

Palm Sunday

At St Peter and St Paul the Palm Sunday procession is usually a very short one. Situated in the middle of Teddington, we can only process from the church hall where the palms are blessed, into Broad Street, past the traffic lights and round the outside of the building, back into church via the garden gate! So when Father Joe asked us if we would like to share Palm Sunday worship and make a walk of witness from the newest built CE church in Teddington to the oldest, we were delighted to join in.

At the start we worried about the logistics of the exercise, but we needn't have been concerned. All the practicalities were most capably addressed by the St Mary with St Alban team!

On Palm Sunday we were happy to be able to welcome members of St Mary with St Alban to our small, user-friendly, modern church and, despite the disappointing weather, it was good to be involved in a joint walk of witness right through the centre of Teddington.

The general feedback was that the whole experience had been positive and affirming - something we would be glad to repeat in future years. *Jean Howard*

Parish Registers

Baptisms – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*
22nd March: Charlie, son of Steven Teasdale and Fiona Vickers
12th April: Osian Emrys Cox, son of James & Lucy Tarrant; James Patrick Tarrant

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19th April: Frederick Michael, son of Iain & Alex Boyce

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

21st March: Katherine Smith and Alistair Stark

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

24th March: Keith Sivyver (75)



22nd March: Peter Stevens and Robin Field-Smith completed The Marsden March, along with 5,500 others. They thank all those who sponsored and supported them

NEWSLETTER MAY 2015



StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

Vicar's Viewpoint

It's not often that I recommend a missive from the House of Bishops. But their 'Pastoral Letter to the Parishes of the Church of England for the General Election' is well worth a browse before you head to the polls on May 7th. They've entitled it *Who is my Neighbour?* and a quick search on the internet will bring it up. Here's a flavour of what they say:

Anglicans do not have a single view on which political party has the best mix of answers to today's problems. As bishops we support policies which respect the natural environment, enhance human dignity and honour the image of God in our neighbour.

The privileges of living in a democracy mean that we should use our votes thoughtfully, prayerfully, and with the good of others in mind, not just our own interests. Pursuing the common good is a Christian obligation and is expressed in how we approach our role as voters as much as in our personal priorities.

We are called to love our neighbour as ourselves. This is the starting point for all of the church's engagement with society, politics and national life.

Christians everywhere and throughout the ages have prayed, as part of The Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven". That is why politics and the life of the Christian disciple cannot be separated. That is why the church calls its members to play a full part in the political life of the nation and to support politicians and the government with their prayers.

At this election, we can sow the seeds of a new politics. We encourage voters to support

candidates and policies which demonstrate the following key values:

- ♦ Halting and reversing the accumulation of power and wealth in fewer and fewer hands, whether those of the state, corporations or individuals.
- ♦ Involving people at a deeper level in the decisions that affect them most.
- ♦ Recognising the distinctive communities, whether defined by geography, religion or culture, which make up the nation and enabling all to thrive and participate together.
- ♦ Treating the electorate as people with roots, commitments and traditions and addressing us all in terms of the common good and not just as self-interested consumers.
- ♦ Demonstrating that the weak, the dependent, the sick, the aged and the vulnerable are persons of equal value to everybody else.
- ♦ Offering the electorate a grown up debate about Britain's place in the world order and the possibilities and obligations that entails.

Happy voting,

Joe Moffatt



Palm Sunday Procession, Sunday 29th March

Christian Aid Week May 10th-16th

*Fighting global poverty by prayer,
action and funding*

If you can help with local door-to-door collections, please contact Simon Lamb:
simonlamb27@btinternet.com

Letter from Susan Jacobs, Editor 1990-2015



Shortly after the Rev Ray Carter arrived in the parish (in 1979) and began to rebuild a community in the recently re-opened St Mary's Church, he decided to write and dis-tribute a monthly news sheet.

For 10 years Rev Carter wrote all the copy himself; the circulation gradually increased along with its reputation, at which point a trio of editors came on board to take over – the late Peter Mereweather, the late John Ould, and me. January 1990 was our first edition. Since then and for the last 25 years I have been involved with its monthly preparation and production - which has seen me personally edit well over a 100 editions – alongside several other editors. Juliette Jowit replaces me.

