

## Laura Luck



When Laura first picked up the church choir baton in 2011, little did we know how much fun we would have with her, nor how she would help us develop our

singing, both individually, and as a group. Key characteristics we quickly became aware of are her sublime voice, and her enormous reserves of good humour and patience! Highlights of the four years under her direction have been the annual Advent and Nine Lessons and Carols services, some of the gorgeous evensong music we have prepared, and perhaps to her surprise, the recent Chilcott Requiem concert. The singing has been wonderful, but so has the laughter; particularly memorable was the occasion when, as so often threatened, she whipped out a sign instructing us to watch her, or else! We have also enjoyed her fluorescent high heels and her endless and

generous supply of chocolates! It goes without saying that we have appreciated her hugely and will miss her even more. We can only hope she'll come back to sing as often as possible.

Helen Mulcahy

ISHIRINI  
Singers from Cambridge

Hear my Prayer  
Music for Nepal

St Mary with St Alban, Teddington  
Sunday, 21st February 4pm

ishirini.co.uk/nepal  
Tickets: £10/£5

<b>Parish Office:</b>	St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF. Tel: 020 8943 2262
<b>Vicar:</b>	The Rev Joe Moffatt (8977 2767), email: vicar@stmarywithstalban.org
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## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016



The new Bishop of Kensington, The Rt Revd Graham Tomlin, with the clergy team when visiting us for Midnight Mass

### Vicar's Viewpoint

Lent starts early this year with Ash Wednesday on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Time to get thinking about what to give up! Time also to think about taking up a few things. Here's what we can offer:

#### **Faith**

Exploring the great issues of faith is best done through participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers. This is what our Pilgrim courses are designed to offer. We are putting on both morning and evening courses (lasting 6 weeks), covering some of the essential elements of **Christian** teaching, such as the Creeds and the Commandments. They have been described as 'gently but profoundly life-changing'. I encourage you to find out more via leaflets in church or our website.

#### **Prayer**

Very few people find prayer easy, myself included, and yet it can be key to our spiritual well-being and relationship to God. We are offering an introduction to different styles of prayer on Thursday evenings in Lent, beginning Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. These will include the use of creative arts, silent contemplation and reflective music. Again, leaflets are available, or you can find out more via the website. Please note that the venue will alternate each week between St



## StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

Mary with St Alban and Ss Peter & Paul.

### **Giving**

The Bishop for London has asked us to support persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria. Please consider giving generously to this appeal which will go to two reputable charities: *Open Doors* is providing emergency food supplies and hygiene kits to almost 10,000 families every month in Syria. In Iraq, *Aid to the Church in Need* is focusing on the urgent needs for housing, medicine and education which will enable the Church to maintain its Christian presence. To donate please use our yellow gift aid envelopes and write 'Lent Appeal' on the top (cheques payable to 'St Mary with St Alban') or give via the website [www.give.net/lent16](http://www.give.net/lent16).

### **Ash Wednesday**

Finally, I invite you to make a good start to Lent by coming to one of our Ash Wednesday services (see diary). In the evening we will be joined by the Right Reverend Graham Tomlin, our new Bishop, who is an eminent theologian and wonderful communicator. He will talk about faith and prayer. I hope you can join us.

Best wishes

*Joe Moffatt*

## Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage

A Valentine's Day celebration of love

For couples, families and anyone wishing to give thanks for relationships

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 4.00pm**

Followed by celebratory refreshments

## Planned Giving Appeal – Update

In October we explained that we **needed an increase of £22,000** in our annual planned giving income (from £68,000 to £90,000). We were also hoping for an **increase of 35** in the number of our planned giving households (from 165 to 200). I'm pleased to report that we received pledges that amount to **an increase of £18,000**, and that this is made up of **34 new planned giving households**, plus at least **14 existing households who have lifted their giving**. This is a testament to the generosity of the St Mary's congregation. It's wonderful to see a growth of 20% in our number of givers. Thank you to everyone who has responded with such generosity, and to all our existing givers who continue to ensure that the church is funded – we cannot exist without it, and your support is hugely appreciated! We would, of course, be delighted to receive further pledges. Leaflets and forms are available at the back of church and on the website.

