

Looking Forward

For many people, 2020 was a year they would rather forget for many reasons. A year when we had to say goodbye to so many who no longer reside on this earthly place, but people who remain in our hearts forever. A year of lockdowns, resulting in isolation and loneliness for many. Not being able to hug our friends and family... a time to forget for so many.

But, as we turn to the New Year, let us not forget the wonderful sense of community that we have re-discovered. The opportunities of serving one another in a way not witnessed for many years, the work of front-line workers, to all these people we give thanks and continue to give thanks as their work is far from over.

Within this issue of SPAN, we have included some New Year Resolutions shared by local people.

Typical resolutions within the UK would appear to be more exercise (47%), losing weight (44%) and saving more money (31%) three of the more common resolutions many of us make each year, which we generally fail to fulfil by the end of February!

How about we take what we have learnt from the past year and take three simple resolutions into the New Year? From all that we have learnt I see three resolutions to be focussed on... Love, Compassion and Prayer.

LOVE - for Christians, love is the most distinguishing characteristic: 'everyone knows that you are my disciples if you love one another'. Jesus exuded love to everyone he encountered, whether saint or sinner. Let us continue to love one another, whether Christian or not; it is a gift that can be freely given.

COMPASSION - Compassion is borne out of love for others. It means 'to suffer together'. Compassion compels us to come alongside and partner with someone who is suffering, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. Let us continue to show compassion to all those around us who are in need.

PRAYER - Prayer is a great way to exchange our own wishes and to listen to and discern what God might like you to do. Prayer is a way to bring a community together to pray for something or someone specific in our lives or in our community. Prayer is a way of saying sorry, but it is also a means of giving thanks for all that we have in life.

I would encourage you to consider love, compassion and prayer within your New Year Resolutions

and to continue to feel blessed with what we have around us and to continue to be grateful for the people and the community in which we live and serve.

Love and Blessings, Revd Gary Best

Stay in touch!



To keep up with the latest news from St Mary's, you can 'like' our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter - search for **'St Mary's Shortlands'**.



If you're not sure how to do it, ask in the office and they'll put you in touch with someone who can give you an introduction to 'social media'.

Special Events and Services

Sunday 10 January

10.30am - All-Age Service

This service does not include Holy Communion

Sunday 17 January

6.30pm - Choral Evensong

Services will be held in church unless otherwise stated above, but all may be subject to change based on government coronavirus restrictions. Any updates will be shared through www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk and www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

My day job

I was brought up in New Cross and attended Edmund Waller Primary School and then Mary Datchelor Girls' School.

I trained as a teacher in Exmouth and got married to Colin immediately after leaving Rolle College in 1967. I taught at Haseltine Primary School in Lower Sydenham where I became Deputy Head and then Acting Head before leaving to have our children Tim, Anna and Gareth.

Once Gareth was at school in 1987 I returned to teaching at Dulwich College Prep School. In 1997 I moved 500 yds along the road to become Head of Junior School at Dulwich College where I stayed until I retired in 2009.

Having spent my whole life in education I became a lead inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate. I inspected over 60 schools right across the country which was a fascinating and rewarding experience. I stopped inspecting in 2013 and began working with my husband's nephew who was developing a group of independent prep schools across the south of England between Gloucestershire and Kent. The group now numbers nine schools and I still visit all of them in a consultancy role.

During my time at Dulwich Prep in the 80s I was baptised and then confirmed at St Mary's and joined the choir. I sang for several years and then pressure of work led me to have a break until I re-joined under Claire Tillotson when she took over the music. I love singing in the choir and I also make cakes for the mobility class and am a member of the Craft and Chatter Group. I also love spending time with our four grandchildren, one of whom is a regular visitor to the Mobility Class!

Penny Horsman

Pictured: Penny with Saskia, the honorary member of the Mobility group.



Now you see us...

