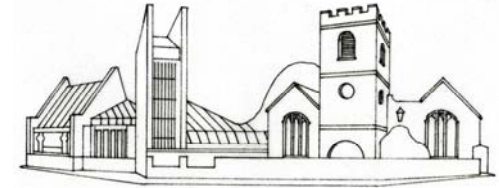


you, we helped 550 street children under 6 get off the streets and into one of our nurseries – giving them a safe and caring environment. That means children getting an education, instead of begging in dirty and dangerous environments. 600 street children in Kenya got off the streets and back into education, and you helped us take emergency action to educate almost

4,000 children and their communities on how to keep safe from Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Your support over 12 years has raised an incredible £10,574. Thank you so much! For more information visit www.chanceforchildhood.org

Beatrice Cami



WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Thursday 1 st	Fullerton Court Communion Service. 11.30am Service of Wholeness & Healing. SMwSA. 8.00pm
Sunday 4 th	7th after Trinity
Tuesday 6 th	Memory Café. SPSP. 1.30pm
Wednesday 7 th	There will be NO First Wednesday Group this month
Thursday 8 th	Parish Pub Lunch. Teddington Arms. 12.30pm
Sunday 11 th	8th after Trinity
Sunday 18 th	9th after Trinity
Sunday 25 th	10th after Trinity
Tuesday 27 th	Parish Pub Coffee. The Anglers. 10.30am <i>Please note there will be no Plain & Pearl Meetings this month, but they will return on September 10</i>
LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER	
Wednesday 4 th	School Activity Day Childcare. SPSP. 8.30am-1.15pm, or until 3.15pm. Ages 4-11. Continuing this hugely successful Inset Day childcare. For more information: insetdaypandp@outlook.com
Saturday 14 th	Dunkirk Little Ships Service. Teddington Lock. 2.30pm
Tuesday 17 th	Supper Talk. 'A personal introduction to the Bible' by Joe Moffatt. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.30pm

Parish Contacts

SMwSA Office Administration & Hall Bookings:	Suzanne Parker St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF	parishhall@stmarywithstalban.org 020 8943 2262
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Vicar:	The Rev Joe Moffatt	vicar@stmarywithstalban.org 020 8977 2767
Associate Priest:	The Rev Azariah France-Williams	azariah@stpeterstpaulteddington.co.uk 07791 191100
Newsletter Editors:	Julien Cozens, Penny Jones and Sue Stevens	newsletter@stmarywithstalban.org 020 8943 2262
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www.teddingtonparish.org

Vicar's Viewpoint



When I was 15 I jumped the fence at Knebworth to see the 'last' Led Zeppelin concert, and since then have loved the experience of open-air music. In London, the festival line-up announcements have overtaken the dawn chorus as the heralds of spring and summer. As a church we look forward to going to the Greenbelt festival over the August Bank Holiday.

Festivals have long been associated with protest and alternative life choices, and although the improved loos are welcome, the gentle gentrification and rise in cost has meant that in some instances their offer of something alternative has diminished. This year's festivals have challenged this and have recaptured some of the origins of the festival movement. Glastonbury was full of the unexpected; David Attenborough who is in his 90s, was the surprise guest, and the stats say that there was a significant reduction in the need for police interventions. The campaign to reduce single use plastic was successful and was visible on stage as well as among the campers. The sense of working for a common good was palpable.

One of the most provocative and challenging performances was given by Stormzy. He is a young, black, grime artist, by no means easy listening! In his set, he combined raw protest with a yearning and belief in God's mercy and goodness. This heady combination led to a moment when he invited the audience 'to church' as he performed 'blinded by your grace', have a look on Youtube. Stormzy is teaching us something important about God being among us. In life we long for moments of transcendence, and Glastonbury showed us that we can encounter God when we least expect to. I hope you find your moment of transcendence this summer, and that the fence isn't too high for me to jump at Greenbelt!

Caroline Halmshaw

www.teddingtonparish.org

August 2019

REGULAR SERVICES

St Mary with St Alban (SMwSA)

SUNDAYS

- 8.00am Holy Communion
 - 9.00am Morning Worship
 - 10.00am Parish Communion
- ##### WEDNESDAYS
- 9.00am Morning Prayer
 - 9.30am Holy Communion
 - 10.30am Church Mice (*will not run in August*)

St Peter and St Paul (SPSP)

SUNDAYS

- 9.45am Family Communion
- ##### THURSDAYS
- 9.00am Morning Prayer

The Elevation of the Shed

For over forty years, nestled against the north wall of the church, stood a small wooden building known as 'Cyril's Shed, once the H.Q. and bolt-hole of our old Verger Cyril Shaw. Over time it has acquired 'an interesting patina', and some interesting contents. The churchyard plan meant time for change. Churchwarden Robin Field-Smith declared that he would levitate the shed and resite it in a less prominent place, after his Holy Gardeners had culled and dumped the rubbish.

So Field-Marshal Smith assembled his troops at 10 o'clock exactly one Saturday morning. All

planned with military precision (we have come to expect nothing less). I was to report as acting Corporal (Catering). Being ten minutes late on parade, I carried a forged doctor's-note excusing me from any physical exertion. Two crewmen sported rugby-shirts as if to underline their lifting credentials, others looked more apprehensive. One unexpected volunteer was the Vicar's wife, Jo, definitely not there to make tea-she had brought her professional Civil Engineering experience and soon had her shoulder to the shed.

