

Testaments?

I read Mark for my confirmation and was struck by its simplicity; for different reasons Obadiah is also an easy read.

What attracted you most about St Mary's with St Alban's?

The warm welcome and friendliness of the congregation.

What is the best advice you've ever been given?

'Do one day at a time' and 'Keep it simple'

How do you like to spend your spare time?

Watching sport (rugby, golf, football), carrying out DIY and socializing with friends.

What is your best childhood memory?

My father coming home with two tickets for Wales vs Ireland (1975) at Cardiff Arms Park – the first international rugby match I saw.

What is your favourite hymn?

Jerusalem, and Guide Me Oh Thy Great Redeemer is a close second.

What is your favourite service in the Christian calendar?

Patronal Sunday - St Alban's day (22nd June) is also the day I got married and a useful reminder for me to buy a card and flowers.

How do you view the challenge of chairing the Fabric and Finance committee?

Making sure that there are sufficient resources (people, time and money) to provide safe buildings in which people can worship and enjoy fellowship with other parishioners.

What are your hopes for this coming year working at St Mary with St Alban?

That it continues to thrive and reach out well beyond the parish boundaries.

As told to Melanie Woodcock

SPEAR News



As in 2011 our Harvest Festival collection will go to SPEAR. Below are some highlights from their recent newsletter:

Harvest – SPEAR are grateful for the way churches support them. This year they are asking congregations to give a 'coin on a can' – to tape a coin to each can of food they donate. This ensures people receive the food donations they need and it provides financial support for SPEAR's general funds.

What they've been doing – Their Veteran's Support team are currently supporting 27 ex-servicemen and women and their families through addressing issues such as mental and physical health, housing, employment and reducing isolation following their time in service.

Between April and July 7 clients moved into work, training or a work placement, 27 clients attended their Job Club and 12 were receiving IT tuition.

The Big SPEAR Snooze, Saturday 6th October – to be hosted from Twickenham Stoop, home of the *Harlequins* rugby team. *Will you be sponsored to change the place you sleep for just one night?* For more information or to register email kerry@spearlondon.org or call 020 7036 9766.

Julia Hornsby

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012



StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



Vicar's Viewpoint

Something rather wonderful has happened these past few months to change our social currency. Our previous currency dealt heavily in scepticism and dour pessimism. If you wanted to fit in, it was best to express a relatively gloomy outlook on life. This no longer holds value.

The Bishop of London has quite perceptively described this remarkable summer as a 'holiday from cynicism'. The new currency, following all our Jubilee street-parties and Olympic festivities, deals in positive attitudes, optimism and a strong belief in the value and potential of community.

Everyone I meet shares the same unbridled enthusiasm for the events that have taken place across our city. We might have predicted that to be the case for the Jubilee and the Olympics. What seems most extraordinary is the same level of enthusiasm for the Paralympic Games.

I was fortunate to go to four days of Paralympic events, including the athletics, swimming, basketball and football. The crowds in the Olympic park were unbelievable, the sport was fantastic and the upbeat attitude of spectators and competitors alike was really inspiring. Most significant, perhaps, were the thousands of volunteer gamesmakers, all setting the tone with friendly smiles and helpful guidance. They were literally everywhere, exchanging this new-

found currency of positivity.

The challenge now is how to make this a permanent change of currency and not just a holiday currency that we trade back for the old notes of cynicism and gloom. A good place to start is to give thanks for all that we've enjoyed.

October is traditionally the month for Harvest Festivals. These celebrated the hard work that was needed to be done by all the community to get the harvest in. Now we no longer need to work together in the fields. Instead, we should celebrate the hard work of all the thousands of people who came together to make the events of the summer so fruitful.

Beyond that, we must resist the temptation to slip back in to pessimistic patterns of thinking and maintain our confidence in what we can achieve when we resolve to do things together. Community events and action really make a difference. May we look back on 2012 in the future and say that it marked a profound shift in the way we thought and the way we talked.

Best wishes

Joe Moffatt

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Supper Talk

Should we admit children to communion before confirmation?

