

## 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](http://www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk)

January 2011. Year 31 Number 1

## Snow! What Snow?



During the recent snowy weather St. Mary's Pre-School was one of the few schools to be open.

The following note was received from one of the parents:

"Full credit should be given to Pat Chase and her Team at St. Mary's Pre-School, who, despite inches of snow and sub-zero temperatures opened every day during the cold period.

After struggling through snow with prams and sledges parents were somewhat surprised and grateful to find St. Mary's open for business as usual, unlike other schools in the borough that had closed.

A week of fun Christmas activities were had by all, with some of the older children venturing outside to build their very own Pre-School snowman.

Thanks to Pat and the Team, keep eating those Weetabix!"

*Katherine Avis - Pre-School Mum*

## New Year's Message from Douai



### HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011

Thank you again for your welcome and the visit to Rochester which we enjoyed with you in May last year. Together we were able to trace back the roots of the Church of England and our joint history for more than 15 centuries.

Today do we not still share the same baptism in the name of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit? This initial rite has opened to us brotherhood in Jesus Christ.

Living together in brotherly love, support and co-operation is not always easy. Sometimes we do not understand each other.

By being born of Mary, the eternal Son became the brother of all mankind. He brings to our human level the everlasting love of his Father - timeless, universal and available to all. He unites us all, both the meek and the mighty. So through Christ we gain strength and encouragement to help us serve our fellow man, particularly the poorest in society and those who may appear alien or even hostile. Jesus calls us to this task on both sides of the Channel, in both our Churches. The same Lord assures us of his presence and his continual support. May we all rise to this challenge in the coming year. May the Lord bless you.

Your brother in Christ,  
Michel Rimaux  
Priest of the Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Douai



Canon Paul Miller with Abbe Michel Rimaux during the exchange visit in Shortlands last May.

SPAN readers may remember learning that the church of Sainte Thérèse in Douai had to close last year after failing an H&S inspection. After extensive repairs it re-opened in May, as heating was not needed during the summer months. The heating system has now been thoroughly overhauled and was finally switched back on in

November, just as the temperatures in France plummeted! Our friends in Douai would like to thank the generosity of the people of Shortlands who contributed around £500 towards the repairs of their church. This sum was handed over to them in Euros at the parade Service at St. Mary's during their visit last May.

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!



## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:  
21 Nov Oliver Thomas

### At Rest

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:  
10 Nov George Capell, aged 86



## Remembering

### George Capell

George was born in Leicester. His father was a cobbler. He was an engineer by profession who helped in building power stations. He was married to Bernice and they retired to Broadstairs from where they enjoyed day trips to France.

When Bernice died in 1990, he moved to Shortlands to be near one of his sons, Mark, before latterly moving to a residential home.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by Canon Paul Miller, took place at Beckenham Crematorium prior to cremation. Due to the heavy snow not all his family and friends were able to attend, but his sons, Mark and Paul and two of his grandchildren were there.



## How to survive your coming year

What does 2011 hold for you? Are big problems looming ahead? Are you worried you could get hurt? Life can be like a rough competitive sport. Even your friends around you can help you only so much. Every time you take a step towards your goal, your enemies bring you down to earth with a thud.

American football players know the dangers of getting hurt 'out there'. As one recalls: 'I played scholastic American football for ten years. I wasn't especially big as far as football players are measured, and I often got hurt by blows from bigger players and hard contact.'

Yet that young player, never once in ten years, missed a game. 'For although I was often hurt, I was never injured. I was competitive and durable. I have strong bones and a hard head!' As 2011 gets underway, how can you make sure that you will be like him – strong and durable? How do you keep going when life's problems tower over you?

This American football player is also a Christian, and he has found: 'If you turn to God, and put your trust in Christ, then though you may often be hurt, your deep inner self will never be injured – never harmed. God's people are not sheltered from being attacked or hurt, or even from physical suffering and untimely death from martyrdom. But we are kept from injury to our spirits and our faith.'

'Jesus teaches us that the way to overcome fear of our circumstances is to have faith in him – to trust in his love and care and seek to honor him as our Lord. Throughout the gospels, Jesus commands fearful people to replace fear with faith, as when he rebuked the fear of the disciples in the storm (Matthew 8:26).

Faith in Christ is a powerful force! It subdues our fears and enables us to trust that even though we don't know what the future holds, we know who holds the future. God doesn't initiate evil in this fallen world, but he does allow it, and it can hurt! But if you turn to God, he will transform your problems into occasions for helping you grow. Then you may be hurt this coming year, but you will NOT be harmed.'

### Remember Radio Luxembourg?

Radio Luxembourg – the UK's first ever independent commercial radio station that flourished from the late Forties to the Sixties, was founded 60 years ago this year, in 1951. The station's cast list reads like a Who's Who of the DJ world, with Alan Freeman, David 'kid' Jensen, Peter Powell, Tony Blackburn and Steve Wright all former Luxy-ites. Even Noel Edmunds did a stint... reading the news. Radio Luxembourg, as we knew it in the UK, closed 20 years ago, in 1991, but it still lives on - on the internet.

# More snow



The snow presented great photographic opportunities, and Michael Johnson, one of St. Mary's parishioners, was out with his skis and camera to make the most of the wintry conditions.