The layout has changed over time – and so has the content. Whereas in the old days the editors would cast around anxiously for copy – now we are experts on cutting/squeezing/ somehow fitting in most, if not all, the many, many items which jostle for inclusion. This is due in no small part to the huge increase in parish activities and involvement of and with the local community. The print run has grown to 3,500 copies – plus the newsletter is posted on the church website.

In 1995 Beverley Brock joined us as our typesetter – Beverley is still our typesetter and

almost the most important member of our team. In those early days, copy was still submitted in manuscript – slipped under the door on a Sunday evening!

I believe our newsletter to be a popular and worthwhile contribution to our parish's mission. Editorially we aim to cover recent, current and future church and other parish events in more or less equal measure as well as sharing the Vicar's monthly thoughts and providing diary information and useful contact details.

On a personal note I am looking forward to being able to greet someone without a look of panic crossing their face – “oh good, I thought you were going to ask me to write up the concert/service/outing”. I shall look forward instead to being on the receiving end of the approach.

Susan Jacobs

Please see website for Susan's full letter

Junior & Adult Confirmation

Our **Junior Confirmation** classes will begin on Thursday 14th May, in the Parish Hall from 5.30-6.30pm and will run for 8 weeks.

The course explores faith through discussion, games, film and animation, and includes a day trip to St Paul's Cathedral, and weekend residential during the summer.

Adult Preparation classes for anyone who wishes to be confirmed will take place on Thursday evenings, 8-9.30pm, beginning 4th June. There will be six sessions before the summer break and then a couple more before the service.

The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday 20th September.

For more information or to register interest, please email the Vicar or for our junior candidates, our Youth Pastor, Emily: emily@stmarywithstalban.org

Teddington Scout Group Centenary

1st Teddington Scout Group has met at St Mary with St Alban Parish Hall since 2001 but has been in existence since it was founded at Teddington Baptist Church in 1915. This year, the Group celebrates its Centenary year in a strong position with over 80 young people meeting every Wednesday evening. The Group also recently formed the Skelton Explorer Unit for those aged between 14 and 18 years old looking to continue their Scouting experience.

We are celebrating by having a re-union camp for present and former members of the Group at Walton Firs in May and a week-long

Summer camp for the Cubs, Scout and Explorers in Jersey. The Explorers are also sailing back from Jersey on a tall ship, gaining their day skipper qualification along the way. Finally, in November, we will be holding a Thanksgiving Service and Gala Dinner to round off the year in style.

If you are interested in joining us for our celebrations, or would like to find out more information about joining the Group (as a helper, leader or for your child), please speak to Emily D'Silva, email 1stTeddington100@gmail.com or visit www.1stTeddington100.co.uk

Andy Brooman

Diary for May

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
Sunday 3 rd		5 th of Easter
Tuesday 5 th		Baptism Preparation Evening, Main Hall, 8-9.30pm
Wednesday 6 th		First Wednesday club, <i>Topic: Is there such a thing as Christian vote?</i> , Mina Hogan Room, 1-2.30pm
Thursday 7 th		Contemplative Prayer in Church 8pm, followed by Compline, 8.30pm
Friday 8 th		Holy Communion at Fullerton Court, 11.30am
Fri 8 th -Sun 10 th		Parish Pilgrimage, Winterborne, Dorset
Saturday 9 th		Time to Talk, St Peter & St Paul's Church, 10.30am-12.00noon
Sunday 10 th		Parish Communion with Christian Aid Focus, 10.00am
Sun 10 th -Sat 16 th		Christian Aid Week
Tuesday 12 th		Plain & Pearl Knit, Main Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
Thursday 14 th		Ascension Day Parish Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30-2.00pm Sung Eucharist in Church, 7.30pm
Monday 18 th		Events Meeting, Parish Office, 8-10.00pm
Thursday 21 st		Service of Wholeness & Healing in Church, 8.00pm
Saturday 23 rd		Weddings at 12.30pm and 3.00pm
Sunday 24 th		Pentecost
Tuesday 26 th		Plain & Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Sunday 31 st		Trinity
Looking ahead		
June 14 th		Teddington in Flower, Churchyard Teas, 2-5.00pm