

Send me!

July sees many of our young people in Shortlands contemplating their future. They have finished school and national exams which will determine future school, university, and work places. They will be thinking about their skills, what they find interesting, and what their inner self, or gut feeling, is calling and directing them to pursue.

At St. Mary's we are very fortunate to have a strong Ministry Team of people who felt called to work in different areas of life within the church and the Shortlands community. We are also blessed with a range of people who use their God-given gifts to support the life of the Church in many different areas. None of us are special; we are all ordinary people who, over the years, have listened, discerned and answered the call from God.

Discerning what God wants us to do with our lives isn't easy. Christians have all answered Jesus' call to follow Him, just as the disciples did two thousand years ago.

Over the past few weeks St Mary's has advertised for a new incumbent. We have been praying that

God would be working in the heart of someone who would be drawn to our parish and community, who feels God calling them to serve in this place. Jesus said 'Whom shall I send?' and our church members are praying that our new incumbent is answering God's call, just like Isaiah did, 'Here I am. Send me!'

But what about you? Are you listening to God's call? Do you want to explore what following Jesus is about? Or what is going on at St. Mary's? For some of you, it will be offering to help out using your God given talents, for others it will be taking the first step through the door of St. Mary's on a Sunday morning, to our Wednesday Community Café, or to one of our social events.

Whatever direction you take, I pray that God will continue to call many to his service within the community of Shortlands, and at St. Mary's.

Ann-Marie Jefferys



Cllr David Jefferys and Ann-Marie Jefferys became Bromley's Mayor and Mayoress in May: see page 3.

St Mary's Choir

will be singing at
Rochester Cathedral services
at 3.15pm on Saturday 20th and
10.30am and 3.15pm Sunday 21st July
All are welcome to support them!



Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:
Nicholas Julian Powell

18 June

CONGRATULATIONS to Melanie and Luke Benton-Drury who celebrated their wedding at St Mary's on 18th May. Mel grew up in Shortlands, attending Highfield Infants' and Junior Schools, then Langley Park School for Girls. She was a Rainbow, Guide and Young Leader at St Mary's, and became leader of Tuesday Guides.



Mel's father Bill, a United Reformed Church minister, officiated alongside Archdeacon Allie Kerr.

After the ceremony and many photos in the church grounds, the reception was held at Cooling Castle Barn near Rochester.

Farewell to Marion



St Mary's recently bid farewell to Marion Westropp, a longstanding member of the congregation.

The Westropps - Marion, John and sons Charles and Peter - moved from Islington to Scotts Lane in 1986. Looking for a church, they fortunately settled on St. Mary's. Marion resumed working for the NHS and the family became involved with many aspects of church life.

John began the Beaver colony in which Marion assisted until she swapped noisy little boys for more genteel Brownies. Marion's love of singing led her to join the choir and later, the Music Group. She assisted with Youth Club, even venturing on two camping holidays which she has erased from her memory!

She continued on her faith journey by qualifying as a Pastoral Assistant, assisting at Wednesday communion services and at Durham House and administering Home Communion. She also led many Home Groups, participants being welcomed by a golden Labrador.

Marion's dedication to Welcare is widely known: fundraising quiz nights with John as quizmaster were enjoyed by many. New Bromley Mayor Cllr Dr David Jefferys presented a certificate to Marion from the Bishops of Southwark and Rochester and Bromley Council recognising her 35 years' service to healthcare, pastoral work and as a volunteer for Bromley Welcare.

Marion said she felt 'so overwhelmed' by the kind tributes she thought she'd been to her own funeral and it was a 'cracking eulogy'. Her final 'swansong' was during the service when the choir sang an anthem accompanied on the baby grand piano which Marion had gifted to the church.

Sadly, both Peter and John have died but Marion is moving close to son Charles and his family to begin a new chapter in her life. We wish her well!

St. John's Penge



The third in the series of churches in the Beckenham Deanery is the notable and Grade II listed church of St. John the Evangelist, Penge.

