

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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October 2009. Year 29 Number 9

Harvest is here!

The community of Shortlands celebrates Harvest Festival on Sunday, 4 October with a Family and Parade Service and a Harvest Lunch. On the following Saturday there will be a Harvest Barn Dance.

So how did Harvest Festivals begin?

It seems pretty obvious to thank God for the harvest, but actually, it is a comparatively recent church service. Less than 200 years ago, harvest was not formally 'celebrated' in church, but in the taverns and on village greens of the countryside, with wild drinking and eating before the harshness of winter set in.

Then in 1834 an eccentric clergyman called the Rev Robert Stephen Hawker arrived in Morwenstowe, a tiny hamlet of a few farms perched high on the windswept cliffs of the north Cornish coast. The church had been without a vicar for years, but now Robert Hawker strode the lanes of Morwenstowe in a bright purple or red cassock.

Rural life in those days was harsh, and Hawker soon realised the sheer effort needed to survive in those parts. Harvest was the only thing that got people through the winter: a poor one meant starvation. Each bad year Hawker buried some of his congregation.

But the summer of 1843 was perfect, and the harvest that year was exceptionally bountiful. The people of Morwenstowe were getting set to celebrate with their usual abandon, when Hawker stepped in. Who, he asked, did they think had given them the harvest? Were they not going to even say 'thank you' to Him?

Abashed, the people came to church, and Hawker led them in giving thanks to God for his rich blessing upon them. The 'Christian' Harvest Festival had arrived – in Morwenstowe.

Nowadays Harvest Festivals are enjoyed by both regular

church-goers and visitors, making it one of the most popular services in the church year.

In Shortlands we, like many others, will thank God for all we have and the many people in the chain who help to provide what we have.

Our Harvest Lunch will consist very much of home grown vegetables as we have encouraged people this year to grow 'our own'!

Pictured below is Sue Slaney, Harvest Lunch co-ordinator, with Canon Paul Miller with his contribution of carrots!



The Friends of St. Mary's

are holding a

BARN DANCE

in aid of the Accessible Toilet Fund

on Saturday, 10 October in the Hall

Band: Whirling Skirmish

7.00 - 9.30 pm

Tickets - £5

Bring your own refreshments

Family ticket (two adults only) - £15

St. Mary's, Shortlands Advent Dinner and Dance

Friday, 27 November, 7.30pm for 7.45pm
in the Garden Suite of the Bromley Court Hotel

Black Tie or Lounge Suit

Tickets £30, inclusive of three course dinner with coffee and all age
Dance/Disco, available from the Parish Office (8460 5682)
or from Churchwardens.

Special Services for the weeks to come

Sunday, 4 October - Harvest Festival
10.30am - Family and Parade Service
followed by the Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall

Sunday, 11 October - Pet Service
4.00pm - Bring your pets (or toy pets!) along!

Sunday, 18 October
6.30pm - Choral Evensong

Responses: Neary. Canticles: Brewer in E flat.

Anthem: Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).

Sunday, 1 November
4.00pm - Service to Remember Departed Loved Ones

A book will be placed in the church porch for you to enter the names of those you would like to be especially remembered at this service. Candles will be lit during the service in memory of our departed loved ones.

Sunday, 8 November - Remembrance Sunday
10.15am - Family Communion and Parade Service

to include the traditional Act of Remembrance, the Two Minutes' Silence and the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial.

6.30pm - Choral Evensong



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

26 July Cecily Rouse

16 Aug Charlie Vowls

23 Aug William Whall

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

14 Aug Lee Buckingham and
Emma Cuthbert

At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

7 July Elsie Parks, aged 95

17 July Paul Baker, aged 95



Remembering

Paul Baker

Paul was born in South East London in 1913. He was one of four. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School before joining the then well known builders Holland, Hannen and Cubitts. During World War Two he served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Engineers. After the War he became Secretary and then Director of International Paints and on retirement Bursar at St. Dunstan's College in Catford.

Paul was called to the Bar in 1949 and in the early 1950s was a Liberal Party parliamentary candidate for Dulwich. He was later Chairman of the London Liberal Party. In 1961 he was admitted as a Reader in the Church of England and also became a volunteer for the Abbeyfield Society receiving an MBE in 1986 for his services as Regional Secretary for Greater London.

Paul married Audrey in 1947 in the temporary church after the last St. Mary's church was destroyed in the War. They have lived in Shortlands all their married life. They had three children, who were all baptised at St. Mary's, Jonathan, Jane and Stephen

who tragically died in 1977, aged 28, when on a skiing holiday.