At 10.15 Robin gave the order "LIFT!". After an eerie silence, while photographing from a distance, I braced myself for disaster. Then slowly the shed lifted about a foot, hovered, then crashed down. Someone had lost their grip. The second attempt meant the shed rose to waist height and moved slowly forward. The plan was to carry it several metres and rest it on two large flat ledger stones. The dramatic landing was accompanied by shouts and gasps, as the shed ended precariously overhanging the drop to the path below. Despite all his preparations to 'make straight the way of the Shed', even Robin cannot flatten mountains or fill in valleys.

Phase 1 had gone remarkably smoothly. Phase 2 needed the shed down on the path, and rotated through 90 degrees. All went well until the floor, weakened by wet-rot and insect activity, separated, causing the rear lifters to stumble throwing the shed forward, crashing to the ground.



Jo, the Vicar's wife, directing operations

An outbreak of muttering ensued about how to proceed. In a moment the 'Tower of Babel Planning Committee' was convened. Now floorless, the shed was on the move again, but, confused by the terrain and conflicting instructions the shed was lurching out of control. The Babel voices reached a crescendo. Sensing the situation was out of hand, the Vicar's wife cried 'Stop!' in a tone of Biblical authority, "Only

one voice can give instructions!' The team stilled, heads bowed like school-boys caught having a furtive fag. Moments later the team had agreed that Jo should take charge.

It was now prudent to head to Sainsbury's for chocolate biscuits and extra milk. Meanwhile, the troops had manoeuvred the shed almost into position. Some impromptu tree-surgery extricated the roof from overhanging branches. Then, with precision worthy of Brunel, the shed slid between a grave stone and the boundary fence, with millimetres to spare, into its final resting place. Mission accomplished!



The shed in its final resting place

Was this a victory for irresistible force over a moveable object?-certainly. Was the success a result of Robin's meticulous planning and preparation?-undoubtedly. Was it a triumph of female logic over raw male power? No comment. Certainly those involved can be proud to tell their children and grandchildren they played a part in the great elevation of the shed.

Terry Brown

Caroline Halmshaw's ordination weekend

On Saturday 22nd June, the sun finally did what it was supposed to do and flooded south west London with warmth and light as we celebrated our curate Caroline's ordination.

That afternoon, a group of us from the parish joined Caroline's husband Rick, son Alec and other family and friends to take part in a joyful service at All Saints, Fulham, during which Graham, Bishop of Kensington, ordained Caroline and ten others as priests. The ceremony was moving but also intimate and relaxed, helped by the presence of so many families and the soaring voices of the choir. For me, the most memorable part was when the par-



Stella (Caroline's mother), Caroline and Father Graham Claydon

tipicating priests crowded round each ordinand in turn, laying their hands on them as the Bishop said the ordination prayer. When it was Caroline's turn, it was even more moving because one of the priests was her mother, Stella. Afterwards, we poured out into the sunshine to congratulate Caroline and take photographs before repairing to a Putney pub.

The following day, Caroline presided at Holy Communion for the first time. Again the sun did its job, making the packed church sunlit and colourful. It was hugely moving seeing Caroline process up the aisle fully robed up as the presiding priest. She led the service beautifully, as confident as if she had been doing it all her life. The guest preacher, Revd Graham Claydon, an old friend of Caroline's, gave an uplifting sermon, among many other things emphasising what a blessing Caroline will be to us just by being amongst us – something I think we have already experienced. The celebrations continued with a well-attended and joyful lunch, with delicious summer food provided by Suzie Gordon and her team of helpers.



Suzie Gordon and helper, Jenny Jackson

Overall, it was a joyous weekend in which we welcomed Caroline back to St Mary with St Alban as a newly ordained priest. We are delighted that she is beginning her ordained ministry here with us in Teddington.

Cathy Randall

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS – We welcome into Christ's Church:

30th June: Samuel Lawrence Roy, son of Johaan & Helena Wiggins

7th July: Mia Olivia, daughter of Lawrence & Nadine Longsdale; Eve Vivienne, daughter of Ian & Lisa Bailey; Leo Alexander Raphael, son of Antoine & Karin Rabanes

WEDDINGS – We wish every blessing on the marriage of:

5th July: William Hughes and Hannah Cochrane

 **Chance for Childhood** Thank you for helping the most vulnerable children

Your kind and generous support of Chance for Childhood (was Street Child Africa) over the years has given countless children hope and opportunity. Across sub-Saharan Africa, your help has improved the lives of thousands of the most marginalised children.

Children like Innocent, a 14 year old girl from northern Uganda. When her parents tragically died she had to drop out of school and care for her two younger sisters. "We didn't have a stable place to live", she told us. "We were seen as a burden". Luckily, a community leader contacted Chance for Childhood's local partner. The family were allocated a mentor, who gave them the equipment and skills they need to farm their land. Their mentor also helped them build a new home, and looks after their animals when they're at school.

Innocent and her sisters are already seeing the rewards. They planted five acres of sunflowers and sold them for £170, using the money to pay school fees, buy food, clothes and a bull to plough the field! Your generous support has changed the lives of Innocent and many others. Just last year, with the help of supporters like