

What are your first impressions of Teddington?

The range of tempos, commuters in the early morning, buggies mid morning, while the slower tempo of places like the "Mason's Arms" compares with the more frenetic fitness fanatics. Our church service rhythms are also very varied. I am also struck by the high level of people with learning needs who are visible in the local area, one of whom summed himself up with "I'm amazing".

As told to Sue Stevens

Parish Registers

Baptisms – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*
28th August: Alice Freya, daughter of Rowland & Helen Rooney

4th September: Emilia Eve, daughter of Carlos & Clare Leon

11th September: Emmanuel William Wilkinson Barnes, son of Douglas & Claudia Cuero Berrio (blessing only)

18th September: Charlie Macdonald Tiger Frei, son of Alain & Kirstin Taylor-Frei; Walter John David, son of Simon & Mary Ford; Lotte Cece, daughter of Paul & Kristie Woodhouse; Hugo Benjamin, son of Alexander & Victoria Heaton.

Pilgrim Courses

To support our focus on **The Eucharist**, we are running three 6 week Pilgrim courses.

They are a great way to explore faith, approaching the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation, and discussion with a group of fellow travellers. The course is designed to help you discover the Christian way of life. It unpacks the basic message and teaching of the Christian faith. It shows you how to pray and how to live like Jesus. It does this in a way that is conversational. No one forces the pace and all are welcome. Each session lasts 90 minutes and includes prayer, Bible readings, discussion and reflection.

The Eucharist Courses

Dates & times: Wednesday 28th September-2nd November: 10.30am-noon.

Led by: Sarah Williams and Ann Dix

Venue: Leader's home

Contact: a.dix@icloud.com or
gareth_sarah@btinternet.com

Dates & times: Thursday 29th September -3rd November: 8.00-9.30pm.

Led by: Revd. Azariah France-Williams

Venue: St. Peter & St. Paul's

Contact: azariah@stpeterstpaulteddington.co.uk

Dates & times: Wednesday 5th October-9th November: 8.00-9.30pm

Led by: Carla Maroussas and Adam Woods

Venue: Peter & Sue Stevens' home

Contact: carla.maroussas@gmail.com or
adamwoods@gmail.com.

Carla Maroussas

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

Grave Talk

Autumn is upon us! We are not yet in the bleak mid-winter and there are still some sunny days; nevertheless, the leaves falling from the trees gently remind us that new shrubs are no longer springing to life. With this in mind, it seems a fitting time of year to reflect upon life's end. As far as the news is concerned, 2016 has seen a plethora of celebrities reaching the end of their lives; David Bowie, Caroline Aherne, Alan Rickman, Victoria Wood and Prince, to name a few. So, for much of the year, the Twitter talk seems to have been #RIP [followed by name of celebrity]. Along with newspapers, I wondered when the steady stream of celebrity deaths would slow down. What I found interesting, as death upon death occurred, was that whilst much public mourning took place, most was focussed on the celebrity's life and did not appear to lead to discussions of death. It seems that even with the obvious fact in front of us, i.e. it is inevitable we shall all die, death itself was still not centre stage. With each death I began to think that as a nation we might benefit from facing the inevitable.

In 2003, I spent a formative year living in a community in which dedicated Catholic nuns spent their time caring for those approaching death. Apart from the nuns, those living in the community were all under 50, and in light of this, death seemed to be approaching far too early. I found myself frequently coming face to face with my own mortality; the result of which was that for me, death became a less uncomfortable subject. However, when I glance around, at the media, adverts, or shops, I cannot help noticing the clear message: we should be trying to evade death, and to stay young for as long as possible.

