

Hospitality in the sun...



In June I talked about hospitality in the community and, as I hope the photos show, St. Mary's annual parish picnic was a true example of hospitality where people from the church and the wider community gathered together in the church grounds.

On a glorious Sunday afternoon, the church was host to the largest parish picnic that it has held, with many people joining us for the first time.

What was interesting was how people found out about the picnic. Whether you found about the event through the church banners, social media or through SPAN, thank you for making it such a memorable day, and please look out for other events taking place at St. Mary's in the future.

Love and blessings for a wonderful summer.

Revd Gary Best



Harvest Festival

Sunday 13th October at 10.30am
followed with a Harvest Lunch

A service and lunch to which all are welcome

More details to follow

Special Events and Services

Sunday 8 September

10.30am All-Age Service

Everyone is welcome to worship and activities supported by the Music Group and the Choir.

Followed by refreshments for children and adults.

Sunday 15 September

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Spicer

Canticles: Sumsion in A

Anthem: O Sing Joyfully - Batten

Stay in touch!

The Parish Office email is office@stmaryshortlands.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





From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

Rupert Rex Dawson 30 June

Kirsty Saunders 30 June

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Christopher Parry 14 July

Save the date!
The Friends
of St Mary's
invite you to a
RACE NIGHT
Saturday 16
November, 7.30pm
In the Church Hall



Reflections from Highfield



My name is Allison Morris and I became Head Teacher of Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools in January of this year. During my first couple of terms I have really enjoyed getting to know the children, staff and families that make up our school community and appreciate how welcoming everyone has been.

As well as loving an engaging academic curriculum, I am really pleased that children at Highfield have opportunities to excel and enjoy a range of different learning activities; music and sport are particular strengths. Since January, the choirs have performed twice at Langley Park School for Boys and sung alongside the Yale Glee Club as they travelled to Oxford University. The Spring Music Evening was also a highlight with a wide range of instrumental and choir performances from the children.

Equally our sports teams (of which there are many) have excelled this year. Most notably, our netball team represented Bromley in the London Youth Games and our korfbal team was crowned the fifth best team in the country. At all of the sporting events and performances I have been impressed not only at the commitment of the children but also the obvious enjoyment they have taking part and the support they have shown towards each other.

I believe that childhood should be a happy, investigative and enquiring time of life - where there are no limits to curiosity and a thirst for new experiences and knowledge. This is something we will continue to strive to provide our children with at Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools.

I am looking forward to developing my role within this strong, local community.

Remembering

David Loades

David was born in London and moved with his family to West Wickham at a young age after which he never lived more than three miles away!

His early childhood was shaped by the second world war – hearing spitfires from Biggin Hill and spending nights under the stairs or in the bomb shelter. He was evacuated to Nottingham where he was separated from his brother and sister: an early experience that shaped his outlook on life and the importance of family to him.

David enjoyed school – his interest in maths, physics, art and woodwork remained throughout his life, linking a logical mind with creative expression. He was active and sporty, becoming Vice Captain for the school rugby team and continuing through to Old Beccehamians at Sparrows Den.

Scouting was a huge and defining part of his life. He started as a young wolf cub, became a Warranted Scout Leader at 18, later Scout Leader at St Mary's with the 7th Bromley Troop and Group Scout Leader. He was passionate about the opportunities that scouting offers.

David was a Civil Service 'lifer' – having joined from school, he served in the Government Actuary's Department for 40 years, completing his career as the Deputy Government Actuary. He was the epitome of a professional civil servant and was awarded the CB (Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath) for services to the Government Actuary's Department.

He met Jenny, the love of his life, at a dance for the nurses at Cheyne Hospital, West Wickham. They had three children, Philippa, Stephen and Christine, and four grandchildren who were very special to them. He was a compassionate and tireless carer for Jenny: a true expression of their deep love for each other.

Church was important to him and he was a member of St Mary's congregation for fifty years. He enjoyed thought-provoking Home Group discussions, listening to the Music Group and the support and welcome of the 2WWs once he was widowed.

David lived a rich and fulfilled life and will be much missed.