Paul's life and faith focussed on St. Mary's and especially the rebuilt church. Amongst his many contributions to its life, he was Churchwarden from 1973 - 1976, Treasurer of the Scout Group, president of the Friends of St. Mary's, served on the Parochial Church Council and was a member of the choir. In 1997 he wrote a book entitled 'Jesus of Nazareth' which was published by Janus Publishing.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St. Mary's Church, conducted by Canon Paul Miller assisted by the Reverend Jane Peters, Ann Gimson and Peter Stotesbury, and attended by a large congregation. Members of his family and the church took part paying tribute to one of the great statesmen of our community. It was followed by a private cremation at Beckenham Crematorium.

Elsie Parks

Elsie was born in Paddington, London. She was the eighth of ten children. She went to work for J Lyons at the age of 16 and later at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch.

She married Bill in 1940 at St. Mary's Cholsey, Oxfordshire. He was called up into the RAF where he served as a gunner in Bomber Command, surviving thirty three operational missions. They had two children, Anthony and Ann.

After the death of her husband at the age of 58, Elsie spent the last thirty years of her life in Beckenham and then Bromley, cared and looked after by her children until she went into Glebe Court Nursing Home, where she died at the age of 95 years.

Her funeral service at Beckenham Crematorium was conducted by Canon Paul Miller where Anthony and Ann were joined by family, friends and members of St. Mary's where Ann is Churchwarden.

Margaret Lilley

Margaret was born in West Hartlepool where she was brought up, educated and worked until 1960. She married Terry in 1957 at St Paul's Church in

West Hartlepool where she was a member of the choir. A marriage which was to last 52 years.

When Terry left the sea the couple moved south to Beckenham and in 1965 their daughter Susan was born. As often happens, mums tend to step in to support their children's activities and Margaret and another mum sustained Susan's Brownie pack when it was in danger of closing down. Commissioned as Brown Owl she looked after the 10th Bromley Brownies from 1982 - 1994 and was for a time a District Commissioner.

Whilst Susan was busy at school, Margaret used her spare time with voluntary activities, amongst which were meals on wheels, the Hayes School Stationery Shop and the Red Cross Medical Loan facility, but when Susan had left school Margaret wanted another challenge. She went to work at Westmorland Road Post Office in 1983. Always good at mental arithmetic, she enjoyed the counter work as well as the anticipated excitement of the weekly cash balance! In 1994 at the age of 60 she retired officially but was subsequently asked to take up duties as a receptionist with a local osteopath.

Margaret enjoyed gardening, wildlife, crosswords, jigsaw puzzles and reading detective stories especially those by Agatha Christie and Ruth Rendell.

The Funeral Service, conducted by the Reverend Jane Peters, took place at Beckenham Crematorium.

Missions for 2010

Tuesday, 13 October
8.00pm

in the Choir Vestry

to discuss and agree the charities to be supported as Missions for the Month in 2010.

THIS WILL BE AN OPEN MEETING

Anyone who would like to put forward a particular mission should submit their suggestion, with supporting information and details of the person who will be the liaison for this mission, to the Parish Office by Wednesday, 7 October.

Please note that missions will not automatically be supported in 2010 because they have been in previous years, so it is important to act now or attend this meeting if you would like to have some say in the choice of missions for 2010.

We hope to see you there.

Susie Shelton, Mission Chairman

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(34 to deliver with some stairs)

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(17 with exterior and interior stairs)

If you are able to help, please contact Alan Jones (8460 5437)

Accessible Toilet Project Update

Many parishioners are concerned that worshippers in the Church or visitors to Church House activities who have disabilities might be put off coming if they felt they could not use the toilet if they needed it. Whilst there are accessible toilets in the Church Hall they require a round trip outside of two hundred yards - hardly dignified, practical in winter, or helpful if caught short.

£37,000 has already been raised from last year's Gift Day, bequests, and fundraising activities by groups and individuals within the Parish to whom we are enormously grateful.

The total cost of £60,000 seems an awful lot for a toilet, but the nature of the build (two actual toilets, a wash basin and baby changing facilities) is space hungry and cannot be located within Church House as it stands with partitioning - we have to construct walls and a roof. Hence the expense.

We are submitting funding applications to charitable bodies whose charters enable them to make donations to initiatives of this kind.

However, we still depend principally on the parish to support this worthwhile cause. A number of fundraising initiatives will be launched in the autumn.

When will it be built? As soon as we have the money! We plan to build in the summer of 2010.

Shortlands Golf Club
Long established (1894)

Family Golf Club

currently seeking men, ladies
and juniors to expand the
membership base.

