

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- Sunday 1st **11th after Trinity**
 Tuesday 3rd Memory Café. SPSP. 1.30-3.00pm
 Wednesday 4th First Wednesday Meeting. St Mary's Parish Hall. 12.45-2.15pm. Topic: *Taking stock of the Welcome Survey: how invitational are we?* Bring your own packed lunch, and a friend. Tea/coffee provided
- Thursday 5th Service of Wholeness & Healing. SMwSA. 8.00pm
 Sunday 8th **12th after Trinity**
 Tuesday 10th Plain & Pearl Knitting Group. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.30pm
 Wednesday 11th SPSP PCC Meeting. SPSP. 8.00pm
 Thursday 12th Parish Pub Lunch. Teddington Arms. 12.30pm
 Saturday 14th Dunkirk Little Ships Service. Teddington Lock (time: tbc)
 Induction Service for new minister. Teddington Baptist Church. 3.00pm
- Sunday 15th **13th after Trinity**
 Choral Evensong with SMwSA Choir. Teddington Methodist Church. 6.30pm
 Tuesday 17th Supper Talk. 'A personal introduction to the Bible' by Joe Moffatt. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.30pm
 Thursday 19th SMwSA PCC Meeting. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.45pm
 Sunday 22nd **14th after Trinity**
 Peace Service with St Mary & St Peter School Choir. SPSP. 9.45am
 Classical Guitar Concert: Domenico Johnson and Matt James. SMwSA. 2.00pm
- Tuesday 24th Parish Pub Coffee. The Anglers. 10.30am
 Harvest High-Tea. Open invitation for all senior members of the community. St Mary & St Peter School. 2.00-3.00pm
 Plain & Pearl Craft Group. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.30pm
 Churches Together in Teddington AGM. Teddington Baptist Church. 8.00pm
- Sunday 29th **15th after Trinity**
 Licensing Service for a new Parish. St Michael's, Fulwell. 6.30pm

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

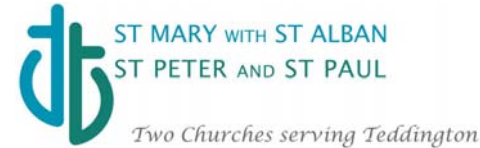
- Sunday 6th Harvest Festival. SMwSA. 10.00am
 Tuesday 15th Baby Cinema & Cinema Club. SPSP. 9.30am & 1.30pm

These events can also be found on our website: www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on

Parish Contacts

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www.teddingtonparish.org



Vicar's Viewpoint

What do you make of the Bible? We give it a highly elevated status in the church, referring to it as Holy Scripture and even as the Word of God, revealing God's nature and purposes. For centuries people have been inspired by its wisdom, poetry and insight. But this doesn't

make it an easy book to read or understand. In fact, one commentator suggested that 'as a handbook on life and how to live it, it is surpassed in incoherence only by computer manuals!' I slightly take issue with this, but the Bible is undoubtedly a very complex book which is difficult to handle.

Part of the problem is that it is actually a collection of books, written in different formats and styles over a period of at least 2,000 years. The same commentator goes on to say, 'For whatever reason, God has given us his revelation in a form which is messy, often communicated through stories but also through letters, complaints, laws, taunt songs and sermons – and always filtered through personalities who reflect and speak out of highly specific situations.'

This being so, we all need help to understand the different narratives, genres and contexts of each book.

I therefore want to offer four talks this Autumn, which will hopefully give a useful framework for how to handle the Bible. I can't do justice to the vast scope of biblical studies but I want to offer a personal perspective, outlining the approaches I find most helpful and the things I find most fascinating.

The first session will be in the form of a Supper Talk: Seeing the Bible as a Library on Tuesday September 17th, 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Hall. To book your place(s) please email (with any dietary requirements): parishhall@stmarywithstalban.org or sign-up at the back of church.

The following three sessions will be 8pm talks on October 8th, 15th and 22nd: Session 2: Understanding the Old Testament; Session 3: Understanding the New Testament; Session 4: Not a book for bashing – using the Bible wisely.

All are welcome.

Joe Moffatt

www.teddingtonparish.org

September 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

St Peter and St Paul (SPSP)

SUNDAYS

- 9.45am Family Communion

THURSDAYS

- 9.00am Morning Prayer



Peace Service

In partnership with The Fellowship of Reconciliation and St Mary's & St Peter's School Choir, Father Azariah will be holding a Peace Sunday Service on Sunday 22nd September, 9.45am, St Peter & St Paul's Church. This thoughtful service will promote peace; through reflection, hymns and activities we will look at better understanding peace in contemporary Britain. All donations raised will support practical and creative peace-making in areas of conflict around the world. Please come and join us.

