

Christian Aid Week –May 10th-16th

Each May Christian Aid encourages us to focus on the fight against global poverty, by prayer, action and fund raising. The latter requires more volunteers willing to help in raising awareness and encouraging giving. We already have many volunteers but more door to door collectors will allow us to cover more local roads in order to help alleviate poverty. We also collect from Teddington & Hampton Wick stations and outside Marks & Spencer if these options are more convenient. Over £9 million is collected nationally and Teddington residents are typically very generous and friendly!

Our local efforts are co-ordinated by Simon Lamb, so if you can help please contact him for further information on simonlamb27@btinternet.com. He will assume that existing collectors are willing to continue, unless indicated otherwise.

Simon Lamb

The Children's Society: Box Holder News

This past year the box holders from St. Mary with St. Alban raised £382.60 for The Children's Society. Many thanks to all of you for saving your small change for this charity. The money goes towards helping young people, many of whom have run away from home for various reasons and who then find themselves in difficulty.

If you are interested in reading about the work of this charity go to: childrenssociety.org.uk.

If you would like to join in with collecting and keeping a box in your home, for collection once a year, please contact me.

Anthea Bryan

Youth Confirmation course

The 8 week course on Thursday evenings will explore faith through discussion, games, film and animation. Also included will be a trip to St. Paul's Cathedral and a residential weekend.

The Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 20th September. For more information or to register interest, please email the Vicar, or our Youth Pastor, Emily: emily@stmarywithstalban.org

Parish Registers

Baptisms – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*
22nd February: Eve Skogen, daughter of James Graham & Heidi Tanton
8th March: Oliver Ayshford Lazenby, son of Rob & Sophia Excell
15th March: Jacob Robert Michael, son of Robert & Sarah Greenberg

Funerals – *We remember with thanksgiving the lives of:*
19th February: Alice Mears, aged 82
20th February: Katherine Worth, aged 92
27th February: Douglas Rowland, aged 87

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015



StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

Vicar's Viewpoint

I always look forward to Holy Week. No other week has such drama, depth and spiritual intensity. But this year my eager anticipation is heightened for two reasons.

Firstly we will be sharing our services with the congregation at Ss Peter & Paul. This is partly out of necessity while their vicar, Fr. Jack Knill-Jones, is on leave, but it is something we were planning to do anyway. At the Last Supper Jesus said to the disciples, 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another'. So it is right for congregations to come together at this special time. In particular, I'm looking forward to our Joint Service on Palm Sunday which will start at Ss Peter & Paul; then we will process down the High Street with palm crosses, for the second part of the service at St Mary with St Alban. Look out for the horse masquerading as a donkey (which some will recognize as Trigger from Park Lane Stables). The Newsletter insert details all other services, including a Children's Workshop on Good Friday and the Easter Breakfast following the Dawn Service. These are open to all but please let us know in advance if you wish to come to either.

The second reason for my excitement is that I don't have to fret about sermons because we have a guest preacher with us all week. He is my good friend the Reverend Neil Evans, previously Vicar of All Hallows, Twickenham, and now Director of Ministry for the Diocese of London. In other words, he is the guru of all things related to clergy and lay training. He is also a very wise and engaging preacher, and I look forward to his reflections throughout the week. I'm grateful that he is offering to speak not just at our major services, but also the midweek evening meditations.

Finally, a word about Bishop Paul Williams, our greatly admired Area Bishop, who will be leaving the diocese at the end of April to become Diocesan Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. Bishop Paul has been a great encourager and friend, both to this parish and to me personally, and we are very sorry to see him go. We have a special place in his affections as the first services he conducted as a Bishop were at St Mary with St Alban during Holy Week six years ago, just before I arrived. Fittingly, we will also be one of the last churches he visits when he comes to us for a Vocations Roadshow on April 23rd. There will also be a Diocesan Farewell Service at St Mary Abbots Kensington on April 27th. We pray for him and his family as they make this big move. I will keep you posted on the process for appointing a replacement, which like parish posts can take nine to twelve months. Pity the Archdeacon and your Area Dean in the interim!

Best wishes

Joe Moffatt

Peace Reigns in Teddington!



On a cold February evening, the audience walking into St Mary with St. Alban's were immediately transported to the land of Mambica for a special Musical Theatre Holiday Club production of "The Peace Child", directed by St Mary's youth pastor Emily D'Silva.

But all was not well in the fictional country with

two opposing tribes taunting each other either side of the 'river of thousand songs'. Opening with an atmospheric African drum medley (drums kindly provided by Newland House School), we met the two opposing tribes of Mambica – the colourfully-named Sotongi and Wannakeekee. Trying to outdo each other by showing off their different strengths, war became imminent when a visiting BBC news crew suggested building a bridge between the two tribes. But in a poignant moment, the Voice of Wisdom prevailed, and the Wannakeekee chief offered his child to the Sotongi to become the Peace Child...