Useful contacts

To report a crime:

In case of emergency call 999

In case of non-emergency call 101

To report online: <http://www.met.police.uk>

For Shortlands Ward local police team, call 020 8271 2614 or email Shortlands.SNT@met.police.uk

See also www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk/police-update.html

Desert Island Discs



A series based on the Radio 4 programme featuring people from the parish with the eight tracks of music they would choose to have with them if marooned on a desert island, and why.

This month, Robin Hogg, choir and PCC member, deputy Treasurer, and Vice President of the Friends of St Mary's, chooses his music:

1. Daniel (Elton John) - teenage memories queuing at the Fairfield Halls Croydon
2. Sultans of Swing (Dire Straits) - student concert at Sheffield University
3. Kashmir (Led Zeppelin) - driving up and down the M1 to Sheffield and then later taking Jessica to Leeds and Rachel to Nottingham
4. Exodus (Bob Marley & the Wailers) - Legends was just an amazing LP and evocative of my early years in South West London
5. Pilgrims Chorus from Tannhauser (Wagner) - my favourite from a compilation of Opera Choruses – it just pips the Anvil Chorus
6. Sanctus from Requiem (Mozart) - any movement deserves to be in a top 8, but this was the death scene in Amadeus!
7. Hail Poetry from the Pirates of Penzance (Gilbert & Sullivan) – the first show I performed at Churchill Theatre Bromley
8. Cantique de Jean Racine or the Requiem (Fauré) - memories of singing with St Mary's and in Douai.

Confirmation 2019

If anyone from the age of 13 who has been baptised is interested in being confirmed, please contact Revd. Gary for an initial conversation. This year's Deanery Confirmation Service will take place on Wednesday 30th October at St. George's Church, Beckenham, at 7.30pm.

Revd. Gary will hold a series of Confirmation Classes after Sunday services, at 12.30pm, for one hour (refreshments will be provided).

The classes will be held on: September 22, 29; October 6, 20, 27. Contact: vicar@stmaryshortlands.church; 07493 072695.

Mission of the month

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

Demelza looks after children and young adults up to 19 years old with life limiting illnesses and their families in two residential hospices, Demelza Kent in Sittingbourne and Demelza South East London in Eltham. Demelza nurses also go directly into the children's homes offering a hospice at home service with Demelza Community in East Sussex.

Demelza offers support at diagnosis, symptom management, respite care, therapies, sibling and family support as well as end of life care and bereavement support.

In Sittingbourne there are now ten bedrooms and six bathrooms. Two of the bedrooms have ensuite facilities specifically for teenagers, which have recently been upgraded. Facilities include a music room, an art room, a sensory room, a soft play area and a Hydrotherapy Pool. There is now a cinema room and computer/games consoles available and use of Eye gaze (eye-driven) technology. There are large grounds with quiet reflective areas and a large pirate ship playground.

In Eltham there are 6 bedrooms, all with ensuite bathrooms, a music/sensory room, a wet play/art room, a family room, networked computers for family use and a small outdoor playground.

Care is taken into the home by Demelza Community to give families a break without having to travel. This enables children and young people with terminal conditions to have specialist care in familiar surroundings. As a result, families are given more flexibility and helped to retain a sense of control and independence. They can also access both hospices.

St Mary's Church has supported this wonderful charity since its inception in 1994 (the first Hospice in Sittingbourne was opened in 1998) and has continued to support the charity in its aim to help life limited children and their families live life to the full. Demelza Hospice Care for Children is grateful for all the support that has been given over the years by the people of St. Mary's.

For more information see the mission board at the back of Church in September or go to www.demelza.org.uk.

Bible for Everyone

An eight-week Bible study that is open and accessible to everyone. Using Bible Society resources, the course will take you on a journey through the Bible at a level that works for you: whether you are new to the Bible or want to go deeper, this course caters for all.

Using a unique storyline, the course shows how the key events, books and characters all fit together, and you will get to see the BIG picture and discover how the Bible applies to your life.

Bible for Everyone really is for everyone!

The course will run twice a week at St. Mary's, allowing a choice of attending during the day or evening, Tuesdays at 2pm or Wednesdays at 8pm. The course dates are: September 24/25; October 1/2, 8/9, 15/16; November 5/6, 12/13, 19/20, 26/27; December 3/4.

For further information, please contact Revd. Gary Best on 020 8460 0262 or vicar@stmaryshortlands.church.