Thank you to those who helped cut the hedges and bushes to make the church more visible from the road and pavement. Look for more news on how St Mary's looks outwards to the local community in the New Year.



New Year's Resolutions

We asked some local people what resolutions they will make:

As a general rule, I don't make New Year resolutions, despite the fact there are so many ways in which I could be so much better. Rather, we tend to have "projects" – things that we would like to achieve in the next year.

(Mark Dempsey - Shortlands Residents Association)

I don't 'do' New Year's Resolutions ... I used to, and whatever theme or topic or lifestyle choice I resolved to address I managed to fail by the Feast of the Epiphany (6th January)!

(The Ven Dr Paul Wright - Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley)

Our New Year Resolution is about family and making quality time the priority. We also want to continue to commit to learning mandarin which we started this year!

(Aisha Cuthbert - Local Councillor)

Charles and Renate Keeping



This is the latest in a series of articles on blue plaques commemorating notable people in and around our parish.

Charles Keeping was an English illustrator, children's book author and lithographer. He first came to prominence with his illustrations of Rosemary Sutcliff's historical novels for children, and he created more than twenty picture books. He also illustrated the complete works of Charles Dickens for the Folio Society.

He was born in Lambeth and its background of markets and docks was a great influence on him. Keeping won two Kate Greenaway Medals from the Library Association for the year's best children's book illustration, for his own story *Charley, Charlotte and the Golden Canary* (1967) and for a new edition in 1981 of Alfred Noyes's poem *The Highwayman*.

His prints are in many collections, including at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and he was one of the most revered and respected illustrators of his day.

Charles' wife was the internationally recognised artist **Renate Keeping**. Born in Berlin, she was brought to England in 1933 by her father to escape increasing danger for Jewish people in Germany.

Renate met Charles at the Regent Street Polytechnic. They married and then settled in Shortlands in 1960. Renate experimented with a range of art forms using paint, text, thread, papier-mache and textiles as well as writing children's books and teaching in further education.

When Charles died in 1988, Renate created the Keeping Gallery in part of the house where they lived, to exhibit their work to classes of children and adults. You can find out more at www.thekeepinggallery.co.uk

The Blue Plaques are on the wall of 16 Church Road where they lived and where the gallery remains (visits by appointment).

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Leprosy Mission

World Leprosy Day will fall on 31st January 2021: it is annually observed on the last Sunday in January, to coincide with the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death. A fearless campaigner for the rights and dignity of all people, Gandhi was a big crusader against leprosy.

Many people believe leprosy to be extinct. However, every day nearly 600 people are diagnosed with this disease that, if untreated, can cause extensive nerve damage leading to loss of sensation, ulcers, infections, weakness in the eyelids causing blindness, permanent disability, deformity and long periods of hospitalisation and surgery, which may involve amputation.

The physical effects are often outweighed by the stigma and discrimination suffered by leprosy patients, many of whom lose their jobs, struggle to find new employment and suffer rejection by their partners, families, friends and communities.

Many years of research surrounding leprosy appear to be leading to the day, hopefully not far off, when an effective and tried and tested vaccine is ready to be rolled out, initially in India, which could lead to the eventual eradication of this pernicious disease. There are however currently over three million of its victims worldwide with irreversible disabilities who will continue to require ongoing treatment and support for many years to come.

The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian organisation, founded in 1874, transforming the lives affected by leprosy, with a vision for a world without leprosy. Further information is available from the display at the back of the church throughout January or at www.leprosymission.org.uk

Safer Neighbourhoods update

Crime is low but let's not be complacent!

The current prevalent crime is theft from motor vehicles and theft of catalytic converters. Police advice is to always lock your vehicles and not to leave valuables in plain sight (better to remove them altogether); park your car in a locked garage; and if this is not possible park in a well-lit area, with the exhaust closest to a fence or wall to make catalytic converter theft more difficult. Keeping your vehicle keys in a Faraday cage, which can be bought from the internet or Halfords (£5), will prevent computer interference used by criminals.

