

JUNE  
2010



ST MARY'S  
Growing in the heart of Watford

## What's in a Name?

Do you like your name? People either seem to love or hate them. Over the years I have been struck by the number of people who use their second rather than their first name or we get used to a shortened version of our name. Our name is very important to us. We not only respond to it but in some ways it seems to fit our character. I think we often choose whether or not we like a name depending on our experience of the first person we met with that name. Most names have a meaning especially in the bible where we can understand a lot about what is happening from the meaning of the names people have.

I wonder whether the names of churches also reflect the desire of their founders to share something special with all ensuing generations. Does the name of a church reflect what the people at the time value? I would imagine that choosing the name for a church takes a lot of discussion, possibly disagreement and definitely some people not getting their preference. However I have noticed that you can often tell something about a church by its name. I have been to a church called St Barnabas where there was an evident climate of encouragement. For a long time I worshipped in St John the Evangelist where there was a real heart's desire to love each other, the young and the poor. In All Saints everyone was valued and affirmed.

In a church called St Marys what would I expect to find? Obedient motherhood regardless of the personal cost would be my thoughts. Such a church would seek to do what God asks as Mary did, give birth to works in Christ's name as Mary did to Christ and would find that a painful though immensely rewarding calling. Over the centuries this really does seem to have been the ministry of St Marys in Watford. In our own memories we have seen projects birthed such as The New Hope Trust and the Town Centre Chaplaincy. These contemporary examples are mirrored in projects across the generations and indeed, in the way that St Marys is still seen as the mother church of Watford - almost an umbrella under which there is security.

Our concern in an increasingly secular society is that, as a church, we become rather more like a frail granny rather than an active young mother. Whilst that is a challenge for us as we age (and indeed the whole Anglican church in the Deanery) we should not become despondent and panic. Rather we recognise that the good thing about mother or granny is that we knew the values they stood for that had held them in good stead over the years. To a certain extent these values define the nature of our family traditions and what it means for us to carry the family name.

At St Marys we have our own set of values which have carried the church across the generations. Following the process of reflecting on our future vision we have identified our core biblical values to be **Biblical Teaching; Prayer; Godly Leadership; Loving People and Spiritual Growth** all set within the context of reaching out into the local community. During the coming months we will investigate how these values find expression today. Buildings, people and culture may change but if we hold firm to our core values we will see St Marys continue to live out her name in Watford and continue to birth many fresh initiatives while encouraging those from the past. We should be proud to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as part of his special family here. It's all in our name.

*Graham Knott*

## Watford Street Angel Recruitment Drive

You are warmly invited to the Watford Street Angels recruitment morning on Saturday 17th of July at St Luke's Church, Langley Road, from 10am-12pm.



Come and hear some great stories about how God engages with the people we meet and what we do on Friday and Saturday nights. Street Angels have been active in Watford town centre for over three years and it has been said that we have helped reduce the crime on the nights we are out by a staggering 50-60%.

Is God calling you to be part of a great team of people who are modelling the work of Jesus by helping those on the streets of Watford?

### Some testimonies below

*Dear Street Angels,*

*I would like to say thank you for the benevolence, kindness and goodwill that I received last night in Watford centre.*

*Three of your very kind volunteers walked me to my house when I was in a bad way. I am extremely grateful and would like to express my appreciation.*

*You are truly angels*

*Thank you once again.....*

*Hello, I just wanted to say a big thank you to all of you who helped me last night, especially the lady I remember spending a lot of time looking after me. I think what you do is wonderful if only there were more nice people like you guys around! I must say I found the glove in my hair very funny this morning! Hope to hear back from you thanks again!*

## Mission Paraguay

This summer, we are going to Paraguay for three weeks to work as volunteers with Mission Paraguay, an organisation formed 10 years ago and linked with SAMS Ireland and SAMS GB (now part of CMS). We trust that by our presence we will encourage the church there, as well as help them in practical ways. At the moment, we don't know precisely what we'll be doing, but Rod expects to be doing some woodwork and also decorating whilst Frances expects to be working with children and also helping in the sewing workshops.

To some extent, what we do will depend on the funds available, so if anyone would like to support Mission Paraguay, money may be channelled through SAMS Ireland which is registered as a UK charity and eligible for Gift Aid.