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Local places to visit: Church House Gardens

Did you know that the gardens behind the library in Bromley High Street are made up of two originally distinct houses and gardens? They stretch from the library to Mill Lane and from Church Road to Ethelbert Road, consisting of upper and lower gardens on a steeply sloping site down to the River Ravensbourne.

The gardens are delightful and some of the winding paths and terraces can provide a strenuous workout for the unwary or the health conscious! All ages are catered for: the children's playground, with super slides, offers respite for families from the hustle and bustle of the shops. There are tennis courts and a skateboard/ scooter/ BMX bike park for the sports-minded. So how did we end up with such a lovely park in easy reach and en route to the High Street?

The 18th century rectory to the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul was re-built in 1832. The new house and grounds off Church Road were leased to Abel Moysey who began a programme of improvement to the grounds. After he died it was tenanted for fifty years, then Aldred Henwood acquired it in 1889. He and then his widow lived in it until 1926 when Bromley Council purchased it.

Number 16 High Street was a large house with gardens adjoining the Church House gardens. In 1850 it was bought by George Sparkes who had served as a judge in the Indian civil service. He named the house Neelgherries, after the hills of Nilgiris in India, of which the views across Bromley were said to be reminiscent. He later enlarged his property by buying number 17 High Street. The house and grounds were left to Bromley Council in 1900 by George's widow, to be used for education and learning. Thanks to a gift of £7,500 from Andrew Carnegie in 1906 a new library was erected on the site.

In 1926 the two gardens were merged into one. Unfortunately, Church House and the parish church were destroyed by an air raid in 1941. In the 1970s the new Churchill library and theatre complex were completed. Things may change again in the foreseeable future with plans for redeveloping the immediate area around the gardens.

For more information do look at:
www.bromleytownparks.wordpress.com and
www.londongardentrust.org

Two remarkable sisters

I'm Adrian Thomas, a parishioner at St Mary's and a Shortlands resident, and I have written another book, this time with my friend Francis Duck. The book is called 'Edith and Florence Stoney, Sisters in Radiology'

The book is the story of two remarkable Irish sisters, Edith and Florence Stoney. They both came to England in the 1890s for their higher education since this was not possible in Ireland at that time. Florence became a doctor and was a student at the London School of Medicine for Women, and Edith read physics at Cambridge. Edith became the first female medical physicist, and Florence the first female radiologist.

Their young professional lives are inspiring, and both were involved in the suffrage movement. Both served in the Great War with distinction, and made dramatic and significant contributions.

The book would make a great film, and I have always seen Kate Winslet as playing Florence. I had a wonderful time some years ago on Woman's Hour when I had an interesting conversation with Jenni Murray about Florence!

The book is published by Springer (£32.99) and an e-book is also available: ISBN 978-3-030-16560-4.

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands



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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 Tuesday

- 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 Revd Gary Best 8460 0262
(day off - Monday) Vicar@stmaryshortlands.church

Licensed Lay Ministers
Mrs S. Aldred 8460 3978
Mrs C. Bingham 8460 0324
Mrs A-M. Jefferys 8460 6030

Readers
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Mr S. Buchanan 8777 8008
Mrs S. Harrison 8464 0284
Mrs M. Westropp 8650 5178

Pastoral Assistants
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Mrs E. Parker 8460 5682

Parish Administrator
Assistant Mr A. Williams 07914343495
Churchwardens Mrs S. Leonard 07725313432

Deputies
Mrs P. Chase 8464 6188
Mr S. Clark 8464 0696
Mr D. Cooper 8460 0682
Prof M. Fox 8650 3252
Dr D. Jefferys 8460 6030

PCC Secretary Mrs S. Maurel 01689 331793
Treasurer Mr T. Dawson 8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer Mr R. Hogg 8290 0613

Organist and Director of Music
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

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 N. Blake 07773986337
Guides (Fri.) Mrs G. Dawson 8460 5884

Brownies (Mon.) Miss K. Higgs 8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.) Ms E. Bingham 07947347068

Brownies (Thurs.) Mrs S. Tight 8460 8122
Rainbows Ms H. Last 8460 1705
Pre-School Mrs C. Hall 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

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

SPAN INFORMATION

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