If you would like to receive the regular local Police crime updates, including more advice, contact Graham Pyefinch (graham658@hotmail.com), Chair of the Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood Panel, with your postal address and contact telephone number.

If you see someone acting suspiciously around or under your vehicle, report it immediately by calling 999. Obtain as much information as possible including any vehicle registration being used by the criminals. Reporting suspicious behaviour or a crime actually happening helps the Police enormously in fighting crime and keeping us all safe.

If reporting any incident on discovery after the event, call 101 or report on the Police UK website (www.met.police.uk/ro/report).

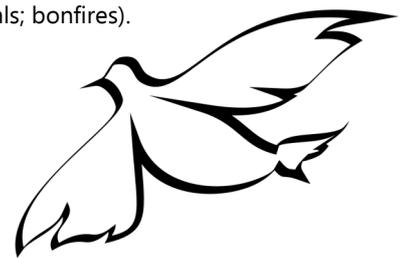
Our new Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs), PC Leanne Hartley and PC William Shelley, have now joined the local Police team; please have a welcome chat when you see them on patrol. Our PCSO is Adam Charles.

Useful contacts:

Bromley Trading Standards Rapid Response Team - Tel 07903 852090 (Rogue Traders and Scams).

Action Fraud – www.actionfraud.police.uk - Tel 0300 123 2040 (Fraud and cyber crime).

Bromley Council Public Protection – Tel 0300 303 8657 (Nuisance: e.g. noise where you should give the source address; animals; bonfires).



St Mary's welcomed many people from the wider community to a Nativity scene in the church grounds on 5 and 12 December. The socially distanced visitors enjoyed Christmas music, mulled wine, roasted chestnuts - and raised money for the church's work and the organ fund.



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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 for children aged 0-18
18.30 Choral Evensong, except when notified. (3rd Sunday in the month)

Every Tuesday

17.30 Evening Prayers

Every Wednesday

10.30 Holy Communion

Further information about all services can be obtained from the Parish Office.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Revd Gary Best	8460 2622
(day off Friday)	Vicar@stmaryshortlands.church	
Curate	Revd Beverley Ejimofa	
(Tue, Wed, Sun)		0772 621 7571
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mrs S. Aldred	8460 3978
	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Readers	Mr. P. Stotesbury	8650 3259
	Mr S. Buchanan	8777 8008
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. M. Westropp	8650 5178
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Ms. N. Blake	8460 5682
Churchwardens	Mr A. Williams	07914343495
	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. Hoagg	8290 0613
Organist and Director of Music	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Assistant Organist	Mr. D. Beach	8289 6510
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs. K. Coleman	07879337567
Electoral Roll	Mrs. S. Maurel	01689 331793
Junior Church	Mrs. J. Eade	3624 0559
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE 020 8460 5682
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	8402 6599
Craft and Chatter	Mrs. J. Boam	8460 7101
Friends of St Mary's	Mr. T. Chase	8464 6188

For admission to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts please contact email: 7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
Cubs (Mon)	Mrs. P. Braithwaite	8460 4152
Cubs (Tue)	Mr. J. Griffiths	07954437658
Beavers	Ms. E Hay	07932758801

For admissions to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

Guides (Tue)	Ms. N. Critten	07767242920
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)	Mrs S. Tight	8460 8122
Rainbows	Ms. H. Last	8460 1705
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Fair Trade	Mrs. C. Willatt	8313 0246

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cllr. M. Cooke	07912 649058
(E: Mary.Cooke@bromley.gov.uk)	
Cllr. A. Cuthbert	(E: aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk)
Residents Association	8460 4060
Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

SPAN INFORMATION

Website www.stmaryshortlands.org.uk
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Distribution Mr. M. Harrison 07821 691567

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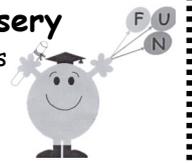
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