The size of our luggage allowance is so huge that we are able to take with us various items to leave for the use of the Paraguayan church. We would like to take clothes and shoes for men, women and children and also toys suitable for a toy library. If anyone has any such items, we are in church most Sundays and would be delighted to receive them. Please note that we are advised that clothes and shoes should be serviceable BUT NOT NEW. New items would make the recipients stand out and risk causing jealousy.



In addition, any unwanted material which could be used in the sewing workshops would also be appreciated, both large pieces and small.

We would ask you to pray for us, in particular that:-  
we have trouble-free travel (we are booked with BA)  
we are kept safe and well

all the members of the team work well together, with the mission partners and with the Paraguayan Christians

If you want to find out more about Mission Paraguay, please ask us or look at their website [www.samsireland.com/resources/Mission-Paraguay-Report-2009.pdf](http://www.samsireland.com/resources/Mission-Paraguay-Report-2009.pdf)

We will hope to arrange a date in the autumn when we can talk about what we did and show photos.

*Rod & Frances Collins*

## News from the Burt family in South Africa

The Youth Group have been encouraged to receive a newsletter from one of the families they met while on their trip to South Africa in 2008 - Part of the letter is printed below:

Dear Family and Friends,

My guess is that our start of rain indicates your start of spring flowers and sunshine! 17 degrees feels so chilly after a long hot summer, that I ventured out with two tops and a jacket on this morning! Still the rain is welcome; it washes away some of the piles of builders' sand that has accumulated on the church field in recent months and does wonders for Alun's emerging veggie garden!

### **Arise: (A Family Centre Flat)**

Arise is settling in wonderfully to the new building. It makes such an enormous difference being in the community. We knew there were many hurting children in Heideveld, but still the scale of the suffering has hit the staff hard this last month. Children raped, kids witnessing their parents murdered, living on the street with parents high on drugs and drink. Such is the reality for a handful of kids that make up some of the new cases Arise has picked up in April. Pray for us; pray for them; praise God for His very great salvation. Come Lord Jesus, Come. How we long for the promises of Revelation 21 to be realized.

Arise got through an important meeting with the management of Cape Town Child Welfare a fortnight ago. Debbie was very nervous as their backing of Arise is crucial if our community work is to be effective. Praise God they were very supportive of us and gave Arise lots of opportunities to partner with them with holiday programmes, foster support and emergency care placements. We are thankful to God that we are now in regular networking meetings with their Heideveld social worker Esther. This meeting and the understanding gained from it marks a significant step forward in Arise's services being recognized when it comes to children's court inquires and prevention work taking place.

Debbie is particularly involved with two tiny babies that were removed from the streets a few months ago. After a long wait, the case was heard in court last week and a formal investigation has now been launched. The children are being cared for in a lovely Christian family at the moment. Please pray for the children's health, and for the social workers to have wisdom as they decide which family to place the children in long-term.

Alun is busily knuckling down to youth work Cape Flats style. The focus is on weekly Bible study groups for different age groups as we study the book of Colossians, which encourages Christians to 'stand firm in Christ, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught.' (Col 2:6-7) This is our prayer for the young people as they journey through their teenage years and beyond. Praise the Lord they are seeing the value of doing Bible study weekly and making it a priority. It is once again proof that God's word really is living and active and relevant to young and old today. The groups are held in our home which makes it easy for them to be relaxed and for us to show hospitality to the young people. They drink a lot of sugar in coffee and enjoy cricket in the field, so we have lots of fun with them too!

In addition we are working on providing a really great programme of camps and holiday activities for the youth. These are of course greatly looked forward to, although the challenge is to find cheap ways of doing them since many of our youth come from families that struggle financially. Next month we are partnering with a church by the sea to give our group a week in a different environment. We will be taking the opportunity to look through Genesis 1-12 as we see God's plan of salvation unfold in the teeth of rebellious human creatures! Please pray for Alun as he prepares talks for the week, as well as the youth that they are 'established according to the Gospel'.

*With our love, Alun, Debbie, Likhona and Ilana Burt xxx*

## Christian Cruising and Sailing



Here is a snippet about the history of the Christian Cruising & Sailing Association which has been enjoyed by many of St. Mary's congregation over the years. Some have become a Christian through the holiday, and some have met their future husband or wife, and some have just made new friends. Several Christian friends who lived in Watford hired a couple of broads boats, way back in 1952. They enjoyed their holiday so much that they determined to invite others to share the experience, so they formed the Christian Cruising and Sailing Association. The first Commodore of the Association was Bill Smyly, followed after a few years by David Boyes. Shortly after this, Geoffrey Baynton took over, and he was followed by the late Ray Smith.