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8460 2471/8828 or

Peter May: 8460 8828

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Guides' Summer Camp 2009

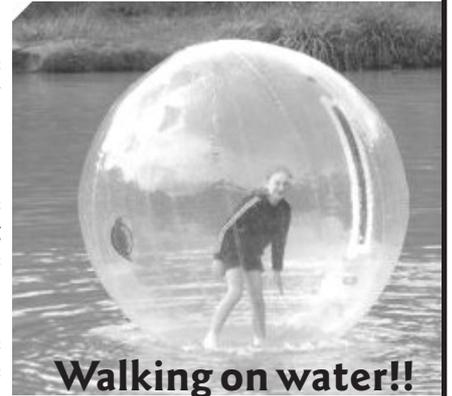
The Guides' Summer Camp was held at Thriftwood Scout Activity Centre at Brentwood in Essex. The theme of the camp was Ice Age 3 – Dawn of the Dinosaurs, so the patrols were named after different dinosaurs: Triceratops, Diplodocus, Stegosaurus, Pterodactyl, Ankylosaurus & Brontosaurus.

A wide range of activities were enjoyed by the Guides, many of which were based on and around the campsite lake: canoeing, kayaking, rafting, water zorbing (like a giant inflatable hamster ball) plus "Water Splash" – an afternoon of wet and wild activities for all groups camping at Thriftwood.

On dry land (when it wasn't raining!) were pedal karting, cresta toboggan run, ice climbing, trampolining, Sky High walk (high ropes), 3D maze, Demolition Derby, plus many more besides.

Canon Paul came to visit the Guides on Monday, which was Good Turn Day – each person draws a name out of the hat at breakfast time, and has to do a secret Good Turn for that person during the day. At evening around the camp fire, each person has to guess who did them a Good Turn and what it was. The results are sometimes surprising – some Good Turns go unnoticed, and many small kindnesses are noticed and appreciated even though they weren't intended as a Good Turn.

Each day the tents and patrol kitchens are inspected by the Young Leaders, who enjoy this job as they were on the receiving end in previous years as PLs! Coloured ribbons ranging from red (excellent) to black (awful) are awarded each evening and points given to find the best overall patrol in camp. Canon Paul accompanied YLs on their tour of inspection, and reported back that the tents varied from "OK" to "awful" - the Guides had obviously been too busy working on their Good Turns to tidy the tents that day!



Walking on water!!

Guides make their Guide Promise around the camp fire.



Walking on water again!!



Happiness just outside the door

As you tidy your garden this month, rounding up all those stray leaves and dying flowers, take heart: while you are doing your garden good, you are also helping yourself, for gardening leads to happiness.

Such is the verdict of a recent National Trust Survey. It found that two thirds of us are much happier when we potter in our gardens than when we watch the telly or even shop.

Alan Titchmarsh, the well known TV gardener, is delighted. "The message is clear. If you want to feel better, get out into a garden. Never has access to a garden been more important for our spiritual and physical well-being than in today's rapidly changing landscape."

The National Trust is calling for more green space to be made available, through allotments on public land, around offices and by reclaiming derelict land. It estimates that there are 600 acres of space available on window boxes alone.

In the meantime, you may also enjoy a visit to the Thrive website, a small national charity which uses gardening to help people improve the quality of their lives. Visit: www.thrive.org.uk

This is your guard speaking.... yet again!

Do you commute to work using the train? Do you enjoy a quiet journey looking out the window, napping, or working? Or – are you constantly interrupted?

It seems that guards are doing a lot of talking these days. On one recent South West Trains service from Portsmouth to Petersfield, there were 31 announcements in 32 minutes. On another train, from Havant to London, there were 50 announcements in 80 minutes.

Travellers are complaining that these continual messages are driving them to distraction. But the trains services reply that the announcements are only in accordance with European Union regulations, which state that all trains must display and announce information regarding the train's destination and stops.



"WHAT THE DICKENS!!!!"

it's

St. Mary's Christmas Fayre

on

Saturday, 14 November

from 1.00pm - 4.00pm

in the Church Hall

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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

STAFF

Vicar	Canon P. Miller	8460 4989
Honorary Curate	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302 (Sunday, Monday and Wednesday)
Honorary Assistant	Archdeacon P. Wright	8467 8743
Priest		
Readers	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. L. Miller	8460 4989
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Mr. R. Vickers	8460 5682
Assistants	Mrs. J. Fiddeman	8460 5682
	Rev. J. Peters	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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	Mr. C. Stokes	8460 0661
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
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Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Junior Church	Mrs. F. Bratt	8460 6947

PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
Open 9.00 am - 12.30 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	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
Scouts GSL	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
Scouts (Fri.)	Mr. T. Watson	8650 0184
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. L. Swatton	8650 0397
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. D. Hope	8466 5545
Beavers & admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Miss G. Dawson	8249 1799
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Brownies (Wed.)	Ms. H. Preston	07754 444453
Brownies (Thurs.)	Ms. D. Allen	8778 5257
Brownies & admissions	Ms. N. Blake	8460 7951
Rainbows	Mrs. V. Jones	8290 6531
Pre-School	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704 or 07960 988552
The TWO 'W's'	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537

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Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	07920 233848

SPAN

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