

resources are urgently needed.

A good time was had by all and a good sum of money was raised in the process, over £1,000 after gift aid which is a great result!

Suzie Gordon

Iona Service



On March 5th Emily d'Silva, formerly our Pastoral Assistant and Youth Pastor, returned to lead an inspiring service of worship based on the Iona model. Iona is the community in Scotland founded by the Rev. George Macleod in 1938.

Emily had chosen the theme of hands for the service, which was more interactional than many of our usual forms of worship. Emily told us that 'hands' are mentioned in the Bible 56 times, before encouraging the congregation to offer examples of this. Suggestions ranged from the touching of Jesus's garments, and the laying on of hands, to Esau's hairy hands mentioned in Genesis. During the service we were encouraged to go up and rub our hands in a bowl of earth, and think about the thoughts and feelings to which that action gave rise. Emily had thoughtfully provided hand cream for use after washing them! Her sermon focussed on the many uses of hands from communication to work.

Music is a very important part of the Iona community's worship, and our choir sung some beautiful hymns and arrangements. One was written by John Bell, a composer and hymnwriter, a leading light of the present community.

All in all it was a very reflective, peaceful and moving experience, and I for one, hope that Emily will feel able to return to us to do a further service at some time.

Sue Stevens

Parish Registers

Baptisms – We welcome into Christ's Church:

February 26th: Zoe Clara, daughter of Mark and Helen Samuel

Funerals – We remember with thanksgiving the lives of:

February 17th: John Legard, aged 92

March 7th: Brian Hope, aged 77

March 9th: Margaret Glynn-Williams, aged 82

March 15th: David Deakin, aged 76

Help Required

Would you be interested in joining the Editorial team of the Parish Newsletter?

Adequate computer skills required but journalistic experience not necessary

Please contact Joe Moffatt
vicar@stmarywithstalban.org

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017



StMARYwithStALBAN

PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

Clergy Comments

"I looked back at the dark bedroom, signs of our struggle were all around. The dislodged lampshade, the Venetian window blinds fanning back into the room bent at odd angles, and his half naked body."



This is the start of a short story entitled 'Run Out.' One of the privileges of being a member of the clergy is the opportunities to meet people doing incredible work amongst those most in need. I recently attended an Interfaith forum where the topic was homelessness across the borough. I learnt that over the last year there had been a rise in women rough sleepers. Over 75% of these women are escaping violent settings, and the schemes to support them are perpetually under resourced.

You see this was personal before meeting my dad, my mum was married to a man who beat her. She was able to enlist friends to hide with, and eventually police intervention, followed by a divorce which closed that difficult chapter. I felt anger against this often hidden injustice. So whilst the presenters spoke I began to write. You can read the whole thing if you'd like. Just follow the link www.clarion-journal.com/clarion_journal_of_spirit/2017/02/run-out-a-short-story-by-azariah-france-williams.html

Jesus told stories to adults which exposed the hypocrisy of the proud, and enabled community amongst the poor. Jesus's biography stimulates deep enquiry into our own lives. During Lent we are inviting you to journey with Jesus to the cross and beyond, particularly the final two weeks of Lent known as Passiontide.

One aim of my fiction is to draw attention to a contemporary issue. So might you choose a theme from what we are calling Passion Portraits on display at St. Peter & St. Paul? The Passion Portraits are sentence themes with the relevant bible reference attached. As you explore the themes, you discover which move through you into music, photography, writing, poetry, sketching, painting, sculpting. What resonates for you about the theme? How could you portray it? The Jesus story reference is the springboard, not the boundary, for your interpretation of the theme.

Themes like 'Body and Blood' have already led to a poem and a painting about childbirth. The theme Silent Witness has prompted a short story about hearing loss triggered by a bomb blast. We will use email and social media to feature your creations online. On the evening of Palm Sunday we will host a special service of music and reflections using your art either on canvas, on page, or in a frame. We are leaning to more heart than art so just have a go and bravely submit your best offering on the theme/s that most stand out to you.

Writers, no more than 1000 words please; photographers, you may need to have different resolutions to email your work; composers, we may need a couple of audio formats with a brief introduction from you. Those working with images, please could you offer a few sentences explaining the context or setting?

Just send an email to azariah@stpeterstpaulteddington.co.uk with a note of the titles you are working on, and when you could submit.

Azariah France-Williams,
Associate Priest

Children's Church: Past and Present

When I think of Children's Church many years ago, I imagine a church with a few children's groups, just like we have now at St Mary with St Alban's. At least that was what I thought before I met June Hill and Mary Green, two lovely ladies from the congregation.

But in fact, it was very different. Can you imagine Superstars, our largest group with about ten children attending each week, multiplied by ten?! That would have been a lot of children to have to control and teach! In our Sunday sessions, we have a wide range of arts and crafts for Little Lanterns and Superstars (the younger children), with longer talks for the older children in Ignite. In the past in Children's Church (or Sunday School as it was then called) children were just given a bible passage to read and learn, that was all!

