

## Playing Your Part – Response to our Volunteering Survey

The 'Playing your Part' leaflets were given out over consecutive Sundays in September to our congregation. Respondents were asked to complete the form to give details of their expertise and experience, what jobs they were already doing and new tasks they could volunteer for.

Approximately 70 forms were returned. Of these new volunteers were spread over various areas. Tasks attracting the most new volunteers included the bazaar and clearing the churchyard. More general jobs such as reading lessons, helping with coffee, church sitting, catering, newsletter delivery and writing articles were also popular. This may be because these are relatively simple tasks that are easy to identify with and therefore people know what is involved.

Volunteers were less forthcoming in areas such as youth, IT, Guides and Scouts and the visiting team. Potentially these are perceived as more specialist or demanding areas where particular attributes, skills or training are required. Therefore in order to develop in these areas it may be that we need to seek appropriate help outside of our congregation.

Follow up of each area is now being carried out so that volunteers are contacted, and if anyone else would like to become more involved with church activities, then please contact the Vicar.

*Carol Morey*

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## November Supper Talk

16th November, in addition to being the royal engagement date, saw the continuation of the successful Supper Talks which were launched in June. The talks are open to all, to engage in challenging thought and discussion amongst informal, friendly company whilst enjoying a meal and glass or two of wine. The evening was well attended by 35 people from both in and outside the parish.

The theme for our discussion was St Paul and how apt it was, given our speaker was the Revd Tim Bryan, brother of our churchwarden Jerry, and chaplain at Wandsworth Prison. Tim gave us a fascinating account of his work and experiences not only at the prison but in his previous career in the police force and the preparation that gave him in entering the prison service. Lively discussions ensued over dinner focussing on how we live out our faith in everyday life, what holds us back in our faith, what calls us to our faith and our church and how we wish to see our church develop.

Many thanks to the catering team who served a delicious meal of chicken casserole followed by a rather sinful chocolate dessert! The next supper talk is planned for Tuesday 8th February 2011, and we look forward to seeing many of you then.

*Nikki Harrison*

# NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2011



StMARYwithStALBAN  
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



## Vicar's Viewpoint

A few weeks ago we had a talk by the Revd Tim Bryan who is Chaplain at Wandsworth Prison. He told us a very moving story of an inmate who had come to faith while in prison and was now working out a new direction and purpose in his life. Those of us listening were prompted to reflect on whether we were in some senses imprisoned ourselves. Maybe we felt imprisoned by our fears and anxieties, or by our drive to succeed, or by all the demands on our time.

January is a good time to take stock and reflect on the direction of our lives. At the beginning of the month we celebrate the revealing of Christ to the Wise men from the East (the Feast of the Epiphany). These wise men were bold enough to set out on a long and difficult journey because they sensed that something special had come to pass. This is not dissimilar to the prisoner who discovered that God was doing something special in his life, despite his many failings. The journey is often long and hard but there is a joy and freedom to life when we discover our true purpose.

What might our purpose be? In my reflections I've found the following extract, from a writer called Henri Nouwen, very helpful:

### **SPEAR**

There will be a presentation by the Director of SPEAR at our 9.45am service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. SPEAR is a charity working with homeless people in and around Richmond. Over the last 21 years they have offered services to thousands of homeless and vulnerable people, successfully transforming lives and supporting many of their service users to the point that they have achieved total independence. Please join us to hear more of their story during the service and afterwards to see a video presentation over coffee in the hall.

*We have been called to be fruitful – not successful, not productive, not accomplished. Success comes from strength, stress and human effort. Fruitfulness comes from vulnerability and the admission of our own weakness.*

This distinction between success and fruitfulness is a very important one. God so often uses our weaknesses and needs to bring about good things, like when we have to rely on a neighbour for help and a new friendship develops. So maybe we should strive a little less for success and productivity and instead open ourselves up to new things which might make us more vulnerable but also more fruitful.

With best wishes,

*Joe Moffatt*

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January**

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Churches in Teddington and Hampton Wick always come together for a special service. This year we are hosting this service at 4pm on Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The preacher will be the Reverend Graham Singh who has recently moved to the area to lead a new congregation at St John the Baptist, Hampton Wick. All are welcome to join us.



