

Chapel. Finally in the afternoon we will walk across Bushy Path to end up at the lovely Water Feature close to the National Physical Laboratory, where Robin and Mary Field-Smith will have a sumptuous tea waiting for us. The total distance is expected to be around 7 or 7½ miles. The following day, after the Sunday Patronal Festival Service, we are planning on a good lunch for our visitors in the Parish Hall before we say good-bye to them.

A few from the congregation have kindly offered a spare room to help accommodate our visitors. If there is anyone else who is able to help host please contact Peter Stevens at peter.stevens@dsl.pipex.com or call the Parish Office. *Peter Stevens*

### Passion Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Scratch Messiah

The 'Scratch Messiah' Evensong was a welcome start to our Passiontide: a combination of Handel's beautiful music, an enlarged choir, bible readings and a wonderful orchestra. Chris Stokes, our acting Musical Director, pulled together all these elements.

With his guidance, enthusiasm and sheer hard work the resulting performance was a great success.

The scratch choir had drawn members from other local churches to join the St. Mary's regulars, and together they movingly performed a number of well-known short pieces from Handel's famous work. And, with contributions from us in the congregation, they raised the roof with the glorious finale of the Hallelujah chorus! They were beautifully accompanied by a large orchestra, led so well, as usual, by Janet Smith. We heard a lovely solo performance by bass-baritone, Oskar Palmblad, and it was a great joy to welcome back former organist, Harold Lester.

The choir and orchestra had rehearsed hard all afternoon, so the tea of home-made cakes and rolls was very welcome, in between rehearsal and performance – a big thank you to the providers.

It was a wonderful evening, made more special by the alliance of so many good voices from surrounding churches, gathered together to sing this glorious tribute.

*Esther & Paul Hammond*

### **Christian Aid Week 15<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> May**

*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](mailto:simonlamb27@btinternet.com)

### **Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Sunday 12th June**

Afternoon tea in the  
churchyard followed by  
Special Festival Service at 6.30pm

<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: <a href="mailto:vicar@stmarywithstalban.org">vicar@stmarywithstalban.org</a>
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	The Rev Mary Hawes (7898 1504), email: <a href="mailto:mary.hawes@churchofengland.org">mary.hawes@churchofengland.org</a>
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## NEWSLETTER MAY 2016



### StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



#### Curate's Comment

One morning in April, my browser page opened to the following headline on the BBC news website: 'Archbishop of Canterbury learns real father was

Churchill's private secretary.' Shocking for anyone to find out that their father was not who they thought he was, but even more challenging to have very personal news made public. As a response to this news the Archbishop of Canterbury issued a personal statement. I was struck in particular by the following lines:

'I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in him never changes. Even more importantly my role as Archbishop makes me constantly aware of the real and genuine pain and suffering of many around the world, which should be the main focus of our prayers.'

For the Archbishop, faith in Christ has meant that he has turned to Christ in life's storms and found the comforting, steady presence of God. In light of this, he has called Anglicans to a national Week of Prayer in May, prior to Pentecost (8-15<sup>th</sup> May). There will be a focus on prayer in churches all over the country during that week, culminating in some special prayer events in cathedrals. St Paul's

Cathedral (Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm) is involved with this and the event will be hosted by the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, and Pete Greig, founder of 24/7 prayer, with sung worship led by Tim Hughes and Jake Isaac.

Closer to home we are hosting a Big Day of Prayer on the 12<sup>th</sup> May with different prayer focuses throughout the day. It will be held at SMwSA beginning with Morning Prayer at 9am, please see the website for details of the day.

On a personal note, for me, prayer is invaluable. I know I need regular communication with God in order to remember who I am and the work God has given me to do. Also, in the darker periods of my life, knowing that God is with me means that I have the strength to keep journeying forwards. I am thankful that prayer can both be solitary and corporate, as I have learnt so much from other Christians, both old and young, simply through praying with them.

So, wherever you are on your journey of prayer, even if currently you don't pray at all, I hope you'll consider joining us in May as we pray.

Best wishes,

*Gabby Thomas*

#### Easter Round-Up



The Good Friday Walk of Witness saw over 100 people converged on the Green opposite the Hospital for an outdoor service.

Best ever Easter bonnets made this year at



the Good Friday Workshop with the help of Plain & Pearl.

Family members young and old from across Teddington enjoyed tea, bonnets and buns at Ss Peter and Paul while making wonderful Easter creations.

Then at the Easter Dawn Service we lit the Easter Fire outside the church.



