

Who likes change?

As I write this at the end of June, we are enjoying a beautiful summer of extraordinary weather. By the time you read this, who knows what it will be like but the weather will certainly have changed by the end of September when the next issue of SPAN will appear.

Many people will be enjoying holidays over the summer months, some near, some far and some staycations whether by choice or necessity. There may be a change of routine, breaks from school or university, more outdoor activities or visiting new places. Once September arrives there may be greater changes; children starting school for the first time, changing from primary to secondary education, starting university or new jobs or maybe deciding to have a gap year.

There are also changes taking place at St Mary's. At the moment we are between vicars and we have had several different ministers preaching to us in our services. So we have been treated to changes of style, delivery and duration of sermons all of which has been an enriching experience.

It is great to see many people enjoying the grassy areas and benches in St Mary's grounds and to see children playing in the garden on their way to and from school, pre-school and toddlers. St Mary's needs to be at the heart of our community in Shortlands, offering a warm welcome to all.

If we find change difficult, frightening or challenging, then praying about it or talking to someone may help. We have a prayer tree in the church porch where requests for prayer can be written, we have a votive candle stand in church where candles may be lit as an aid to prayer, and on the back of SPAN you will find contact numbers if you would like to speak to someone.

Jesus said 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid' (John 14 v27). Or as someone once said: Don't worry, be happy.

Whatever your circumstances, have a great late summer and embrace change!

Marion Westropp

Craft and Chatter: name change – game change

C&C, for short, developed from an idea for a St. Mary's Knit & Natter group. The name change occurred when it was pointed out the original name did not take into account the wide range of skills demonstrated by our members! One lady, an accomplished quilter, could have assisted in the recent St. George's Christian Aid fund-raising quilt-making project but decided taking her sewing machine on the bus was a step too far!

We do indeed try to demonstrate a variety of handicraft skills and try to ensure a wide range of gifts for sale at the Christmas Fair, the Mothering Sunday sale and with our Easter and Autumn raffles. Where possible we try to support the charity of the month, an example being the knitted hats for the Mission to Seafarers. We continue to knit blankets for Romania and recently we sent a large number of 'bonding squares' to the St. Thomas's Neonatal Unit.

We have had some generous donations of various craft materials, some fabric has found its way into the St. George's quilt, Deanery co-operation in action. However, we are very few in number and could do with some more pairs of hands to turn the wool and fabric into desirable objects to sell for church funds.

We meet on Tuesday mornings between 10 and 12 in the Choir Vestry, usually fuelled by coffee, cake and conversation. There is no obligation to come every week or stay all morning, we are a friendly, drop-in group, so please dust off your skills and give us a try!



Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is office@stmarysshortlands.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



Special Events and Services

Sunday 16 September

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Spicer

Canticles: Walmsley in D minor

Anthem: O thou the Central Orb - Wood



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

15 July Tallulah Davidge

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate:

23 June Simon Vignau
and Shevaughan Phillips

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Jose Petty 3 July

Peggy Smith 3 July

Au revoir!

St Mary's recently wished Jean Jackson well as she prepared to move away from Shortlands.

Jean has given many years of faithful service to St Mary's. Her very significant contribution includes (but is not limited to!) two spells as churchwarden (as well as deputy churchwarden), being a Pastoral Assistant and a member of Beckenham Deanery Synod (including serving as Lay Chairman), arranging church flowers, assisting in serving wine during Communion services, and cleaning and looking after the altar cloths.

St Mary's has much to thank Jean for – we look forward to staying in touch as she begins her new life in Surrey.



St Mary's also recently bid farewell to Ann Gimson, who has given 36 years of service in preaching sermons at services, visiting the sick and leading services such as funerals. We send all good wishes as she starts her new life also in Surrey.

Christian Aid Week 2018 – Results

Thank you to everyone who responded to this year's Christian Aid Week appeal in May. The house to house collection and the collection at Shortlands station together raised £2,200 towards the overall total of £3,200 that St Mary's has been able to send to Christian Aid.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the collection and to all who donated.

Thanks also to the children from the Scout and Guide groups, Pre-school and Toddlers group whose 'Pennies from Heaven' around the Church raised £96. The money raised will help Christian Aid's work to build secure homes in Haiti and to tackle the effects and causes of poverty around the world.