With the winter approaching and the cycle of death upon us, we are reminded that we are mortal. With this in mind, we invite you to come along to "Grave Talk," on Wednesday



StMARYwithStALBAN

PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

2nd November from 8.00-9.30pm at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church, Teddington. We welcome all; those with faith and those with doubts. It will be an informal evening where there will be an opportunity to think through issues of life and death, funerals and all things related to dying; topics which there are few opportunities to discuss in polite British society. Then on Sunday 6th November at 6.30pm, we are holding our annual All Soul's service, in which we commemorate those known to us who have died. For more details, contact Gabrielle Thomas curate@stmarywithstalban.org or Sarah Williams baptisms@stmarywithstalban.org

Gabrielle Thomas, Curate

South India TRUST Children's Home

The Moffatt family travelled around India for 6 weeks in the summer. During this time they spent a week in a Children's Home near Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu. Here's an excerpt from their blog:

Our last day at TRUST was even more action-packed than the others. We woke up at 6am to spend time at the Girls' Home before school. Hanging out with the children has been our most enjoyable activity of the whole trip, so it was



Parish Office:	St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF. Tel: 020 8943 2262
Vicar:	The Rev Joe Moffatt (8977 2767), email: vicar@stmarywithstalban.org
Associate Priest:	The Rev. Azariah France-Williams (07791 191100), e-mail: azariah@stpeterstpaulteddington.co.uk
Assistant Priest:	The Rev Mary Hawes (7898 1504), email: mary.hawes@churchofengland.org
Curate:	The Rev Gabrielle Thomas (8943 2262), email: curate@stmarywithstalban.org
Administration & Hall Bookings:	Suzanne Parker (8943 2262) email: parishhall@stmarywithstalban.org
Newsletter Editors:	Sally Rideout, Sue Stevens, Juliette Jowit email: newsletter@stmarywithstalban.org, (8943 2262)
Church School:	St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476), www.smsponline.com
Church Wardens:	Peter Stevens (8977 4803), email: peter.stevens@dsl.pipex.com Sarah Williams (07584 657 914), email: baptisms@stmarywithstalban.org
For all other contacts:	www.stmarywithstalban.org  Follow us on Twitter @SMWSAChurch

good to get a final couple of hours with them, as well as seeing their breakfast routine (large portions of curd rice), school uniforms and large rucksacks. Evie and Daniel have been brilliant at learning almost all of their names.

We then went to witness the bore-hole drilling that Thiru [Dr P. Thirumaran, the TRUST Director] had hastily arranged. Two days ago we discussed how to spend the £1,300 we raised at our church cake-sale. The library had already been completed due to a local benefactor. So Thiru suggested two priorities, an extra bore-hole for the Girls' Home, and repairing the ambulance that he uses locally. We opted for the former because the money was given specifically for the children's home. Thiru is a great believer in guests and benefactors being honoured by a full and public acknowledgement of their gift, so he wasted no time in getting the bore-hole trucks on site, and a photo opportunity before the school bus whisked the girls away.

The huge drill took three or four hours to hit water, and continued to a depth of 600 metres, which will provide a significant boost to the water supply. It was fascinating to see.

Our meals have been amazing. Shanti has worked tirelessly to produce a huge range of both savoury and sweet delicacies. After a substantial breakfast and packing, we donned the new shirts and saris Thiru had generously given us. This was followed by a few more presentations of volunteer certificates for Evie and Daniel with various local visitors.



Then we went back to the primary school for final 'lessons' and farewells. With a final treat of spicy fried fish and samosas, we bade a fond farewell to our amazing hosts. Thiru and Shanti are an inspiring couple who have given their lives to building up a remarkable set of social projects to help the most needy in their

locality. We have been hugely privileged to be treated as honoured guests.

Taken from www.moffsonour.wordpress.com

Interview with Azariah France-Williams

Who inspired you most to become a Christian? My mother, a really good human, taught at Sunday School, and had the gift of co-opting people into faith.

What are your favourite books of the Old and New Testaments, and why?

In the O.T it is the book of Genesis. The creation poem begins with God stilling the chaos and bringing life. In the N. T. the letter to the Ephesians teaches us God is an artist and we are God's exhibit.

