

## Remember, remember...

We spend a lot of time recalling - or remembering - things: what to buy at the supermarket, a phone number or address, the name of someone we met and so on.

At the Last Supper Jesus told his disciples, and us, to remember him through the taking of bread and wine, representing his body and blood. We do this at Holy Communion each Sunday here at St. Mary's.

This time of Remembrance each November is a time to remember loved ones who have died, particularly through times of conflict, past and present. I had the privilege of taking school parties to the battle fields of World War 1, and have walked across the frontlines of the battles of the Somme, Passchendaele and the Normandy beaches, remembering many who fell or who fought there, in aid of charity.

On one walk I visited many of the graves and memorials of those remembered on the Shortlands war memorial outside St Mary's. Saying a prayer, and laying a poppy at each one, was a poignant link from the present to the past, and a wonderful way to remember that 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13).

Earlier this year we commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. A couple of months ago I had the pleasure of attending the Battle of Britain service at Biggin Hill Memorial Chapel, meeting veterans of the Second World War and subsequent conflicts who have served their country and fellow countrymen.

Their service and that of those in our armed forces, cadet groups and emergency services today show a level of service that many of us can only imagine. They go above and beyond, thinking of others before themselves, no matter what the danger or situation. Jesus gave selflessly, dying on a cross so that we might be free of sin and attain eternity. Why not come along to one of our services to hear more about what He did for you?

*Ann-Marie Jefferys*

### Christmas Fair

2 – 4pm Saturday 23 November

St Mary's church & grounds

Father Christmas, kids' activities  
Cakes, crafts, gifts, bric-a-brac,  
tombolas, books, plants, traidcraft  
and much more  
Mulled wine & roasted chestnuts  
Carols in church

Donations of soft toys, plants,  
bottles, books & bric-a-brac  
very welcome

Contact Gill Dawson (07767-365318) or leave at  
the Parish Office Mon – Fri 9.30am – 12.30pm



### *Special Services and Events*

**Sunday 10 November - Remembrance  
Sunday**

**10.00am Holy Communion**

*Meet in church at 10am and at the War Memorial  
at 10.45am for the Act of Remembrance*

**Sunday 17 November**

**6.30pm Songs of praise**

*A music group service with hymns and readings  
chosen by the congregation*

**Sunday 1 December - Advent Sunday**

**6.30pm Advent Carol Service**

**Sunday 15 December**

**4.00pm Christingle**



## Interment of Ashes

We extend our sympathy to those who loved:  
Mary Shaddick

20 Sept

## Remembering

### Alan Roberts

Alan was born in 1934 and lived as a child in Orpington.

While doing National Service in Nigeria in 1953 he contracted TB meningitis. He was flown home and was in hospital for a year: the disease was cured by drugs which left him profoundly deaf.

Alan quickly decided not to rely on sign language but to learn lip reading instead. He became extremely proficient at this, especially with the help of his sister Janine and his wife Anne. His voice was very clear, and he would always insist on making speeches at special occasions.

He was musical before he was deaf: he would dance with girls and, by watching the beat, danced very well (they thought that he could hear). Alan was often the life and soul of parties.

Alan worked as a colour printer and was very artistic, making lovely pictures in marquetry. He was a superb gardener, competing and winning at local flower shows.

He was very competitive, hoping to win at tennis and other games. When he was younger Alan loved golf, and to the end he was a popular member of his Golf Club. He adored sailing, especially in ocean going yachts, sailing in the Atlantic down the west coast of France.

For some years he came to St Mary's, reading lessons in services until a few months before he died.

Alan never forgot his disability and those of others, wearing a badge labelled "DEAF", but he never was one to moan about it. Assisted by Anne, he did so much for the deaf. He worked tirelessly for more use of sub-titles and was given a special seat in the front row of the Churchill Theatre with a script so he could keep pace with the plot.

He chaired the local deaf charity, Bromley Chain, which was instrumental in setting up Deaf Access, where he was a trustee for many years. He also hired steam boats on the River Thames and through television invited any deaf people who wanted to come to meet others on these boats. Then, with the help of his MP, he also welcomed deaf people to the House of Commons. For all this wonderful work he was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Through all the troubles in his life, including the loss of his hearing, Anne's death and his terminal illness, Alan rose through every tragedy in his ever cheerful and bouncy way. He was an exceptional, remarkable and lovely man.



## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### ABCD – Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability

ABCD improves the lives of children with disabilities across Palestine, regardless of faith, race, or gender. Its aim is to enable every child to reach their optimum potential.

It works with four UN Refugee Camp Rehabilitation Centres and supports the professional development of the therapists. It also gives educational and psychological support, speech and language therapy, and provides technical devices and home adaptations.

ABCD has also established a Music Therapy Programme, working closely with the BASR (Bethlehem Arab Society of Rehabilitation) teams and provides a unique way for children to express themselves and communicate with others. The charity can help by paying for therapy sessions, transport to and from hospital, walking aids, consultancy fees, wheelchairs and hearing aids.

A little can go a long way to make a difference in a child's life: for more information see the display at the back of church or visit [www.abcdbethlehem.org](http://www.abcdbethlehem.org).

### Junior Church

All children from 0-16 are welcome

10.30am Sundays on

November: 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>



## Supporting a lifeline



Many generous gifts were brought by the people of Shortlands to St Mary's Harvest Festival last month: these have been taken to the Bromley Foodbank.

