honor Oak.

When Annette entered the school in 1949 it had recently been taken over by the London County Council, following the 1944 Education Act that opened the door to a good education for so many more children. Fees had been abolished and the Junior Department had dwindled to just nineteen children. Annette left in 1957 and Pat arrived, aged eleven, in 1964. Her school days lasted until 1971. Aske's remained a grammar school for another decade.

But in education things are always moving on. Following new government initiatives, Aske's was to become first a Comprehensive School, then a City Technology College. It is now a highly successful lead school of a Federation of Academies, which includes two

private schools. Indeed at present while their building undergoes refurbishment, a few hundred 3 to 11 year olds are with the 11 to 18s on the New Cross site. In a sense things will have come full circle. Peggy joined Aske's when she was five. Thirty years later in 1950 the Primary Department was phased out; but here it is back again in 2009.

A portrait of Robert Aske, who founded the school in 1690, hangs in the school hall. Once again he will be able to gaze down upon the pupils - or do we say *students* these days? - aged from 5 to 18, just as he did in Peggy's day. Even in education, it seems, what goes around comes around.

By Annette German

Holidays Ahoy!



The month of July heralds the summer holiday season. Schools prepare to break up, examinations are finished, and new opportunities await in September. Some of the younger members of our community face new challenges whether it is starting at Pre-School, starting 'big' school, changing to secondary

school, or moving to a job or university. Here at St. Mary's we have a Flower Festival followed by end of term services and my commissioning as Area Dean of Beckenham. Some of you, I expect, are looking forward to going away or perhaps just staying at home and not having to get up so early in the morning.

Rest and relaxation are important ingredients of the human cycle. And they are opportunities too to reflect and prepare for the next chapter of our lives. And this can be aided by time to read, time to sleep, time to pray, time to do things you might not normally have time to do, time to see new places, old places, to visit friends and family and time to visit those who are important to us.

One of the things that also stands out for me as I read about the

life and ministry of Jesus is how he placed a very important emphasis on taking time out. It seemed to set him up for what was to come.

Whatever your holiday season may be, I do hope you will benefit from being and doing something a little different to renew you and help you to look forward to what lies ahead.

By Canon Paul Miller



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:
7 June Charles & William Taylor

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:
23 May Rachel Marriott and
James Eagleton
13 June Christina Stokes and
Neil Lambert

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
11 May Johan Aucamp, aged 73
25 May John Swatton, aged 72
1 June Sheila Douglas, aged 85
3 June Roy Baker, aged 99



Remembering

Johan Aucamp

Johan, who lived in Celtic Avenue, was born in Molteno, one of the smallest communities in South Africa, in 1935. Sadly, his mother died on the same day he was born, and so he was brought up by his grandparents.

At school he was an exceptional student, and also excelled at athletics, setting a school record for the 440 yards which was not broken for 20 years. He read History and Economics at Stellenbosch University after which he moved to this country.

Here he met and married Janet. There are two sons of the marriage,

Peter and Jonny, and six grandchildren. Sadly Janet died in 2001.

Johan's business life led him eventually to set up a market research company. This enabled him to travel to many different countries and learn about their cultures.

His other interests were many and varied. They included a passion for music, opera, photography, sport, gardening, wine appreciation and the company of other people. In recent years he was particularly involved with the South Hill Woods Bowling Club and Royston School of which he was Chairman of Governors.

A large congregation came to St. Mary's, Shortlands to give thanks for Johan's life, before cremation at Beckenham. The service was conducted by Peter Stotesbury assisted by the Revd Jane Peters.

John Swatton

John was born in Newcastle upon Tyne. During the war he moved with his mother and sister to London. He was educated at Willesden County Grammar School.

He began his career training to be a Public Health Officer, firstly at Willesden Town Hall and then as a regular soldier in the army from where he had to be discharged following a serious motor bike accident. He went on to work for the Nestle organisation, then joined the GPO rising to management level where he oversaw several telephone directory enquiry exchanges. In his last years of working life he worked for Bromley Adult Education College training the unemployed.

He married Ann at St. Mary's Shortlands in 1961, the church where his four children, Lesley, Nick, Iain and

Duncan were to be baptised.

John became a councillor for the London Borough of Bromley, a school governor for over 30 years, a mason, a Rotarian and during his last year was Churchwarden at St. Mary's, where he also served on the P.C.C. and Friends of St. Mary's Committee and as a sidesman.

A private cremation at Beckenham Crematorium preceded a Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller and the Reverend Jane Peters, at St. Mary's Shortlands where Ann, his wife, his four children and grandchildren were supported by a large congregation.

Sheila Douglas

Sheila was born in Aberdeen. She was an only child. In early childhood she moved with her parents to London. She was educated at Hampstead High School. Her profession was nursing.

In 1946 she married Paul - they were married for 63 years - living first in Putney, then Orpington and Petts Wood before settling in Shortlands.

