

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

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

February 2014. Year 34 Number 2

Light in a dark world

In the Church's calendar, Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is celebrated on February 2nd, or the Sunday nearest.

When Jesus was born it was custom that, following the birth of a firstborn male child, the mother must come to the temple after 40 days for purification and for presentation of the child to the Lord.

The presentation of Mary's child was different: this was Jesus, the Saviour, the Messiah who had been promised. We heard that, after Mary and Joseph had done all the things that tradition said they needed to, two people, Simeon and Anna, spoke out and explained who they knew Jesus to be. Like all babies he was special to his parents but Simeon and Anna knew that he was also important for everyone else in the world too.

Simeon knew that Jesus would allow people everywhere to get to know God. He said that Jesus would be a light to the whole world.

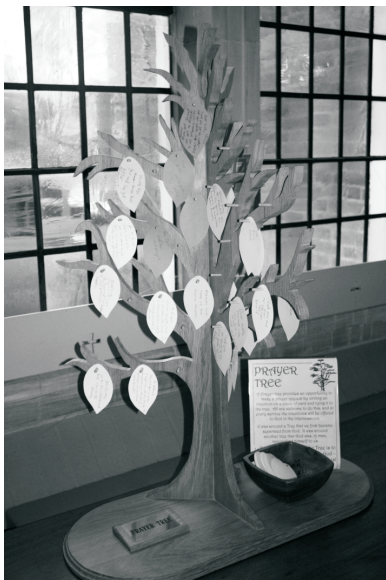
Jesus can be the Light for us as individuals and for the whole world in different ways.

He can be like a light that shows us the way, a light that brings deep joy into our lives, a light that brings comfort, reassurance and hope.

But that's not the whole picture. Jesus' light is also a warning, challenging light; it warns us that we have to be ready to change. The world is not as God wants it to be: we are not the people God wants us to be. Jesus' light warns us that we have to be ready to change, and then work with him to help make our world more like the kingdom of God.

Light illuminates, clarifies, brightens and reveals. In a world that can seem dark and lonely, may we shine like lights bringing joy and hope into each other's lives.

Rev Morag Finch



Keeping company with God

At St. Mary's we have a beautifully carved prayer tree made by a local craftsman, David Merritt. The design was conceived with his help, involving a committee of members of the congregation and a lot of prayer in 2011.

Anyone is welcome to take a leaf that we provide, write a prayer on it and hang it on the tree. The colour of the leaves changes with the seasons.

The tree is at the back of church: at our main services we pray for the prayers that the tree holds and for those people that put them there. The prayers are also read by the ministry team at other times.

Everyone is asked to date their prayer: after a month it is taken off the tree. A final petition is made at the Monday evening service by the Ministry Team. Anyone is free to re-date their prayer so it is kept for longer.

For Christians, a tree is an important symbol: it was around an apple tree in the Garden of Eden that we first became separated from God. Around another tree, the wood of the cross, God, in the form of Jesus, reconciled himself to us.

Prayer is an important part of our Christian faith. We know that God listens to us and will accompany us on life's journey. The tree can be used

in times of sorrow and also in times of joy and thanks. If others accompany us in that prayer it gives us strength and comfort. To hang a request on the tree is to keep company with God.

Access to the prayer tree is for all, when the church is open on a Sunday or in the mornings during office opening hours in the week.

Sue Harrison

Special Events and Services

Sunday 9 February

6.30pm Informal Communion Service

Sunday 16 February

4.00pm Deanery Confirmation Service
hosted at St Mary's

Wednesday 5 March – Ash Wednesday

10.00am & 8.00pm Holy Communion Services
with the Imposition of Ashes for those who wish it

Sunday 9th March

6.30pm Evening Worship with the Music Group

Sunday 16 March

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Smith

Canticles: Morley

Anthem: If ye love me - Tallis

Stay in touch!

To keep up with news from St. Mary's in between editions of SPAN, you can like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter – search for 'St Mary's Shortlands'.

Don't forget our website

www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk





At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

Peter Crampton	30 Oct	aged 88
Enid Cotman	8 Nov	aged 86
Thomas Basted	25 Nov	aged 81
Ann Roberts	1 Dec	aged 75
Dereck Hancock	3 Dec	aged 72
David Glynn	3 Dec	aged 85
Dorothy Pugh	23 Dec	aged 94

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:

15 Jan Joan Portwine



Remembering

Dorothy Pugh was born in 1919. She began work as a nursery nurse and later trained as a state registered nurse.