What is your favourite service in the Christian calendar and why? I have two. The first is the service the day before Advent when candles are lit, and the second, Tenebrae, in Holy Week, when the candles are blown out.

What attracted you to SS. Peter & Paul? The potential for working in partnership, and the ability to work as part of a team linking with other clergy and the local school, in a very different context to that to which I had been used. Also the opportunity to work in a different liturgical environment.

What is the best advice you have ever been given? When I was 10 or 11 I read a quote "the wise person takes more opportunities than he is offered". I learnt, therefore, to go and talk to any person who makes an impression on me. By doing this, you can 'gather and connect' people in amazing ways.

With whom would you most like to be locked in a church and why? My wife, Anna, in a building, perhaps a cathedral, which opens the imagination. We would have the time and space to think deeply.

What type of music do you most enjoy? I enjoy some piano jazz, like the duet piece 'Just Enough' by Hancock and Elias. A capella music moves me, and I also enjoy African-American gospel, artists like Andre Crouch.

How do you like to spend your spare time? I enjoy writing short stories. None are

published as yet, but a full range of characters from obnoxious priests to Barbadian grandmas are awaiting discovery.

What is your favourite book, film or play? I like anything with a good story line, and enjoy story telling. Two authors I enjoy are Neil Gaiman and Ursula Le Guin.

What are your worst and best childhood memories? I wanted to be a doctor when I was a boy. One parents' evening my teacher told Mum I should set my sights lower. I was crushed. As an adult I learnt I was and am dyslexic. I hold an M.Phil., and collecting that degree felt like a real achievement.

Diary for October

<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</i>
	<i>Tuesday:</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am</i>
	<i>Wednesday:</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am; Holy Communion at 9.30am Church Mice Toddlers Service at 10.30am</i>
	<i>Thursday:</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am, St. Peter & St. Paul</i>
	<i>Tuesday-Friday:</i>	<i>Evening Prayer at 5.00pm</i>
Saturday 1 st		Harvest Barn Dance, Parish Hall, 6.00-9.00pm
Sunday 2 nd		Harvest Festival Harvest Parade Service, 10.00am 1st Children's Eucharist Session, Church, 11.30am-12.30pm Youth Meeting (cooking night), Parish Hall, 6.30pm
Wednesday 5 th		First Wednesday Club, <i>Tales from India-Joe Moffatt will be reflecting on his family's recent trip</i> , Mina Hogan, 12.45-2.15pm
Thursday 6 th		Richmond & Twickenham Wives Fellowship 60th Anniversary Service, 11.00am Holy Communion, Fullerton Court, 11.30am Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan, 2.30-4.00pm
Sunday 9 th		20th after Trinity Youth Session exploring Communion, Church, 6.30-8.00pm
Tuesday 11 th		Plain & Pearl Knit, Mina Hogan, 7.30-9.30pm
Thursday 13 th		Parish Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30pm Traherne Reading Group, Mina Hogan, 2.30-4.00pm
Saturday 15 th		2nd Children's Eucharist Session, Church, 9.30-11.30am
Sunday 16 th		21st after Trinity Youth Session exploring Communion, Church, 4.30-5.30pm Youth Meeting, St. Peter & St. Paul, 6.30pm
Sunday 23 rd		Last after Trinity Ecumenical One World Week Service, St. Marks, 4.00pm
Tuesday 25 th		Plain & Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan, 7.30-9.30pm
Sunday 29 th		All Saints Youth Meeting, St. Peter & St. Paul, 6.30pm
<u>Looking ahead in November</u>		
Wednesday 2 nd		Grave Talk, St. Peter & St. Paul, 8.00-9.30pm
Saturday 5 th		3rd Children's Eucharist Session, Church, 9.30-11.30am
Sunday 13 th		Remembrance Sunday Parade
Thursday 24 th		Teddington Lights Up
Saturday 26 th		Christmas Bazaar.