Sheila was a member of the South Hill bowls club and a regular worshipper at St. Mary's Church where she was a regular in the Mothers' Union. Her interests included literature, the arts, and she was a painter too.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium, where friends and neighbours were there to support Paul, her husband, Jackie and Lesley, her daughters and her grandchildren.

Roy Baker

Roy was born in Wandsworth. He was one of four. He was educated at

school in London. For 50 years he worked for the Daily Mail working his way up from an office lad to the position of Placement Manager of the Advertising Department.

He married Gee in 1934, who herself was one of eight. From 1972 they settled in Shortlands.

His interests included photography, playing bridge and the National Trust.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium at which his son, Howard, and his wife and grandchildren were supported by family and friends.



We were saddened to learn of the deaths of **Margaret Goodway** and former members of St. Mary's, **Joyce Brown** and **John Good**.



Mission to Seafarers



Sea Sunday is on 12 July, when we welcome Reverend Ray Trudgett, of The Mission to Seafarers, who will preach at the 10.30am Family Communion service and help us to remember the plight of seafarers worldwide.

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The Deanery of Beckenham
The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands

Choral Evensong
and the
Commissioning of Canon Paul Miller
as **Area Dean of Beckenham**
by
The Venerable Dr. Paul Wright,
The Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley
on
Thursday, 16 July at 8.00pm
All are welcome to attend and enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink after the service

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: **4 July, 15 Aug & 5 Sept**

Flower Festival
"In the Footsteps of Jesus"
Reminder - the
Flower Festival
will be at
St. Mary's on
3, 4 & 5 July.



Christian Aid Collection 2009

"My whole life changed!" – The words of Chris Mead, Christian Aid Education and Marketing manager who, fresh from an unforgettable visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, gave us an inspiring and informative address at Church in May.

This year, the sum of £3,903.11 was raised in our Parish – equalling

that of last year (despite a recession and a lack of collectors).

A big thank you to Richard and Brenda who bravely counted the "Pennies from Heaven" totalling £224.79. Also to Pat Chase and all youth leaders for making it possible! In addition, St. Mary's donated 5% of the Church Plate for May which helped to boost the total as always.

Remember, it is your energy and faith during Christian Aid Week that makes their work possible and keeps hope alive in all corners of our World. Thank you and God Bless you all! Tricia Braithwaite and Sara Craggs

NEW SERGEANT FOR SHORTLANDS SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

From 10 June Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood Team has a new Sergeant at the helm.

Sergeant Dave Harvey has left the Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood Team for the Copers Cope Team. Both teams work closely together out of offices in Albemarle Road.

The new Sergeant for the Shortlands Ward is Richard Horne. Sergeant Horne has come from Crystal Palace SNT where he has been for about 3 years. He led his team in 2007 to become joint winners of an award for the Best Safer Neighborhood Team in London along with Hackney.

Canon Paul Miller is pictured welcoming Sergeant Horne at the St. Mary's Parish Picnic and Barbecue.



Friends of South Hill Woods

It is planned to start up a Friends of South Hill Woods in order to assist the Bromley Parks to keep the area suitable for local people and wildlife. The woods have become very overgrown with Laurel and Rhododendron. This is choking the wood and also giving good cover for anti-social behaviour.

On Saturday, 25 July members of the community are invited to join the Parks officers in a day of clearing. Bromley Parks will provide the expertise, equipment and insurance. It is hoped that members of the community join in this day to make it a success.

St. Mary's Scouts are planning to join in as part of their Community Challenge and Environment Award.

This should be a great day of fun and hard work. Why not bring a picnic? Join others in the community, working together, young and old, side by side. 'Friends of' is a London-wide phenomena. Many areas of open or park space have volunteers who come together at various times in the year to make their Neighbourhood better.

For more information contact Bromley Partnership Officers on 8461 7521.

Parish Picnic a great success

For the eighth successive year the sun shone for the St. Mary's Parish Picnic and Barbecue held in the Church grounds following the Sunday morning Parade Service.

Families and friends sat and enjoyed their lunch, children played and took turns on the bouncy castle, the Bingham family toiled at the Barbecue to raise funds for Sarah's Guide trip to Australia, the Friends of St. Mary's were on duty in the drinks tent and rides were available on a Vespa scooter and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Thanks are due to all who helped make the day such a great success - for organising and planning, for setting up, for clearing up, and to everyone who came along and supported. Roll on 2010!



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of St. Mary,
Shortlands**



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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.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Vicar	Canon P. Miller	8460 4989
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Junior Church	Mrs. F. Bratt	8460 6947

PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
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Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. L. Swatton	8650 0397
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Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. A. Bailey	8313 3745
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. D. Allen	8778 5257
Brownies & admissions	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
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Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood 07920 233848

SPAN

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