She married Roger in 1942 and they became parents to Robert and Sarah. She had 6 grandchildren.

During the war Dorothy travelled as nurse to Winston Churchill when he travelled across the Atlantic to America on the Queen Mary - he had asked for her specially.

Dorothy was a great supporter of many charities, including the Red Cross and medical benevolent fund. She loved nature, enjoying gardening and wildlife, particularly birds; she was a keen ornithologist and member of the RSPB.

Dorothy was a caring person and her kindness and generous nature were appreciated by many. She was a very understanding, non-judgemental person always willing to help people out. Dorothy was an active member of St Mary's Church for many years and is remembered with fondness and appreciation by many members of the congregation.

Joan Portwine was born in Sydenham, and was in all the sports teams at James Allen's school in Dulwich.

In her working life she became a Personnel Manager for the Savoy Hotel working out of Clapham. In 1941 she married her beloved Freddie: he was wearing his ill-fitting RAF uniform. They lived opposite the church in St Mary's Avenue for over 60 years and travelled the world together. They had two children: Michael and Gillian.

Joan was a woman of many varied interests including being a good needlewoman, brilliant cook, dressmaker and great hostess. In later years she became a driver for St Christopher's Hospice where Freddie had died and received an award for over 10 years' service.

She played bowls, croquet and bridge, and was very involved in Guiding. When her sight failed she joined the Beckenham Social Club for the Blind and the Bromley Blind Bowlers, both of which she loved – even winning a cup or two! She walked almost up to the end of her life, insisting on regular trips to Kelsey Park.

She believed fervently in the power of prayer but for those who didn't she offered 'positive thoughts'!

She considered her major achievement to be surviving to her old age and still being busy. She was determined to enjoy every possible moment of her life.

Her ashes have been interred at St Mary's where she worshipped faithfully for so many years.

Mission of the month



The Leprosy Mission (TLM)

Widely believed to be the world's oldest disease, leprosy is also one of the most stigmatised.

That stigma sees entire families robbed of their job opportunities, education and marriage prospects and their dreams shattered.

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease caused by a bacillus related to the TB bacillus that attacks the nervous system. Leprosy is linked to poverty, occurring where there are dirty water, bad nutrition and poor standards of living, meaning that people's nervous systems are not strong enough to fight the disease.

Globally, around a quarter of a million new cases of leprosy are diagnosed each year, and there are more than 3 million people living with irreversible disabilities, including blindness, as a result of late treatment of leprosy.

Research continues in a quest to produce a vaccine to prevent the spread of the disease. Since 1982 a cure – multidrug therapy – has been freely available, but early diagnosis and treatment is essential to arrest the disease and prevent sufferers from permanent and serious injury and disability.

TLM is an international Christian organisation, founded 140 years ago. Focusing its services on 11 countries in Africa and Asia, its passion is to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy. For more information, please see the display at the back of church or www.leprosymission.org.uk.

Ann Roberts was well known in the community of Shortlands.

She was a teacher at Pickhurst School for many years and she also tutored many local children. Teaching was Ann's vocation and she loved her work. She had an excellent sense of humour and was truly compassionate with all those she met.

Ann married Alan in 1960 and was a wonderful wife, helping him with his profound deafness, ensuring he was always included in conversations and giving him the support and encouragement necessary to enable him to achieve all that he has.

Ann was a great support and a gracious presence at our weekly services at Durham House, invariably arriving with fresh flowers from her garden.

She was a real fighter and faced up to having TB with determination.

A warm welcome at the library

Come and meet your neighbours and support your local library on Monday afternoons from 2.15-3.30pm during term time.

There are speakers and discussions on a variety of subjects such as history, crafts, travel, health and local and family history. There have been over 60 Tea & Topics meetings, visits from authors and illustrators, talks on historical dress, a plant swap, quizzes and an adult version of show and tell!

Ask for a programme and reserve a place at Shortlands Library, 110 Shortlands Road, BR2 0JP, telephone 020 8460 9692.

If you have an area of knowledge or an interest you would like to share, the library would be delighted to hear from you.

A plea on behalf of Bromley Libraries' Local Studies Library: if you have any unwanted photos of Shortlands over the years, they would be pleased to have them for the archives as they don't have many.





Lent 2014



Lent is an opportunity before the great Festival of Easter to take time out and reflect on our journey through life. There are a number of ways to help you to get the most out of Lent.

