

A colourful View

Recently in church I spoke about liturgical colours (that is, the colours used in the church to symbolise different seasons and occasions). I have had several conversations since with people who couldn't remember what the different colours represent, so I thought it might be a useful reminder to those who have forgotten and of interest to those who wonder why we use different colours.

Understanding symbols helps us make sense of what is happening. Colours can help us in our preparation before worship, a setting of the scene. They indicate to us the season of the year or the type of service we can expect.

There are four main colours that we use in church: white, purple, green and red.

White is the colour that we use for special celebrations, for our major festivals - Christmas and Easter. We also use white for baptism, weddings and ordination and some Saints' days.

Purple is the colour that we use during Advent and Lent. It is one that we associate with watching and waiting, a colour for times of preparation and also penitence.

Red is used for times we associate with the Holy Spirit such as Pentecost. It is a rich colour, often associated with royalty, and so it is used at times when we remember Christ the King, and what it is to be part of his Kingdom. We also use red for some Saints' days, notably those who were killed for their faith as red is the colour of blood.

The fourth colour is green. We use green on the other weeks, the days known as ordinary time. I like to think of green being a colour of growth - the green leaves, grass and new plant growth sprouting. These weeks when we put down our roots and grow in strength. This helps give us support in the difficult times and also keeps us grounded in the good times when we might be tempted to get carried away.

Rev Morag Finch

Special Events and Services

Sunday 21 January

4.00pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Spicer

Canticles: Dyson in F

Anthem: Evening Hymn - Balfour Gardner

Sunday 28 January - Stewardship Sunday

We will be thinking about what stewardship means today

HAVE YOU SEEN...

our website has been updated and redesigned. Take a look at www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

Stay in touch!

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



FUN OF THE FAIR: the Guides joined in the fun at the Christmas Fair in December



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into God's family:

26 November Matilda Varela

Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved

Douglas Smith 3 November

Remembering

Douglas Smith

Douglas was born in Dulwich and brought up there. He was an Alleen's Old Boy and remained in touch with friends made in his school days until fairly recently. The Boys would meet every couple of months for lunch and once a year the 'girls' were invited along too. Douglas was MD of his own company which involved industrial metal printing and it was a joy for him that his son Roger joined him in the company.

His marriage to Jenny – at All Saints Upper Norwood – lasted 65 years. They were not always easy years, encompassing as they did the deaths of both of their children, but Douglas faced that tragic loss with determination and focus as he had his time in the war which he would only say had been difficult. He faced tragedy by being practical and taking an active role in the nurturing of his grandchildren and Jenny his wife. He did it with humour and decency.

Douglas contributed enormously to everything in which he was involved including the Bowls Club and Round Table. He loved music, wrote poetry and behind the scenes was tireless in helping others.

He is remembered as a thoroughly decent gentle man who loved his family and was in turn adored by them. A man of impeccable manners who gave his family a really solid foundation and values with which to face their lives.

Christians Together

18 to 25 January is marked as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (even though it's eight days!) Churches Together in Beckenham, of which St Mary's is part, will be hosting times of worship at churches in the area: details will be available in church. We are also planning to have a pulpit swap on Sunday 21 January where some clergy will preach at the main service in another church.

GETTING CONNECTED: Do you sometimes feel lonely or isolated? Do you know someone who would like to feel more involved in their local area? Take a look at

<https://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/connectingbromley/services>

The Friends of St Mary's invite you to their

Annual Dinner

to be held at Langley Park Golf Club
Saturday 13th January 2018 7pm for 7.30pm

Evening Dress or lounge suits

Tickets £39 each

Tickets available from the Church Office

Everyone is welcome.



SPAN - St Mary's Parish Newsletter – aims to reflect news and topics of interest from St Mary's church, and the parish of Shortlands. If you have any ideas for articles, please let the Parish Office know.

SPAN THANKS

We record our thanks this month for gifts amounting to £5.00

My Day Job

I retired from my role as Team Leader for Older Persons Services at Moat Homes in 2011 having worked in housing since 1988 when I moved to Bromley from North Wales. Born in Middlesex with a father who was a serving RAF Officer we moved often and lived in Singapore during the 1950s.



Leaving school at 16, I started my working life as a Scientific Assistant at the then Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Based in the Space department I first worked as a computer programmer (in the days when computers filled a large room and had valves) and then testing solar cells for satellites. Moving to Canada in 1966 I worked for a time in Nuclear Medicine at Toronto General Hospital. After a short career as a student nurse, marriage and becoming a mother, I moved to Conwy in North Wales where I worked as a Secondary School Laboratory Technician and then as the Buyer for an engineering company.

I became a committed Christian 32 years ago. This and the desire to move back to southern England led me to apply for a position with a small Christian Housing Association in Bromley and a complete change of career. One I have never regretted.