The architects Edwin Nash and John Nash Round were involved in the design of the Gothic Revivalist church which opened in 1850. Nash made further additions: the gabled north and south aisles in 1861 and then the transepts, a new chancel and an extension to the nave in 1866.

The construction was originally funded by John Dudin Brown, a Thames Wharfinger (a keeper of a wharf). There is a local 'Thames link': the Royal Waterman's Almshouses, close to the church but built earlier in 1839-1841, were for workers on the Thames. Edwin Nash also designed the St. John's Cottages Almshouses in Maple Road, built in 1863-1864.

The church was considered worthy enough for an entry in the Pevsner Buildings of England series which commented on the 150ft West tower with its 'broach spire'. This is a fascinating design where a square based tower becomes a tapering octagonal spire by the use of triangular faces.

The Historic England register lists many of the church's impressive architectural features, particularly the addition in 1910 of the King Edward VII window in the north aisle. The king was a direct descendant of Earl Harold Godmisson, the first known Earl of Penge. The window was designed in the style of Edward Burne-Jones, fabricated by William Morris & Co. and includes images of Temperance and Hope.

St. John's embraced a new and exciting future when it combined with Holy Trinity, Lennard Road in 2021. It is known for its community outreach: to facilitate this the church interior was reordered to provide a flexible space for community use in addition to its role as a place of worship. St. John's offers support to the community by working with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), a national debt support and advice charity.

With Holy Trinity, St. John's also features on the Penge Heritage Trail (www.pengeheritagetrail.org.uk).

Parish news

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 19 May, James Hollingdale stepped down as churchwarden and was thanked for his service. Robin Hogg and Glo Sherman were appointed as churchwardens for the next year. Three new Parochial Church Council (PCC) members were elected: Ann Dalton, Craig Myers and Claire Tillotson.

The meeting was chaired by Archdeacon Allie Kerr who gave a brief and encouraging update to the congregation regarding the imminent advertisement for a new parish priest.

The members of the PCC were commissioned after the morning service on Sunday 26 May.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Breathe Arts (BREATHE)

This charity is a social-enterprise, non-profit organisation started some 14 years ago by Yvonne Farquharson working in Guy's and St Thomas' Trust across many different areas. I first encountered it when awaiting a consultation in the calming presence of a harpist playing live music in the waiting area and I wanted to know more about its work. Briefly, music is used as therapy: physical and mental, and I would add spiritual therapy.

Initially singing was used for lung health and dance classes for balance. This could be applied for those with lung disease, stroke rehabilitation and so on. There is now a harmony choir and singing for women with post-natal depression as well as a two week summer camp in magic for children who need confidence building exercises – particularly those with cerebral palsy or hemiplegia. The difference those two weeks make is immense.

This is a small but very worthwhile charity and our support is greatly appreciated. Its approach is recognised as being scientifically proven – and approved. One of the first arts and health companies to be recognised by NHS England, the charity has worked across over 80 healthcare locations in the UK and as far away as Australia. The Guy's and St Thomas' Trust remains the main client. Breathe has co-authored medical journals, published books and contributed to government policies. For more details and links to some video clips about Breathe's work please visit <https://breatheahr.org>.

Rev Jane Peters

Our First Citizen

In May, Bromley Council elected Cllr Dr David Jefferys – a longstanding member of St Mary's congregation - as its Mayor.

The role involves being the King's representative in the borough and fulfilling a ceremonial role at civic, London and national events. As well as charring Council meetings, the Mayor speaks and presents certificates at Citizenship Ceremonies which take place almost weekly. There is rarely a day without an event, and some days there are four!

David reflected on his early days as Mayor: 'It has been humbling to see the wide range of volunteer groups across the borough, with many new groups being set up and older groups reinventing themselves and taking on new roles. I have opened two nursery schools and a Post Office, reopened the Croydon Recreation Bandstand, awarded health, community care and music festival prizes, attended Founders' Day at Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges and the installation of the new vicar of Christ Church, led the commemoration for the 83rd anniversary of the sinking of HMS Hood and events for D-Day – and much more. The calling of the General Election has meant some events have to be cancelled or postponed. On Election Day I will be the Returning Officer, announcing the results for the constituencies in Bromley.'