The Bromley Foodbank is a community-led charity, empowering local people to get back on their feet and improve their financial independence. It is part of a nationwide network of food banks, supported by the Trussell Trust, and works collaboratively with local and national partners to end the need for food banks in the UK.

The Foodbank provides a minimum of three days' worth of nutritionally balanced food parcels to people in crisis and connects them to a wider support network through a referral system.

St Mary's has supported the Foodbank for many years. You can leave donations in the box in the church porch when the church is open: these will be taken to the Bromley warehouse.

Donations are needed year-round – both non-perishable food and toiletries. The items which are most needed are: tinned cold meat, tinned custard, sweets, long life desserts and multi-surface wipes/sprays. For more information, visit [www.bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk)

## Winter birds in South Hill Wood



PICTURED: a redwing, photographed by David at South Hill Wood.

South Hill Wood is a tiny fragment of ancient woodland preserved as it was once part of the garden of a large house, and is now looked after by an enthusiastic group of Friends, with the help of Bromley Council through their contractor IdVerde. It is our nearest patch of woodland, and to be cherished.

In autumn birds in the Wood are feeding and storing ready for winter; jays and nuthatches can be seen gathering acorns. The onset of winter brings numbers of redwings, small thrushes with rusty patches under their 'armpits', visiting from Scandinavia in search of holly berries and, later, ivy berries, while competing with the Wood's blackbirds. With no leaves on the trees it is easier to see foraging parties of smaller birds like the blue tits, great tits, coal tits, long tailed tits, robins, chaffinches and the tiny goldcrests, who live here the year round.

By March the male great spotted woodpeckers will begin to drum to attract a mate and warn off rivals, while nuthatches amorously chase one another through the branches. Ring necked parakeets nest early and are already noisily disputing nesting holes.

*David Linstead*

## St Mary's in the mood



An audience from Shortlands and the wider community enjoyed an afternoon of music on 6th October from the University of Greenwich Big Band, at a concert arranged by the Friends of St Mary's. The 18-strong band, including professional jazz singer Georgie Fellows, played favourites from George Gershwin, Glen Miller and many more.

## St. Paul's New Beckenham



With the growth of the railway network, Beckenham was transformed from a rural village to a rapidly expanding suburb of London. As elsewhere in the Deanery, the increase in population during the Victorian era meant more churches were required and St. Paul's was one of them.

The Cator family, wealthy timber merchants of Quaker origins, actively supported the building of local churches. They owned a huge estate, of which only Beckenham Place Park and mansion remain. They saw the potential of creating an attractive housing development in the area now known as New Beckenham.

Albemarle Cator paid for the foundation of a new church in Brackley Road in 1863. The successful tenderer for its construction was Dove Bros. of Kingston, a prolific church builder having completed 130 new churches by 1900, one of which was the original St. Mary's, Shortlands!

The original church was a plain, rectangular structure consisting of a nave and chancel. It was inadequate for the growing congregation, so the church was extended with a lengthened chancel and two side aisles, an organ chamber and 'a spire of lofty proportions' at the west end of the north aisle. This was consecrated in 1872.

Later that decade, stained glass windows were installed and the walls decorated with wall paintings, of which only a fragment survives – The Parable of the Marriage Supper.

The unusual white marble font in the shape of an angel was given by parishioners in memory of Emily Peel, the vicar's wife, who died in childbirth in 1912. The vicar, the Hon. Maurice Peel, became a military chaplain in 1914: he was awarded the Military Cross and bar before being killed in 1917.

After the 1st World War, Major J. Horton was involved in the addition of a War Memorial Chapel. Two of his paintings still hang in the church: the chapel reredos is a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper and at the back of church is a copy of Holman Hunt's The Light of the World.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, a land mine in 1940 and incendiary bombs in 1942 caused serious damage. In the north aisle a dent caused by an unexploded bomb can still be seen! All necessary repairs and rebuilding were completed by 1949.

Today the church sits serenely amid leafy, tree-lined roads where many of Albemarle Cator's original houses remain.

## St Mary's Wilding Project

We have had some modest success in the first year of this joint project with Beckenham Rotary, including establishing an area of Yellow Rattle (pictured). More is planned for next year.



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



Link Parish  
St Francis of Assisi, Douai, France

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

[www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysshortlands)

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

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

Vicar		8460 5682
office@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
PCC Secretary	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Organist and Director of Music		
	Canon C. Tillotson	8460 7368
Safeguarding	Mrs P. Lambourne	8658 0470
Electoral Roll	Mrs J. Sharma	07900971867
Junior Church	Miss. R Tillotson	07503680612
Stewardship	Mr. T. Dawson	8460 5884

**PARISH OFFICE**

Telephone: 020 8460 5682

Email: [office@stmaryshortlands.church](mailto: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](mailto:7bromleyadmissions@gmail.com)

Scouts (Fri)	Mr. R. Howe	8462 7132
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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Guides (Tue)	Ms. E Thompson	07910340908
Guide (Fri)	Mrs. G. Dawson	8460 5884
Brownies (Mon)	Miss. K. Higgs	8462 3285
Brownies (Thu)		<a href="mailto:fourtbromleybrownies@outlook.com">fourtbromleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
Rainbows		<a href="mailto:2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com">2ndshortlandsrainbows@gmail.com</a>
Pre-school	Mrs. C. Hall	8290 6704 or 07960988552
The 2WW's	Mrs. A. Swatton	8650 1114
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

**LOCAL CONTACTS**

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Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood	8721 2614

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