Every child had a small book where a record would be kept of their attendance. Once they had attended "Sunday School" for a certain amount of time, they would get a book as a prize. Even though Children's Church is ALWAYS fun, can you imagine going TWICE a day, morning and afternoon as Mary and June used to do? It would occupy most of your Sunday. When you were around fourteen, they explained that you would either stay in the congregation or teach Children's Church yourself.

I hope you enjoyed learning about Children's Church as it used to be, as much as I did.

Eliza Williams, age 9

Making a Record of St Mary's

"As an unpretentious, pleasingly irregular, picturesque, and intimately scaled building, St Mary's aesthetic significance is considerable and its value high. As the oldest place of public worship in Teddington the communal value is also high". So says a recent expert report from the Built Heritage Consultancy, and we are looking to capture all of this for posterity, as we mark the 800th year of the parish.

The way forward is through a church recording project, sponsored by the Arts Society Richmond (formerly NADFAS), with expert help and advice from regional and national sources.

We are forming a recording group, to include those with knowledge or skills, or a desire, if not passion, to learn. Ideally there should be about 15-20 regular volunteers coming together for a few hours once or twice a month, working to a given format. They will divide their attention between memorials, metalwork, stonework, woodwork, paintings, windows, textiles, and technical items, aided by a photographer and a collator of all records made. It will take 3-4 years to complete the work, which finishes with copies of a bound record for the church and museums.

If you are interested in being part of this work, please contact the Group Leader, Robin Field-Smith, robin@field-smith.com or 07768 697178.

Robin Field-Smith

Wives' Fellowship



Richmond & Twickenham Wives' Fellowship (WF) started in 1956 and is one of 70 branches of the Fellowship found around the country, meeting regularly in members' homes. Founded in 1916 under the umbrella of the Mothers' Union, WF became an independent, non-denominational organisation of Christian women whose aim is to uphold the ideals of Christian Fellowship, marriage and family life and to offer spiritual, intellectual and social support to members and their families.

WF is not a practical society, but a caring Fellowship providing loving and supportive friendship. It gives members an opportunity to relax, to learn, to have fun, to pray and then return to our daily lives strengthened and encouraged to participate in the wider community. A far reaching network of friendships is developed through local, regional and national meetings. All branches support the education work of St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham to provide quality palliative and end of life care. If you are interested in finding out more please visit www.wivesfellowship.org.uk. Membership is by introduction and open to all Christian women who support the principles of Christian marriage, whatever their personal marital status.

Jo O'Hagan

Alma Lent Lunch



On Sunday 5th March about 50 parishioners from both churches (SMWSA & SP&SP) joined together to enjoy a lunch to raise money for the Diocese of London's Lent appeal. Joe showed us some Power Point presentations on the various projects towards which the Bishop of London's Lent appeal will go. Our link area in Mozambique, the diocese of Niassa, is building a hub to be used for training locally ordained priests, lay readers, mothers union, community development fieldworkers and teams. As you see from the photo a start has been made on this, but more

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 Children's Groups) at 10.00am Holy Baptism (most Sundays) at 12.00noon Morning Prayer at 9.00am</i>
	<i>Tuesdays:</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am: Holy Communion at 9.30am</i>
	<i>Wednesdays:</i>	<i>Church Mice Toddlers Service, 10.30am Morning Prayer at 9.00am, St. Peter & St. Paul</i>
	<i>Thursdays:</i>	<i>Evening Prayer at 5pm</i>
	<i>Tuesday-Friday:</i>	
Sunday 2 nd	5th of Lent	Youth Meeting, Parish Hall, 6.30-8.00pm
Wednesday 5 th		Lent Course, Mina Hogan, 10.30am-noon Lent Course, home, 8.00-9.30pm
Thursday 6 th		Holy Communion, Fullerton Court, 11.30am Lent Course, St Peter & St. Paul, 8.00-9.30pm.
Sunday 9 th	Palm Sunday	Passion Portraits: A Service of Music and Readings for Passiontide, St Peter & St. Paul, 7.30-8.30pm*
Tuesday 11 th		Plain and Pearl Knitting, Mina Hogan, 7.30pm
Thursday 13 th	Maundy Thursday	Parish Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30pm
Friday 14 th	Good Friday*	
Sunday 16 th	Easter Sunday*	
Sunday 23 rd	2nd after Easter	
Tuesday 25 th		Plain and Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan, 7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30-9.00pm
Sunday 30 th	3rd after Easter	Youth Meeting, Parish Hall, 6.30-8.00pm *See Easter Service leaflet for details

Looking ahead to May

Saturday 6th Parochial Church Council Awayday
Friday 12th-Sunday 14th Youth Weekend Away