There have been many skippers and padres over the years, and hundreds of people have enjoyed being in the crew of these annual Christian Cruising and Sailing Association holidays.

There was one run this year from the 29th of May to the 5th of June.

The enclosed photo was taken in 1954 and shows the late Ray Smith 3rd from the left, Steve Dolley 5th from the left, and Ann Altham 5th lady from the left all were members of St. Mary's. At the end of the row on the right is Geoffrey Baynton. I do not know the names of the others, if anyone does I would be interested to here from them.

*Dave Hedges*

## Mission Gift Sunday

Alastair & Juliet Curry have been serving in Cambodia for 4 years and return for another period of service in August. They have 2 girls under 10. In a country of 14 million the number of Christians in Cambodia has grown from 1000 in 1990 to 300,000. OMF has a team of 80 workers involved in church planting and related ministry and development work. Alastair teaches at a university and Juliet works as a scientist. On their return they will lead our Development Team - members are involved in teaching, working with street children & prostitutes, prison ministry and micro business. Alastair will share at the morning service.

At the evening service Keith and Joyce Wood, members of St Marys, will share about their own journey in mission - from working in the Philippines for 10 years to serving on the home side. They will also bring news from Japan - a country very different to Cambodia - with its bullet train and fascinating culture. A land where about 1 in 1000 is Christian.

*Keith Wood*

## ORGAN and PIANO CONCERT EKATERINA MELNIKOVA,



organ and piano  
with participation of

YURI BERESTENNIKOV  
organ and piano

7.30 pm  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010  
St Mary's Watford

**Admission free - Retiring collection**

Miss Melnikova has an international concert career and has given many recitals throughout Russia, Europe and the UK, gaining a high reputation as a performer. She is an Organ Soloist of the Moscow Philharmonic Society and frequently appears on the National Culture TV channel.

**'Music at St Mary's'**

**FREE**

**Weekly Lunchtime Concerts  
Tuesdays 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm**

- 1 June            David Johnson**
- 8 June            Alex Cook in Concert**
- 15 June          St Michael's School Music Group**
- 22 June          Sing for Joy**
- 29 June          Soundproof Jazz**

**Come and go as you please  
St Mary's Church Watford High Street. 01923 225189  
Donations are welcome to help cover the running  
costs of our free concerts**

# Diary for June 2010

## Sunday Services:

- 13 June**            8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Morning Worship. Mission Gift Day with Alastair and Juliet Curry  
6.30 pm Evening Worship and Thanksgiving. Keith and Joyce Wood  
8.00 pm Second Sunday Prayer Meeting. St Mary's Watford
- 20 June**            8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Family Service . Graham Knott. 2 Timothy 2:14-26  
6.30 pm Holy Communion with a celebration of wholeness and healing. Karen Thompson
- 27 June**            8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Morning Worship. Revd Graham Knott. 2 Timothy 3:1-9  
6.30 pm Evening Worship. Karen Thompson. Dream, Drama, Destiny: Joseph
- 4 July**              8.00 am Holy Communion  
**11.00 am Joint Service at the Bandstand. No 10.30am service at St Mary's.**  
6.30pm Evening Worship. Karen Thompson. Dream, Drama, Destiny: Joseph
- Tuesday 8 June**    Confirmation by The Right Reverend Dr Alan Smith, The Bishop of St Albans, at 8.00pm

## Church events:

**Monday: Mothers' Union:** 14 June, Revd David Phillips 8.00pm.

**Tuesday: House of Prayer** (with breakfast) 6.30am. Centre Club 9.30am. Tuesday Group 1.00pm.  
**Lunchtime concert** 1.00pm. 8 June: Alex Cook in Concert. 15 June: St Michaels School. 22 June: Sing for Joy.  
29 June: Soundproof Jazz.

**Fellowship Hour:** 15 June: Sheila Beard. 2.30pm

**Wednesday: Prayer Meeting.** 7 July 8.00 pm in the Church . **Wednesday Lunch.** 9 and 23 June 12.30pm

**Thursday: Mothers' Union.** 24 June 2.00pm

**Friday: Morning coffee** 9.45am-12pm

**Saturday: Morning coffee** 10.00am-12pm. St Mary's runners 8.30am. (6 Cassiobury Dr)

**Home groups are open to all and meet at various times during the week, meeting both in the Church Centre and in people's homes. If you are interested in joining a group or in joining one of the uniformed organisations please contact the church office.**

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