Able accompanied by St Mary's Teddington Bells team & Chris Stokes on piano, the ensemble of seven girls on the week-long holiday club brought the moving story to life with a skilful range of dance, music, singing and acting – conveying a powerful message of reconciliation that reverberated in the memory long after the applause had died down.

Adam Woods

Sing Gospel with Ken Burton

On 7th March Ken Burton, Britain's leading gospel talent, led a workshop in the Parish Hall. Gospel means 'good message', and Ken wanted to show that there is more to gospel singing than 'Happy Days'. He proved it! Ken explained the importance of finding meaning in the songs - of singing 'from the inside, to the outside'.

We warmed up by shaking our shoulders, vibrating our lips and singing 'Love Lifted Me' whilst rocking in all directions. We sang many challenging and uplifting songs, including My God Is A Good God, Booma Lena (a Cameroonian tribe song), and Praise The Lord Oh My Soul. His charisma was infectious, and he had us part-singing, dancing and high-fiving, so all cares were forgotten and inhibitions banished.

After delicious refreshments, we learnt 'Total Praise', a powerful piece by Richard Smallwood about a man realising that God is all his strength. The final 'Amen', sung in parts, had hairs standing on end. Come & Go with Me, a Ghanaian bluesy number, followed.

We learnt to use different parts of our voices,



and even learnt how to pronounce words differently (to help us sound a bit less English!). So go became 'gohhhhh', you 'Yeu'.

In the afternoon, we performed in the church. It was an amazing day and everybody involved felt lucky to have been part of it.

Fiona England

Women's World Day of Prayer.

This ecumenical service took place on 6th March at St Peter's and St Paul's Church. June Demont, Sheila Cooper and Anthea Bryan represented St Mary with St Alban. This year, the service was prepared by Christian women of the Bahamas and the theme was: "Jesus said *Do you know what I have done to you?*" Through readings, prayers and hymns, we were called on to reflect on Jesus' command to do for others as He has done for us.

People from all local churches attended and afterwards we were invited to share refreshments, including a wonderful array of cakes, prepared by the St Peter and St Paul's Brownies and Guides.

We gave a tribute to Diana Simons of St Mark's Church, who has been Branch Secretary for Teddington WWDP, for the past twelve years and who has now retired. She has worked very hard and efficiently to ensure that the annual service is well rehearsed and enjoyed by everyone. We thanked her very sincerely for all her work. She is succeeded by Lucy Fyleman from our own church, who has kindly offered to take on the task. Thank you, Lucy, we shall look forward to next year.

Anthea Bryan

Pilgrim Course...The Lord's Prayer

A 6 week course to study the Lord's Prayer? What on earth can be discussed about a part of the Christian service we know so well, often ingrained by rote, since childhood? We were not quite sure what to expect, as a group of relative strangers, embarking in January on this course.

We met at the home of parishioner Adam Woods, who co-directed with Carla Maroussas. Immediately, the hour and a half turned to a joyful and welcome space to discuss our continuing journey in faith.

Week by week, we unpicked and unlocked the depth contained within each line. It is surprising how much meaning is contained in each segment. We had rich discussions in a safe circle of fellowship and connection. I found that by looking with fresh eyes, the prayer now speaks to me in a new and enlightening way, informing my daily life.

I challenge others to join a future course and see how it profoundly changes the way you say it. After doing this course, you will never be able to chant it on 'automatic mode' again!

Natasha Fletcher

Diary for April

*SERVICES – Sundays: Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am
Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9.00am
Parish Communion (with Sunday School) at 10.00am
Holy Baptism (most Sundays) at 12noon
Youth Group, Parish Hall, 6.30-8.00pm*

*Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.30am
Church Mice Toddler Service, 10.30am (weekly during term)*

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm

Wednesday 1st **Holy Wednesday**
Lent Course, St. Marks, 10.30am

Thursday 2nd **Maunder Thursday**

Friday 3rd **Good Friday**

Sunday 5th **Easter Sunday**

Thursday 9th Parish Lunch at The Anglers, 12.30pm

Saturday 11th Time to Talk, St. Peter & St. Paul, 10.30am-12noon

Sunday 12th **Second of Easter**

Tuesday 14th Plain and Pearl Knit, Main Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th Lent Course, Church, 8.00pm

Friday 17th Holy Communion, Fullerton Court, 11.30am

Sunday 19th **Third of Easter**

Tuesday 21st General Election Hustings, Teddington Baptist Church, 7.30pm

Thursday 23rd Diocesan Vocations Roadshow with Bishop Paul, Church, 7.30pm

Sunday 26th **Fourth of Easter**
Choral Evensong, 6.30pm

Monday 27th Farewell Service for Bishop Paul, St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, 7.00pm

Tuesday 28th Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Main Hall, 7.30pm
Plain and Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan, 7.30pm

Looking ahead

Fri 8th-Sun 10th Parish Pilgrimage to Winterborne (Dorset)

Thursday 14th Ascension Day Sung Eucharist, Church, 7.30pm