Led by Rev Mary Hawes
CofE National Children's Advisor
(and our Assistant Priest)

Tuesday October 16th
7.30pm in the Parish Hall
Two-course supper with wine

£10 per person – pay on the night
Book via parish office or sign-up sheet
at back of church

Fairtrade chocolate



Traidcraft, (www.traidcraft.co.uk) which fights poverty through trade, has recently launched a new range of five superb chocolate 100g bars called *More Than Just Chocolate*. What makes this chocolate more than just? Because every bite of this great-tasting quality chocolate, from small-scale cocoa and sugar producers in some of the world's poorest countries – Peru, Bolivia, Ivory Coast and the Dominican Republic - offers them the sweet taste of trade justice. It's more than just chocolate, it's hope in a bar. The five flavours are milk, fruit & nut, dark, almond & orange and caramel espresso (the last 3 organic) and, along with a host of other fairtrade products, will be available at the Traidcraft stall in the Hall after church on Harvest Festival Sunday October 7th. The more often we select the Fairtrade logo when buying food, clothes, jewellery, Christmas cards, even gold, the more we can make a difference to someone's life. If you can't come on October 7th, or if you would like supplies of anything from the Traidcraft catalogue at any time, please contact me and I'll be pleased to help.

Susan Jacobs – 8943 0503

Pastoral Messiah

On Sunday, November 4th at 4pm the Landmark Arts Centre, as parts of its Festival of Song, is putting on a must see performance of *A Pastoral Messiah* – a tale of unrequited love, betrayal, repentance and the grace to forgive that combines the story of a troubled community in 19th century England with the music of Handel's glorious *Messiah*. This is a community opera with the feel of a mediaeval mystery play and is the creation of **Unexpected Opera** – a locally based group under the wonderfully inspired direction of Lynn Binstock. Professional singers and accompanists will join Landmark Choir members and other local singers, and the audience is invited to sing along with three choruses, including the *Hallelujah*, so bring a score. Tickets from the Landmark Box Office – 8 9 7 7 7 5 5 8, details from www.unexpectedopera.com

News From The Hall

As some of you may be aware, during the Summer break we made a few improvements to our hall. The biggest of these was having a beautiful new kitchen installed. It was an interesting and sometimes trying couple of weeks – not least for Terry Brown our senior church warden, who put a lot of time and effort into making sure that everything went as smoothly as possible.



Churchwarden Terry Brown in the Parish Hall's refurbished kitchen

The long Summer break is also a good opportunity to get those jobs done that aren't possible during term time. We've had the hall floor professionally cleaned and have also had new cupboards fitted in the Mina Hogan room and under the stairs. Not only our regulars will benefit from these improvements, but also those that hire out the hall for their parties and other functions. Children's parties are very popular in the hall, and at only £85.00 for 3 hours, this is hardly surprising. If you would like to book our hall for your party or other function, please contact Debbie on 020 8943 2262.

Debbie Taylor Osborne

The Harvest Supper

Saturday 6th October 2012

6.30 pm

in the Parish Hall

Adults – £8.00 and Under 12's – £4.00

(includes a two course meal with a glass of wine)

To book please contact the Parish Office
020 8943 2262

Parish Registers

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

12th August: Florence Elizabeth, daughter of Chris and Lucy Fink

2nd September: James Percival Benjamin, son of Will and Eily Rudge

9th September: Harry George, son of Stuart and Kate Ross

Choral Evensong

Commemorating Thomas Traherne

Sunday October 14th

6.30pm

Guest preacher:

Rev Christopher Kevill-Davies
(formerly Rector of Chelsea)

Wine served after the service

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

1st September: Nicola Parsons & Ross Baker

8th September: Catherine Cogle & Adrian Goatley

15th September: Alexander Harmon & Amanda Ireland

60-second interview with David Power – Head of our Fabric and Finance working group



Who inspired you most to become a Christian?

My parents; Living next door to the vicarage in Doncaster also helped.

What are your favourite books of the Old and New

Diary for October

SERVICES – *Sundays:* Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am
Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9.00am
Parish Communion (with Sunday School) at 10.00am
Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.30am
Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm

Wednesday 3rd First Wednesday Club, Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2pm Topic: *Baptism*
Thursday 4th Silent Prayer in Church, 8.30pm, followed by Compline at 9pm
Friday 5th Newland House School Harvest service in church, 9am
Saturday 6th Harvest Supper in Parish Hall, 6.30pm
Sunday 7th Harvest Festival Parade Service, 10am
Traidcraft sale in the Parish Hall after the 9am and 10am services
Tuesday 9th Plain and Pearl Knitting, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Thursday 11th Parish Lunch at The Anglers, 12.30pm
Sunday 14th 19th after Trinity
Choral Evensong in Church, 6.30pm
Youth Group in Parish Hall, 6.30pm
Tuesday 16th Tea Club, Mina Hogan Room, 3-5pm
Supper Talk in Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 20th Wedding at 1.30pm
Sunday 21st 20th after Trinity
10am service: Guest preacher – Rev Peter Clark from Teddington Methodist Church
Tuesday 23rd Plain and Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Sunday 28th Bible Sunday

And looking ahead

Sunday 4th November All Souls' Service, 6.30pm