*St Mary's Singers singing Christmas Carols for early evening shoppers & cafe customers at Squires Garden Centre on 1st December*

### **Christmas Bazaar**

The annual Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday 27th November and we were delighted to see such a strong turn out once more. Preparations for the bazaar began on Friday afternoon and the parish hall was a flurry of activity gearing up for event.

A couple of new stalls were introduced this year which were very well received. Playwam parents ran a 'Nearly New' stall selling baby items, and Jerry Bryant braved the cold outside manning the BBQ and mulled wine which perfectly complimented the homemade cooking in the main hall. The Scouts took on the bottle tombola and games this year which have previously been run by the Guides.

As usual, Santa's grotto was an extremely popular attraction with the children whilst the adults enjoyed browsing through the various stalls such as books, cards, bric-a-brac, jewellery and crafts. The homemade jams, preserves and cakes in the Mina Hogan room were popular as ever.

The bazaar raised a record £3,172, over £350 more than last year which had also been a record year! Thank you to all who gave donations, all who gave their time running the stalls and to those who came along to support the bazaar.

*Nikki Harrison*

### **Churchyard Working Party**

On the morning of Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> the British Trust for Conservation Volunteer's (BTCV) ten volunteers arrived with their two leaders and a fantastic array of heavy duty tools, enthusiasm and expertise, ready for a day's work clearing our Churchyard.

They were joined by our noble volunteers who came to give whatever time they could; some were able to stay all day which was fantastic but even an hour or so really helped.

Our aim was to start clearing the brambles and undergrowth, prune the invasive sycamore & ivy, clear rubbish and tidy the overgrown areas. Simon Hawkins, the BTCV leader, was very helpful in guiding us on what



*John Demont, one of our band of volunteers, busy clearing brambles from a beautiful Victorian grave*

to keep for conservation and preservation of wildlife. Some started work down by the bottom gate and worked their way up the churchyard. Others were busy carefully peeling ivy off the gravestones without destroying the Victorian stonework.

It was a successful day's work and we are very grateful to the BTCV, to our own volunteers and to Cyril Shaw for providing refreshments. Our next session is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 10am-4pm. All are welcome to join us.

*Stella Smith*

### **Parish Registers**

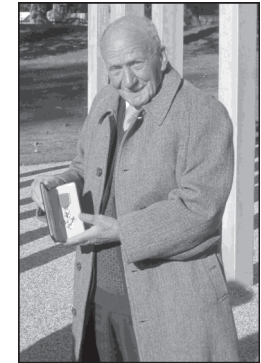
**Holy Baptisms** – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*

November 7: Helen England, daughter of David & Fiona England; Lucinda Whittingham, daughter of Philip & Nessie Whittingham; Elizabeth & Georgia Watts, daughters of Jason & Ali Watts; Holly Snelling, daughter of

Rob & Julie Snelling

November 21: Oliver Metcalfe, son of Richard & Natasha Metcalfe; Alice Turley, daughter of Sarah Turley

November 28: Sam & Thomas Edwards, sons of James & Sue Edwards; Thomas Wilmott, son of Mark & Jo Wilmott



*Congratulations to Cyril Shaw, our church verger, on receiving his MBE for his contribution to the tribunal service (adjudicating VAT tribunals).*

### **Diary for January**

*SERVICES* – *Sundays: Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am  
Family Communion and Sunday School at 9.45am  
Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.30am  
Weekdays (except Mondays): Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm*

Sunday 2nd	Naming of Christ
Wednesday 5th	First Wednesday Club, Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2pm, Topic: Epiphany
Thursday 6th	Lunch Club, The Anglers at Teddington Lock, 12.30pm
Sunday 9th	Epiphany Sunday
Thursday 13th	Baptism Preparation Evening in Parish Hall 8-9pm
Sunday 16th	Baptism of Christ Family Communion with Baptism at 9.45am Youth Group in Parish Hall 6.30-8pm
Tuesday 18th– Tuesday 25th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Saturday 22nd	Churchyard Working Party 10am-4pm Wedding 1.30pm
Sunday 23rd	3rd Sunday of Epiphany Family Communion with presentation by SPEAR at 9.45am Ecumenical Service at St Mary with St Alban's at 4pm
Saturday 29th	Party for Mini Sunday School and Baptism Families in Parish Hall 3-5pm
Sunday 30th	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemass) Baptism at 12 noon