1. Home Groups

Lent is a great time to get together with other people to learn more about our faith. The Lent Home Groups will be meeting in people's houses during the day or during the evening. Different groups will meet on different days of the week.

Whether Christianity is something quite new to you and you feel you have little prior knowledge or you have been a Christian for many years and wish to deepen your relationship with God – you are welcome at a Home Group. Come and join in the conversation!

For further information please ring the Parish Office on 8460 5682 or see the sign-up sheets at the back of church.

2. Lent Lunches

A simple lunch for up to 10 people, providing an opportunity to meet together, enjoy hospitality and support a charity.

Dates and locations are on lists at the back of the church where you can sign up to attend, or please ring the Parish Office on 8460 5682 for more information.

3. Join us in church on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and hear members of our congregation discuss how their faith is influenced by the season of Lent. The course of special sermons will begin on March 9th, the first Sunday of Lent.

4. A Lent Retreat Day

On Saturday 8th March, Rev Jane Peters will lead a quiet day in the Church buildings - a time for reflection and fellowship. The day will include lunch.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the porch if you would like to attend. Donations of £10 are suggested.

5. Holy Week and Easter

Join with us as we prepare for the Easter celebrations

April 13th - Palm Sunday
10.30am Procession of Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday
6.30pm A Passiontide Service of Readings, Anthems and Hymns for Holy Week

April 17th - Maundy Thursday
8.00pm Washing of Feet, Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch

April 18th - Good Friday
10.30am Family Service
2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

April 20th - Easter Day
8.00am Sunrise Eucharist
10.30am Eucharist of the Resurrection including the renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt



Harris Primary Free School - update

Plans to open the school on the site of Kingswood House are still progressing. It is proposed that the school will be 2 form entry, building up over 7 years to 14 classes, with a total of 420 pupils.

Harris Federation are evidently continuing to look for a temporary site for the first academic year, likely to be a 5 - 10 minute drive away and probably not in Shortlands. They were hoping that the temporary site could be decided upon before the January 2014 deadline for application for places. However if there is insufficient demand this year the opening of the school will be postponed.

A feasibility study still has to be undertaken for the site and nothing has been finalised yet. Harris Federation should be in a position to consult the public on design ideas in February and building work is likely to start in early summer 2014.

It has also been announced that a bilingual (English / French) primary free school is to open in September 2014 on the site of the former Department for Work & Pensions building in Westmoreland Road. This will eventually provide 525 primary places.

Pat Chase



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Peter May: 8460 8828

HARD AT WORK: Guides from both St Mary's units helped out at the parish gardening morning in December. Rather bleary-eyed following their traditional Christmas 'sleepover' in the church hall, they nevertheless managed to clear an impressive quantity of dead leaves from the church gardens!

SPAN needs you!

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The Parish Church 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 0-18. All Age Eucharist or Parade Service (1st Sunday in the month, term time).
- 18.30 Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday in the month)

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

Vicar	Rev. M. Finch	8464 8065
	revfinch@btinternet.com	
Associate Priest	Rev. R. Finch	8464 8065
Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/ 8460 5682
Reader Emeritus	Mrs. A. Gimson	8460 6494
Reader	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Assistant	Mrs. E. Parker	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Deputies	Mrs. P. Chase	8464 6188
	Miss A. Parks	8464 1157
	Mr. S. Clark	8464 0696
	Mr. D. Cooper	8460 0682
	Mr. B. Waring	07957 186027
PCC Secretary	Miss J. Rambridge	8650 0947
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Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0031
Organist & Acting Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson 8460 7368	
Electoral Roll	Mr. N. Stoffel	8460 0063
Stewardship	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

PARISH OFFICE Tel/Fax 8460 5682

e-mail: office@stmaryshortlands.plus.com
Open 9.30 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 (Fri)	Mr. C. Wood	8658 1825
Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954 437658
Beavers/admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides please tel: 08001695901 or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07516 650940
Guides (Fri.)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon.)	Miss K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Wed.)	Mrs. R. Kateswaran	8249 0984
Brownies (Thurs.)	Mrs. G. Attoh	07946 833576
Rainbows	Ms. W. Keeping	8466 1599
Pre-School	Mrs. S. Tight	8460 8122
	Mrs. P. Chase	8290 6704
		or 07960 988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Heayberd	8460 9537
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. E. Noad	8462 3295
Cllr D. Jefferys	07944 565455
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Highfield Infants' School	8464 7804
Highfield Junior School	8460 2597
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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Editorial	Parish Office 8460 5682
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