Each Mayor has a programme of events throughout the year to raise funds for their chosen charities: David has chosen Alzheimer's Research UK, BYMT (Bromley Youth Music Trust) and Welcare Bromley. He will run the London Marathon again to raise funds for these charities. His four themes for the year are: further promoting the sense of community and collaboration across our borough; encouraging more people to take ownership for health and wellbeing; promoting the environment and sustainability in the borough; and raising awareness of science and technology in all age groups. He will be supported in all of this by the Mayoress Ann-Marie and by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress. For more information see www.bromley.gov.uk/mayor-bromley.

Meet the churchwardens



At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May, Robin Hogg and Glo Sherman (pictured with Ven Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley) were elected as churchwardens.

Both are well-established members of the congregation, but as they take on these new roles we thought it was time to find out a little more about them.

Robin has been worshipping at St Mary's since 1992 and was married to Helen in church in 2016. Recently retired, with over 40 years in retail and HR management, he has also served as trustee of a local mental health charity for 17 years.

At St Mary's he is perhaps most visible as the 'beardy bass' in the choir. He is also President of the Friends of St Mary's, Assistant Treasurer and a member of the maintenance team. He was previously a cub leader and chair of the Children and Youth Committee.

Robin described the role of churchwarden: 'It's to act as the link between the congregation and the vicar, and to ensure that the church is run in line with the expectations of the Church of England. I want to help the parish to survive and flourish during a time of change.'

Glo has been a member of the congregation for seven years. She plans and leads several services: Come Holy Spirit (a quiet, reflective service of readings, music and silence), Morning Prayer when a vicar is not available and occasional informal worship services planned with the Music Group, which she sings with. She is a member of the Pastoral Team and attends the Community Café most weeks to chat with those attending (she also bakes for the Café!)

Glo hopes that both during this time of the vacancy, and when a vicar has been appointed, she can act on feedback from the congregation and the vicar in ways that are effective, efficient and loving. She hopes to aid spiritual growth in the church family. She told us: 'I value the sense of community at St Mary's: it is a welcoming group of people.'

Seeking a new vicar

We are now progressing with the recruitment process for our new vicar. Catherine Bingham and Robin Hogg have been elected as the two members of the Parochial Church Council to represent St Mary's interests, working with Archdeacon Allie Kerr and other representatives of the Diocese.

The role was advertised in June and we hope to interview later this month. We will keep you posted.

In the meantime you can see the parish profile, which describes what we are seeking in our next vicar, on the front page at www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk. Our normal programme of services and activities continue and all are welcome.

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands



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WORSHIP

Sunday 10.30am - Holy Communion (in church)

Wednesday 10.00am - Morning Prayer. Holy Communion will take place once a month

You can access Sunday services online at:
www.stmarysshortlands.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar		8460 5682
	vicar@stmaryshortlands.church	
Licensed Lay	Mrs C. Bingham	8460 0324
Ministers	Mrs A-M. Jefferys	8460 6030
	Dr. D. Jefferys	8460 6030
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs. S. Harrison	8464 0284
	Mrs. D. Speller	07941415082
Parish Administrator	Mrs. E. Woolven	8460 5682
Church wardens	Mrs. G. Sherman	07500751265
	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
Treasurer	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. R. Hogg	8290 0613
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	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
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Electoral Roll	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
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Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 020 8460 5682

Email: office@stmaryshortlands.church

Open 10.00am - 12.00pm weekdays.

Contact the office for Baptisms and Weddings

ST. MARY'S ORGANISATIONS

Toddlers	Mrs. J. Runicles	07790 304711
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

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Cubs (Mon)	Mr O. Swinfen	07758458077
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

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Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)		fourtbromleybrownies@outlook.com
Rainbows		2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com
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Church Flowers	Mrs. C. Willatt	07511885941
Mission Chair	Mrs. S. Shelton	8402 3299
Douai link	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884 8
Fair Trade	Mrs. C Willatt	07511885941

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