Joe Moffatt

## Las Posadas enjoys another year in Teddington



The name 'Las Posadas' means 'The Inn' or 'Shelter'. This Mexican tradition re-enacts Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and their search for a place to stay.

On the first Sunday in Advent our knitted Mary and Joseph with their trusty donkey, set off visiting homes in the Parish who had offered to provide a 'Posada' for the night.

Each home could use the visit to prepare for Christmas, and to reflect on the journey made so long ago by Mary and Joseph. Our little knitted family joined in Bible readings; said prayers; sang carols; lit candles; went on trips; met invited neighbours, and a fair few teddies,

along the way. Lots of fun was had by all who took part, with the added joy of friendships deepening at hand-overs.

Sarah Liquorish

## Reflections on our Pilgrim Lent Course

Pilgrim is a major new teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day.

The Pilgrim courses are intended for ALL Christians as we continue to journey through faith. The courses are 6 week topic based which involve group discussion, Bible reading, prayer and reflection.

From a personal point of view the Pilgrim courses have been invaluable and have succeeded in fostering both faith and friendship in my everyday life. They have helped me form meaningful relationships within our congregation and extend my theological knowledge.

I am looking forward to witnessing and participating as Pilgrim continues to grow in our church and community.

Carla Maroussas

## SingUp!

**Developing CONFIDENCE, TECHNIQUE and TONE in Sacred Choral Singing.**

Ever wished you could sing in the church choir, but worried about fitting in with other voices or knowing how to read music?

SingUp! is offering you the opportunity to learn to sing confidently with other singers

**CLASSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE.**

*Thursdays, 7.30-9.00pm  
25<sup>th</sup> February & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> &  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2016*

*St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road,  
Teddington, TW11 9HF*

For more details, or to book a place, contact  
*Christopher Stokes, Music Director,  
St Mary with St Alban's Church  
Tel: 07906 505399; Email:  
pianomann1984@hotmail.com*

## Parish Registers

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

10<sup>th</sup> January: Scarlett Cecily, daughter of Patrick & Marcia Dalton; Grace Isabel, daughter of Adam & Alexandra Humphries

17<sup>th</sup> January: Alice Florence, daughter of

Simon & Elizabeth Perks; Phoebe Laura Gwen, daughter of Gareth & Emily Welch

**Funerals** – *We remember with thanksgiving the lives of:*

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> – Janet Bone (77)

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – Richard Haslett (71)

## Diary for February

SERVICES –	Sundays:	Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9.00am Parish Communion at 10.00am Holy Baptism (most Sundays) at 12noon Youth, Parish Hall, 6.30-8.00pm (NB: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month)
	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
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		PCC Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.45pm
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		First Wednesday Club, "Music in Worship", Mina Hogan Room, 12.45-2.15pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>		Pilgrim Course: Turning to Christ, Ss Peter & Paul, 8.00-9.30pm Contemplative Prayer in church 8pm, followed by Compline, 8.30pm
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Bob Chilcott Singing Workshop in Parish Hall, 9.30am-3.30pm Bob Chilcott Singing Performances in church, 3.30-4.30pm
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Sunday Next Before Lent</b>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>		Plain & Pearl Knit, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Holy Communion with Ashing, 9.30am SMSP School Service (at the school), 2.00pm Sung Eucharist with Ashing, 7.30pm (joint service for Teddington Churches, led by the Bishop of Kensington)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30-2.00pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>		Fullerton Court Holy Communion Service, 11.30am
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> of Lent</b> Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage, 4.00pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>		Bishop of Kensington Lent Talk, St Stephen's Church, Twickenham, 7.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>		Pilgrim Lent Course: The Creeds, Mina Hogan Room, 10.30am-12noon
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>		Pilgrim Course: Turning to Christ, Ss Peter & Paul, 8.00-9.30pm
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent</b> Ishirini Choral Concert in church, 4.00pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Plain & Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>		Pilgrim Lent Course: The Creeds, Mina Hogan Room, 10.30am-12noon
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>		Prayer Service, Ss Peter & Paul, 8.00pm
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Lent</b>
<b>Looking ahead</b>		
March 4 <sup>th</sup>		Women's World Day of Prayer – Joint Service at St John's, Hampton Wick, 6.00pm
March 6 <sup>th</sup>		Mothering Sunday Family Parade Service in church, 10.00am