New ways to pray

A Prayer Festival will take place at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 22 September 2018 from 10am to 2.30pm.

The event will explore the many ways in which Christians pray today, from praying with music, poetry and art to using resources from the web. There will be time for worship, for teaching on prayer and for workshops offering the opportunity to experience different ways of praying.

Susanne Carlsson, Spirituality Advisor for the Diocese says: 'Every person has their own unique way of praying: there are no rights and wrongs. This day is for all those who may still be searching for a way that suits them or for those looking for help in those moments when inspiration has run dry. This really will be a great opportunity for people to be refreshed and renewed in their prayer-life.'

For more information, and to book, visit:

<http://www.rochester.anglican.org/prayer-festival.php>

The Friends of St. Mary's
host a return performance of the

University of Greenwich Big Band

St Mary's Church

3pm, Sunday 7th October

Featuring music from the early big band era and
the Great American Song Book

Tickets £10 each on sale in church after 10.30am services
and from Parish Office (020 8460 5682)



Sing to Beat Parkinsons
and

Sing To Beat Dementia
sessions starting

Wednesday September 12th

1-2pm (Parkinsons)

and

2.30-3.30pm (Dementia)

in St Mary's Choir Vestry

Tea and chat 2-2.30pm

For further information contact

Melanie Jones 020 8290 4999

or

melanie@mjassocs.demon.co.uk

Learning about other faiths

Eid al-Adha 22 August - Islam

Eid al-Adha or 'Feast of the Sacrifice' is the second of two Islamic holidays celebrated worldwide each year and is considered the holier of the two. It honours the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham in the Bible) to sacrifice his son, as an act of obedience to God's command. Before Abraham sacrificed his son, God provided a male goat to sacrifice instead. This story is also found in the Jewish Torah and the Christian Old Testament (Genesis 22). Eid al-Adha also marks the end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. The Hajj is an annual pilgrimage to the holiest city for Muslims, and a mandatory religious duty that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all adult Muslims who are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey and can support their family during their absence.

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

10-11 September – Judaism

Rosh Hashanah is the first of the Jewish High Holy Days specified by Leviticus 23:23–32, which usually occur in the early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere. Rosh Hashanah is a two-day celebration, beginning on the first day of Tishrei: the first month of the Jewish civil year, but the seventh month of the ecclesiastical year. Rosh Hashanah marks the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman according to the Hebrew Bible, and their inauguration of humanity's role in God's world. Customs include sounding the shofar (a hollowed-out ram's horn), as prescribed in the Torah, following the prescription of the Hebrew Bible to 'raise a noise' on Yom Teruah, attending synagogue services and reciting a special liturgy about teshuva (or repentance), as well as enjoying festive meals. Eating symbolic foods such as apples dipped in honey is now a tradition, hoping thereby to evoke a 'sweet new year'.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

19 September – Judaism

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jewish people traditionally observe this day with an approximate 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. It is also customary to refrain from using perfume, lotions or creams, from washing, and from wearing leather shoes. It is followed by a festive meal. Traditionally, Yom Kippur is considered to be the date on which Moses received the Ten Commandments. It occurred following the completion of 40 days of instructions from God. At this same time, the Israelites were granted atonement for the sin of idolising the Golden Calf.

Save the Date

Harvest Lunch

Harvest lunch will take place after the Harvest Festival
service on Sunday 14 October

More details to follow

Missions of the months

Welcare in Bromley

Welcare in Bromley is a local social work organisation working with vulnerable families, supporting those with children between the ages of 8 to 13. The core services continue to be 1:1 individual emotional support and advice, group work programmes for parents and group work for children who have witnessed domestic violence. This case study illustrates how effective this work can be (names have been changed).

Cassandra and her 11 year old son Nathan had moved away from Nathan's father who had been violent towards Cassandra and had physically chastised Nathan. Nathan was often very angry and would start fights with other children at school and was verbally abusive to his mum at home. Cassandra had low self-esteem and needed help with enforcing boundaries for Nathan.

