

South India TRUST Children's Home

A few years ago, Richard D'Silva, father of Emily who spent four years working with us as Pastoral Assistant and Youth Pastor, set up a UK charity to raise money to support a South Indian Children's Home. The TRUST Children's Home is in the rural village of Vengadampatty, Tamil Nadu, South India. It was set up by Dr P.Thirumaran after the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, to look after children made destitute and/or orphaned by this disaster. It has since taken in others who have no alternative means of support.

Seven years on, Thirumaran's dream, in which he has been supported by his wife, Shanthy, has come true, with around 75 children cared for, loved and given an education. The difference in the children is immediately obvious. They are no longer individual children from disparate backgrounds, linked only by their need for protection. They are a family. They have support, love, and a bright future.

U.K. visitors and volunteers (of any age!) to the home are particularly welcomed. We need to find some more - do you know of anyone who might like to spend some time there? GAP and University students have, in the past, been the majority of visitors, but families with children of any age would be welcome. Past experience has shown that visitors gain as

much from the experience as the children they are visiting.

If you or any one you know are interested in supporting, or even visiting this exciting project, please visit the website: www.trustchildren.org.uk or email richard@trustchildren.org.uk

Susan Jacobs

Parish Registers

Baptisms – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*
13th March: Isaac Michael Richard, son of Jonathon & Alison Hollis


Weddings – *We wish every blessing on the marriage of:*

12th March: Hannah Chauhan and Stuart Irwin



Plain and Pearl, the social knitting and craft group, would like donations of balls of coloured wool for their summer project – knitting blankets for the homeless. Wool can be left in the boxes at the back of the Church or on the landing outside the Parish office.

For more details contact Josie.shantonas@stmarywithstalban.org or visit the Church website.

Parish Office:	St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF. Tel: 020 8943 2262
Vicar:	The Rev Joe Moffatt (8977 2767), email: vicar@stmarywithstalban.org
Assistant Priest:	The Rev Mary Hawes (7898 1504), email: mary.hawes@churchofengland.org
Curate:	The Rev Gabrielle Thomas (8943 2262), email: curate@stmarywithstalban.org
Administration & Hall Bookings:	Suzanne Parker (8943 2262) email: parishhall@stmarywithstalban.org
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Church School:	St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476), www.smsponline.com
Church Wardens:	Anne McTear (07973 911 820), email: anne@stmarywithstalban.org Peter Stevens (8977 4803)
For all other contacts:	www.stmarywithstalban.org  Follow us on Twitter @SMWSAChurch

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016



StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



Joe with "Supernum" (see page 2)

Vicar's Viewpoint

This is more of an Update than a Viewpoint this month.

Firstly, I wanted to thank everyone who responded to me following my Viewpoint last month in support of same-sex marriage. I was expecting a reaction, but I hadn't imagined that I'd get so many messages, and that they would all be so positive. I appreciate that those who disagree are less inclined to get in touch with me. But I was nevertheless greatly encouraged by supportive messages from churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike, and from people of varying ages including someone in their 90s. We are having an open meeting to discuss this topic on April 14th at 8pm in the church.

Secondly, I was very pleased to be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St Peter & St Paul Teddington on Palm Sunday. I was asked to take on this extra role as a way of ensuring that both parishes work closely together in serving the one community of Teddington. But this doesn't mean that there will be one less parish priest. Indeed, we have created the role of Associate Priest for a full-time minister who will live in the St Peter & St Paul Vicarage, be primarily based in that

church, but also have a wider remit to develop our outreach and mission across both parishes. He or she will therefore be licensed to both parishes, just as I am, and we will work very much as a team with other clergy and lay colleagues.

Thirdly, we have an exciting summer programme to inform you about:

- On May 24th we have a Parish Quiet Day at Ham Convent led by Bishop Martin Wharton.
- On June 12th we celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with flower displays, churchyard teas and a special evening service.
- On June 18th we have a 'stay-at-home' Parish Pilgrimage, walking from St Mary's to All Saints Kingston and then to the Chapel at Hampton Court before finishing at the Water Gardens in Bushy Park. Local parishioners are welcome to join us along with friends from the Dorset parishes where we went on pilgrimage last year.
- On June 26th our curate Gabby Thomas will be ordained as a priest at St Mary Abbots Kensington at 3pm.
- On July 3rd she will then preside at her first communion service at St Mary's at 10am. This will be followed by a celebratory parish lunch in the hall.

So the only 'viewpoint' I have this month is one of gratitude: for being a vicar with wonderful supportive parishioners; for being part of an exciting new venture with our neighbouring parish; and for a summer full of events to look forward to.

Happy Easter!

Joe Moffatt

Joe and Teddington Supermum

With thanks to the lovely ladies at Mela Mela for the loan of a mannequin, our Teddington Supermum made a reappearance during the Vicar's sermon on Mothering Sunday. The slightly ridiculous outfit proved the point that we don't need supermums who are brilliant at everything. What makes our mothers special is that they clothe themselves with kindness, patience and love.