Attended by sixty people, this dawn service were rewarded with an amazing full English breakfast (plus a glass of bucks fizz), prepared by a heroic kitchen team led by Sandy Symes.



Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made our Easter services and events happen.

## Considering Confirmation?

We will be starting our Confirmation Preparation Courses next month. These run for 6 weeks before the summer holiday, followed by two more sessions in early September.

There will be a Youth Confirmation Course on Wednesdays, starting on the 7th June, from 5.30-7.00pm in the Parish Office. We suggest a minimum age of twelve but are happy to have conversations with families about when might be the best time. Please contact Gabby Thomas (Curate) if interested.

There will be an Adult Confirmation Course on Tuesdays, starting 14th June, from 8.00-9.30pm in the Parish Office. Please contact Joe Moffatt (Vicar) if interested.

The Confirmation Service will be on September 11th at 5pm, conducted by the Bishop of Kensington.

## Parish Registers

**Baptisms** – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*  
3rd April: Amber Dorothy and Lily Sophia, daughters of Michael & Laura Higgins; Millie Lydia, daughter of Michael & Melanie Lewis

## Parish Quiet Day Led by Bishop Martin Wharton

*Not Least in the Kingdom*

**Tuesday 24th May, 10.00am-4.00pm at Ham Convent**

Cost £5 per person  
Bring your own packed lunch

*The Bishop writes: 'People are the words with which God tells his story'*

We will reflect together on how God tells his story through human beings. And not only through the great, the good, and the gifted, but also through the weak, the vulnerable, the unnoticed and the unknown. Jesus taught that though such people may be out of sight, they are not out of mind. They may seem to be nonentities in a self centred and competitive world, but in the eyes of God they are inheritors of the Kingdom of God.

**Contact Christabel Davies for further information on Tel: 8255 3837**

## Parish Pilgrimage 'At Home'

The Parish Pilgrimage will be 'At Home' this year with some of our friends from Winterborne Stickland coming to join us. The Pilgrimage Walk will take place on Saturday 18th June. Our plan is to start from St Mary with St Alban Church at 10.00a.m. with a short

service. We then head off over the river by Teddington Lock and walk all the way down the towpath to All Saint's Church, Kingston where we will have a second short service. We then come back over Kingston Bridge and walk the whole length of the towpath to Hampton Court for a third service in the Royal

## 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, 6.30pm (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)  
*Wednesdays:* Holy Communion and Morning Prayer at 9.30am  
Church Mice Toddlers Service, 10.30am  
*Monday-Friday:* Evening Prayer at 5pm

Sunday 1st 6th of Easter  
Monday 2nd Pilgrim Course: *The Beatitudes*, 8.30-10.00pm (contact carolinehalmshaw@gmail.com)  
Tuesday 3rd Baptism Preparation, Parish Office, 8-9.30pm  
Wednesday 4th First Wednesday Club, Topic: *Thoughts of the Day*, Mina Hogan Room, 12.45-2.15pm  
Thursday 5th Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan Room, 2.30-4.00pm  
Ascension Day – Sung Eucharist in Church, 7.30pm  
Sunday 8th Parade Service for Christian Aid in Church, 10.00am  
Monday 9th Pilgrim Course: *The Beatitudes*, 8.30-10.00pm (contact carolinehalmshaw@gmail.com)  
Tuesday 10th Plain & Pearl Knit, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.00pm  
Thursday 12th Big Day of Prayer at Ss Peter & Paul Church  
Parish Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30-2.00pm  
Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan Room, 2.30-4.00pm  
Friday 13th Holy Communion, Fullerton Court, 11.30am  
Friday 13-15th Youth Weekend Away  
Sunday 15 Pentecost  
Sunday 15th-22nd Christian Aid Week  
Monday 16th Pilgrim Course: *The Beatitudes*, 8.30-10.00pm (contact carolinehalmshaw@gmail.com)  
Thursday 19th Service of Wholeness & Healing, 8.00pm  
Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan Room, 2.30-4.00pm  
Sunday 22nd Trinity Sunday  
Monday 23rd Pilgrim Course: *The Beatitudes*, 8.30-10.00pm (contact carolinehalmshaw@gmail.com)  
Tuesday 24th Parish Quiet Day at Ham Convent  
Plain & Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm  
Sunday 29th 1st After Trinity

## Looking ahead

Wednesday 1st June First Wednesday Club, Topic: *How important is it to know one's genetic father?*, Mina Hogan Room, 12.45-2.15pm