These pictures, and others, are available for sale for postcards, for example. Please contact the Parish Office (8460 5682) for more information.

## Recipe of the month

### White chocolate, lemon and raspberry muffins

These muffins are very quick and easy to make. All you need to do is mix the dry ingredients with the wet and mix briefly. The lumpier the mixture, the lighter your muffins will be.

- 300g Self raising flour
- 1 tsp Baking powder
- 4 tsp Butter
- 80g Sugar
- 100g Raspberries
- 150g Chopped white chocolate
- Grated peel of a lemon
- 2 Eggs lightly beaten
- 225ml Milk

These ingredients will make 12 portions.

Preheat the oven to 200c.

Line a 12-cup muffin tin with grease paper.

Mix the flour, baking powder and butter until it looks like breadcrumbs.

Stir in the sugar, chocolate, raspberries and lemon peel.

Whisk together the eggs and milk in a jug, then pour this into the dry mixture.

Mix briefly and do not worry if the mixture looks lumpy.

Spoon the batter into the muffin cases and bake until well risen, golden and firm.

Cooking time approx 18 to 20 minutes.

Serve warm or cold.

Enjoy!

### Shortlands Golf Club Long established (1894) Family Golf Club

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# Christmas Fayre a great success

St. Mary's Christmas Fayre took place in November, with a Victorian theme and the stall-holders all joined in to make the event a great success.

The Fayre was supported by the community and raised over £2,800.

Thank you to the organising committee, all the stall-holders and helpers and all those who attended.

The photos show some of those who joined in the fun.



## Archbishop's message to Christians in Iraq

The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued a message to Christians in Iraq, following the killings in Bagdad at the end of last year. "We have repeatedly highlighted the plight of Christian minorities in Iraq, and the need for them to enjoy a dependable freedom of conscience, religion and worship, to flourish as minority communities, and to contribute to the common good of Iraqi society. But the killing of worshippers at Our Lady of Salvation Church in Bagdad has demonstrated a new low point of Christian vulnerability in the country. This slaughter of unarmed people gathered in church to worship God is a shocking and disgraceful act that should be utterly condemned by people of all faiths and none."

## Left out in the cold

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services each week, stopped going. After a few weeks, the vicar decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The vicar found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his vicar's visit, the man welcomed him warily, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The vicar made himself comfortable, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the vicar took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead and dark. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The two men sat on in reflective silence.

A little while later, just before the vicar was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the vicar reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

## Grave certainties

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man with no family or friends. The service was to be at a cemetery some distance away. As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost, and finally arrived an hour late.

The funeral director and hearse were long gone. There were only the diggers left and they were eating lunch. I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The lid was partially covered with soil. The diggers stared at me over their sandwiches, and I sensed their reproach that I had deserted this dead man in his final hour of need. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The diggers looked quite startled at this, and put down their lunches. But they stood quietly enough while I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently I'm still lost....

## Special Services for January

**Sunday, 30 January - Confirmation**

**10.30am - Confirmation Service**

President and Preacher - The Bishop of Tonbridge  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Brian Castle will visit Shortlands for the Annual Service of Confirmation.

**6.30pm - Choral Evensong for Candlemas**

Responses: Neary.

Canticles: Wood in D.

Anthem: When to the temple Mary went (Eccard).

## Mission of the Month



**The Leprosy Mission**

Contrary to popular belief, leprosy is a mildly infectious disease, which is neither hereditary nor caught by touch.

Leprosy is caused by a bacterium which is related to the tuberculosis bacterium, or TB germ, and scientists believe it is passed through droplets of moisture carried on the air, from someone who has leprosy but has not yet started treatment.

Leprosy is most common in places of poverty, and those subjected to dirty surroundings, overcrowding and poor nutrition are more susceptible to leprosy infection.

Sadly this age-old disease, closely associated with biblical times, is still without an effective preventative vaccine, but is curable with multi-drug therapy (MDT).

Many people are terrified of catching leprosy and some even see it as a curse, and diagnosis of leprosy can lead to divorce, loss of work, home and friends.

Early detection and treatment with MDT are therefore vital and after only a couple of days on treatment, sufferers are no longer infectious. Though the disease is surrounded by myths, stigma and fear, leprosy is more than a medical condition and delay in diagnosis and treatment can lead to serious disability.

The Leprosy Mission is a worldwide Christian organisation active in over 50 countries with a vision for a world without leprosy and a passion to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy.

This charity has been supported by St. Mary's for many years and is our Mission for the Month of January. There will be a display on the Missions notice board during January and further information can be found on [www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk)

**The Parish Church  
of St. Mary,  
Shortlands**



Link Parish

St. Francis of  
Assisi, Douai, France

**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. D. Speller	8466 1184
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
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	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
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Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978

**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.

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Cubs (Mon.)	Mrs. J. Garvey	8249 8785
Cubs (Tues.)	Mr. J. Griffiths	8285 3968
Beavers &		
admissions	Mr. J. Westropp	8650 5178
Guides (Tues.)	Ms. N. Keast	07825 648472
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	8650 1720
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Editorial	Parish Office 8460 5682
Distribution	Mr. A. Jones 8460 5437
	Mrs. J. Kelsey 8466 1093

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