The Visit of Muassite Miguel

Mission Co-ordinator of the new missionary diocese of Nampula which Joe visited earlier this year



The beginning of July provided me with one of the most eye opening and interesting weekends.

Joanne Beale stayed with us on the Friday night as she knew Muassite and had helped to organise her visit and early on Saturday morning we went to Heathrow to collect Muassite.

This was an awakening experience for her, as she had never been on an international flight, doesn't speak English and had to change flights in Johannesburg. As we left Heathrow her eyes opened wide at the sight of all the people, cars and aeroplanes.

Arriving home, I was humbled by her amazement at our toaster, electric kettle and Hoover – all things we take for granted! We hosted a tea that afternoon for members of the congregation and other churches involved with Alma.

Sunday was a busy day for Muassite; taking part in the 9am and the 10 am services with Joe asking her questions and Joanne giving excellent translations from Portuguese. The Sunday school children presented her with a picture they had produced of the church and Muassite was able to give us an insight into the challenges that the people in Mozambique

face on a daily basis, not least walking miles carrying a pitcher of water on their head and a baby on their back.

That afternoon Joanne and I took her on a train up to Waterloo and then walked along the Embankment and over the millennium bridge to St Paul's, with Muassite being amazed by all the people and tall buildings.

Before the sung eucharist at St Paul's we had tea in the nearby courtyard at St Vedast's church with other members of Alma, Bishop André Soares, Bishop of the missionary diocese of Angola and Bishop Rob, the bishop of Edmonton, who is also the bishop involved with Alma.

Joe joined us for tea and took part in the service, with Bishop Rob asking the Bishop of Angola and Muassite about their work and lives.

Muassite's visit to Teddington ended with a visit to St Peter and St Paul's school with Joe and Carla Maroussas, followed by a visit to Tearfund.



It was an incredible 48 hours in the presence of such an inspiring and interesting person. I am sure that it will have helped to develop our links with the church in Pemba as their people rebuild their lives after the shocking devastation from the cyclones.

The £1477.93 raised on the Sunday morning that Muassite visited our church, will specifically go towards the rebuilding of the Chimoio School, near Chiure.

Suzie Gordon

River Blessing Service 2019

Sunday, 14 July saw the annual river blessing of the Thames, coinciding with national Sea Sunday. The service started in the church with a procession of several organisations connected with the river including the British Legion, Teddington RNLI, the Twickenham Sea Cadets, Tamesis Yacht



Club and the Worshipful Company of Barbers.

During his sermon, the Vicar interviewed Kate Dodds from the River Thames Boat Project, a local charity which offers therapeutic cruises for people of all ages with disabilities and education days with a range of programmes for primary schools and community groups. She explained the benefits of these programmes, which enable people to access the calming and relaxing benefits of being on the water, giving many of them a sense of freedom and independence which they may not normally experience.



After the sermon the congregation, led by the Vicar and the Rev Mary Hawes, moved to Manor Road Gardens, and the service continued from the pontoon jetty by the Wharf with the PA, provided by Paul Munkenbeck, allowing everyone to hear the liturgy and singing. Over 100 people witnessed the flower-cross being cast onto the river by the Vicar and simultaneously threw flowers and paper boats onto the water.

After the service, there was a race between the Scouts and Guides on the Lensbury Dragon Boats. The Teddington RNLI invited everyone to the lifeboat station for light refreshments and sold souvenirs to



raise funds. This annual event was once again a great success. *Katherine Matthews*

Bolder not Older!

Bolder not Older is DanceWest's programme of dance for adults aged 65+. A new weekly class starts at Elleray Hall, Elleray Road, Teddington TW11 0HG on Thursday 26th September at 11.00am. The cost is free with £1 day membership of Elleray Hall. For further details contact 020 8977 0549.

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*

14th July: Xanthe Jane Viola, daughter of Nicholas and Laura Luck; Nella Grace, daughter of Tom and Olivia Pearce

21st July: Arthur George, son of James and Chloe Smith; Devan Henry, son of Andrew and Charanjit Willis

28th July: Evie Peta, daughter of Matthew and Emma Casson; Ruby Louise, daughter of Ryan Smith and Claire Arthur

11th August: Imogen Ella, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Fullbrook

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

1st August: Stephen Waddon (60)