I have held many voluntary roles including helping to set up a Playgroup, 15 years as a First Aid and Nursing Instructor for the British Red Cross and membership of three Local Authority Adoption Panels. As well as my various church roles I currently sit on three Sheltered Housing committees and am a member of the Bromley and Lewisham MIND fund raising committee.

Kay Coleman



FRIENDS TOGETHER: The 2WWs group enjoyed a Christmas lunch together.

Phyl onto her second century!



On 15 December Phyl Clegg, a regular worshipper at St. Mary's since 1994, reached 100 years of age, and some very happy celebrations marked the event. Friends and family travelled from as far as Malta and New Zealand to join the family at a dinner at Park Langley Squash and Tennis Club, and on Sunday, 17 December, many of the large congregation joined Phyl in the Church Hall for a reception after the 10.30am service.

Lynne and Paul Miller (previous incumbent at St Mary's and friends of Phyl and her family) were present, and Canon Paul had been invited to preach at the service. It was a very happy event.

Phyl was born into a farming community in the middle of the First World War (when horses pulled ploughs and the children milked the cows before going to school), trained as a hairdresser (ultimately running her own salon), was 'blitzed' in the Second World War, married into the RAF and travelled the world with her husband Arthur, before travelling still further with her daughter and son in law after Arthur's death in 1992. She has always been ready for a challenge!

Her family attribute Phyl's long life and popularity to her readiness to experience new things and places, her determination, resilience and ability to find the humour in everything – including herself! Lincolnshire is clearly good for longevity, as Peggy Smith, another St Mary's parishioner, also hailed from there – and she is now 102!

Best foot forward

Ann-Marie and David Jefferys are undertaking a physical and emotional challenge in October 2018. They will be walking 100km across the frontline of the Battles of the Somme and Passchendaele in northern France and Belgium in three days.

Ann-Marie will be walking in memory of those named on the Shortlands war memorial, and David will be walking in memory of those who fell from St. Dunstan's College.

They will be visiting many cemeteries and memorials including Tyne Cot, the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing and the Menin Gate. The walk will be gruelling but it will be worth every step as they support ABF The Soldiers' Charity who support serving soldiers, veterans and their families in times of need.

If you would like to support them in their challenge please donate here:

<http://fundraising.soldierscharity.org/JefferysWalkingUnlimited>

or cheques made payable to ABF The Soldiers' Charity can be left in the church office for the attention of the Jefferys. Thank you very much for your support: they look forward to keeping you updated!

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Mission of the month

Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA)

SPANA's vision is a world where every working animal lives a life free from suffering. Its mission is to improve the welfare of working animals in the world's poorest countries. In turn, this helps the poor to improve their lives through increased time for education, leading to a better standard of living.

SPAN aims to treat animals with free veterinary care at accessible mobile clinics, train expert vets and promote humane care by the animal owners and teach children to have respect and compassion towards animals.

SPANA predominantly cares for the hidden workforce of horses, donkeys, mules, camels and livestock. Few people in developed countries realise how developing countries still rely on animals for transporting food, water and goods.

Animals underpin the livelihoods of a billion people worldwide. They contribute to the economic wellbeing of families by improving the status of women in society and supporting the education of children, who without working animals would be performing the tasks themselves rather than being educated in the classroom. It is important to have well cared for, healthy, happy animals to provide a strong reliable workforce to release people to develop and improve their lives.

For more information see the board at the back of church or visit www.spana.org

Learning about other faiths and religions

As Christians we live alongside people of many faiths and cultures. Jesus taught that we are to love God and to love our neighbour. One way of showing that love is to have some understanding of other's faiths so that we can join together in each others' celebrations and in community life.

This year we plan to run a series of articles on world faiths and religions apart from Christianity, and to pinpoint some of their important days and festivals.

It appears that there are no particular days of significance in January, but it seems appropriate that the third Sunday in January – this year the 21st – is known in some quarters as World Religion Day.

It was established by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States in 1950 as a way to encourage interfaith understanding.

Baha'i is a form of faith that emerged in 19th century Persia and follows three core principles: unity of God, religion and humankind. The Baha'is believe that there is a single God and the spirituality of all religions in the world stem from this single god. They also believe that all humans are born equal and have the same rights and duties irrespective of any other factors

Keeping in line with this philosophy, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States announced the institution of World Religion Day in 1949. The first such day was observed in 1950.

The day calls for members of all religions in the world to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals. This would appear to be a good starting point for the year.



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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

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(Sat - Thu)	revfinch@btinternet.com	
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Associate Vicar	Rev. J. Peters	07531 617302/8460 5682
(Sun, Mon, Wed)		
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Junior Church	Mrs. S. Aldred	8460 3978
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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

Mothers & Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	8650 4553
Mothers' Union Fellowship Group		
Friends of St. Mary's	Mrs. P. White	8460 9357
	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. 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. 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

Clr. M. Cooke	020 3665 0357
(Email: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Clr D. Jefferys	020 8460 6030
(Email: david.jefferys@bromley.gov.uk)	
Residents' Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

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