Understanding Islam

Chris Hewer will be giving his three day Understanding Islam course in Ham, Kew and Kingston this year.

The three non-residential courses are held in private houses running from 09.30 to 16.30 (times can be adjusted by agreement with participants) over three days. Tea/coffee is provided but you are asked to bring a packed lunch. The course is free but we ask for donations to cover costs.

Saturday 30th to Monday 2nd May, in Ham. (Labour Day Bank Holiday Weekend)

Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th May, in Kew.

Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November, in Kingston.

Chris has provided the following:

Welcome to Understanding Islam 2016

The Understanding Islam course is an intensive three-day immersion to try to get a grasp on understanding the multi-faceted nature of Islam. It goes from an overview of 'how Islam sees the world', through major themes like revelation, scripture, prophesy and a code for living; it looks at principal practices such as prayer fasting, pilgrimage and cycle of family life and relationships and includes topics such as *jihad* and relations with other faiths. Teaching is in small groups with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion.

Would you be kind enough to share this with your communities.

If you are interested please contact me at: dianamills@phonecoop.coop or phone: 02089483276

Diana Mills

Ishirini Concert

The recent concert in St Mary's Church by **Ishirini** – an *a capella* choir of 18 ex-Cambridge singers – defied categorisation. The music covered an ancient-in-time traditional Nepali antiphonal chant with strident brass mini-cymbals, works by C16th composers (Phillips, Victoria and Handl), C19th ones (Bruckner and Mendelssohn), as well as two living composers, Jonathan Dove and Peter Allwood. The latter is not only living, but was present conducting his own work.

The disparate music was united by the theme of Prayer, hinted at by the colourful Himalayan prayer flags adorning the programme cover. The words of each piece were indeed prayers to a God or Higher Being – sung in English, Latin, German, Bengali, or Newari. Even the organ interlude by Tarik O'Regan alluded to the theme because the work's title, *Colimaçon*, means snail in French, and the choir's director and organist, Jeremy Rouse, likened the spiral shape of a snail shell to the smoke of prayers being sung or chanted and spiralling heavenwards.

A large audience, with an age range from under 1 to over 90, was enthralled by the wonderful singing, superb musicianship and smiling and happy demeanour of the choristers. It was a privilege to be served such a (Lenten) feast.

The choir are taking this programme to Kathmandu where they will hold workshops with schoolchildren and collaborate with students from the Kathmandu University Music Faculty in Bhaktapur. This concert raised over £1,000, which, with any further donations, will go towards their rebuilding projects after the recent earthquake and flooding. Information on www.ishirini.co.uk *Susan Jacobs*

The Message of the Film 'Finding Saint Francis'

Although the film '*Finding Saint Francis*' is about a religious, historical character it is not ostensibly a religious film. It aims to be ecumenical with an appeal to all interested in spirituality. The film opens a window onto another world through its central character, Peter Stone, who is searching for a way out of his over complicated life. By chance he is invited to take over the part of playing Francis of Assisi on film.

The film shows us that 'each person in their lives play many parts' (to misquote Shakespeare). In merely changing our clothes we tend to see life from a different angle. This is highlighted in the film with the entire cast playing more than one role. We are a composite of many people. The film shows that we are free to choose many different paths. All we have to do is step over the threshold.

DVD copies are now available from the Parish Office at a cost of £10.

Paul Alexander

Diary for April

<i>SERVICES –</i>	<i>Sundays:</i>	<i>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, 6.30pm (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)</i>
	<i>Wednesdays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion and Morning Prayer at 9.30am Church Mice Toddlers Service, 10.30am</i>
	<i>Monday-Friday:</i>	<i>Evening Prayer at 5pm</i>
Sunday 3 rd		2nd after Easter
Wednesday 6 th		First Wednesday Club, "Talk through the Night – who would you chose to be locked in with, and why?" Mina Hogan, 12.45-2.15pm
Thursday 7 th		PCC, Mina Hogan, 7.45pm Contemplative Prayer followed by Compline, 8.00pm
Friday 8 th		Holy Communion, Fullerton Court, 10.30am
Sunday 10 th		3rd after Easter Thanksgiving for the Gift of Children, 12.00pm
Tuesday 12 th		Plain and Pearl Knit, Mina Hogan, 7.30pm
Thursday 14 th		Parish Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30-2.00pm Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan, 2.30-4.00pm Open meeting to discuss the issue of same sex relationships , Church, 8.00pm
Sunday 17 th		4th after Easter
Monday 18 th		Pilgrim Course "The Beatitudes", venue tbc, 8.00-9.30pm (for 6 weeks)
Tuesday 19 th		Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday 21 st		Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan, 2.30-4.00pm
Sunday 24 th		5th after Easter Rev. Joe Moffatt preaching at St. Paul's Cathedral Evensong, 3.15pm
Tuesday 26 th		Plain and Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan, 7.30pm
Thursday 28 th		Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan, 2.30-4.00pm
		<u>Looking ahead</u>
Thursday 5 th		Ascension Day Sung Communion Service, 7.30 pm
Sunday 8 th		Christian Aid Parade Service
Sunday 15 th		Christian Aid week