Cassandra and Nathan said that the situation has improved as a result of a series of 1:1 sessions with a Welcare family support worker. They both stated that their relationship is now calmer and Cassandra said that she feels better equipped to understand Nathan's behaviour and can help him. Nathan's teacher has also commented on how his behaviour has become more manageable.

In the last year Welcare in Bromley worked with 46 families with 91 children. There were 4 volunteers working with young people. If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer, email volunteering@welcare.org or telephone 0208 466 0399. There will be information at the back of the church during August, or visit www.welcare.org.

Medecins Sans Frontieres – Doctors without Borders

Between 18 February and 3 March 2018 government forces in Syria began an intensive military offensive to retake the besieged East Ghouta enclave. Weeks of bombing and shelling caused widespread destruction. Each day more than 70 people were killed and many more were wounded. When people started arriving at the hospital, many had been hit by bombs or gunshots. On top of the trauma injuries, many children were suffering from malnutrition.

Just one troubled area in one troubled country. Who is on the frontline helping those in crisis, not just in Syria but all around the world? The answer is Medecins San Frontieres (MSF).

MSF, known in English as Doctors without Borders, is an international humanitarian medical organisation of French origin. It is best known for its work and projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.

Over 30,000 personnel, mostly local doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, as well as logistical experts, water and sanitation engineers and administrators, provide medical aid in more than 70 countries. The vast majority of staff are volunteers. 90% of MSF's funding comes from private donors.

In 1999 MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its members' continued efforts to provide medical care in acute crises, as well as raising international awareness of potential humanitarian disasters.

To find out more visit www.msf.org.uk or see the board at the back of church during September.

So long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye...

The Highfield Schools are saying goodbye to their Headteacher, Ann Golding, as she retires this summer.



Ann has been the Headteacher of Highfield Infants' school for ten years and of both schools for four of those. The Highfield community is a very important place to Ann: both she and her husband Bradley were former Highfield pupils, and so she has led the schools with her heart and soul.

Ann passionately believes in educating the whole child and not just concentrating on academic success; although both schools are very successful academically, being in the top ten per cent in the country for their SATs results. One of Ann's great passions is music and the benefits it can bring to the lives of everyone, promoting well-being, confidence and performance skills.

Under Ann's leadership both schools have been successful in achieving a wide range of nationally recognised awards including; Living the Olympic and Paralympic values, Active Mark, Music Mark, School Games Award, Healthy Schools Award, International Schools, Eco Schools, Sustainable Travel awards. Most recently the Infants' School has achieved Gold in the Primary Science Quality Mark and the Junior School the Silver Arts Mark. Both are great achievements.

The Highfield schools are known across the borough and further afield for both their singing performances and their sporting prowess.

Ann has been the driving force behind uniting the two schools, with closer working relationships and greater synergies over time, and a belief that united schools, each with their own specialism, will bring the greatest outcomes for every pupil.

Ann leaves the Highfield Schools in a wonderful place and she should look back with great pride on what has been achieved during her time as Headteacher. The schools and the wider community will miss her greatly and wish her a long and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Christine Hall who has been appointed as Leader of St Mary's Pre-school Shortlands from January 2019. She is currently the Deputy Leader.

Friends of Welcare in Bromley

Quiz Night

St Mary's Church Hall

Saturday 8 September, 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Tables of 6-8, but it's not necessary to make up a table

Bring your own refreshments

Raffle

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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	8460 5682
office@stmaryshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay Ministers	
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
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Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Assistant	
Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
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Mrs S. Leonard	07725313432
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Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
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Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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Mrs S. Maurel	01689 331793
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Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	
Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
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Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	
Mr Daniel Beach	8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	
Mrs Kay Coleman	07879337567
Electoral Roll	
Mrs S. Maurel	01689 331793
Junior Church	
Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978
Stewardship	
Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178

PARISH OFFICE Tel: 8460 5682
e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.church
Open 9.30am - 12.30pm weekdays.
Information regarding Baptisms and Weddings can be obtained during these hours.

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8650 4553
Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
Friends of St. Mary's		
	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. M. Bowman	07885604457
Guides (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Katheswaran	

		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

Cllr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Cllr A. Cuthbert	
(Email: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

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