



Christmas Services & Events

at St Mary with St Alban

Sunday 1 st	Advent Carol Service. 6.30pm
Thursday 5 th	Service of Wholeness & Healing. 8.00pm
Monday 9 th	Turing House School Winter Concert. 7.00pm
Wednesday 11 th	Scouts & Guides Carol Service. 7.00pm
Thursday 12 th	Newland House School Carol Service. 2.30pm
Monday 16 th	Collis School Carol Concert. 7.30pm
Tuesday 17 th	St Mary's & St Peter's School Carol Concert. 6.00pm
Thursday 19 th	Carol Singing at The Anglers. 8.00pm
Saturday 21 st	Longest Night Service. 8.00pm
Sunday 22 nd	Scratch Nativity Plays at St Mary's Parish Hall. <i>Children to come dressed as a nativity character of their choice</i> Morning Worship with Scratch Nativity. 9.00am Parish Communion with Scratch Nativity. 10.00am Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. 6.30pm
Christmas Eve	Crib Services. 2.00pm, 3.30pm and 5.00pm Midnight Mass. 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion. 8.00am Parish Communion. 10.00am

at St Peter & St Paul

Tuesday 3 rd	Memory Café Christmas Special. 1.30-3.00pm
Sunday 15 th	Family Eucharist with Scratch Nativity Play. 9.45am. <i>Children to come dressed as a nativity character of their choice</i> Family Friendly Christmas Cinema. 11.30am
Sunday 22 nd	Christingle Service with Carols. 4.00pm
Christmas Eve	Crib Service. 5.15pm
Christmas Day	Family Eucharist. 9.45am

All events can be found on our website too:
www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on

www.teddingtonparish.org

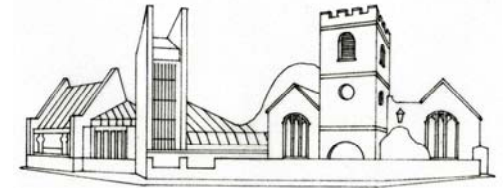
Christmas Day Lunch at Elleray Hall, Teddington

Call for Guests and Volunteers

The Churches in Teddington are again inviting the elderly and those who are alone on Christmas Day to join them for a Traditional Christmas meal. There will also be entertainment, mince pies and other refreshments plus a chance to join in Carols and other activities. Transport can be provided for those who need it.

Volunteers are required as table hosts, drivers, musicians and entertainers, and to help with food preparation (cooking), serving and washing up.

If you would like to attend or volunteer to help then please register by contacting:
John Lunt at cttchristmas19@gmail.com or by text/phone on 07503 584532



Christmas Message

As this Christmas newsletter is delivered through your door the General Election will soon be upon us. Our anxiety about the future direction of our country and the sense of uncertainty is building. It's not a comfortable way to start the Christmas season, yet there

are some significant parallels to the time when Jesus was born. The Christmas story happened in turbulent times.

The Jewish people wanted to be free from the occupation of the Romans and they were frustrated because they were voiceless. The national census, which took place at that time was used to ensure everyone was paying taxes. It served to emphasise how disenfranchised the Jewish people were

It was into the chaos of two thousand years ago, that God chose to enter into history in the person of Jesus. God's tendency is to show up in times of trouble. He is not waiting for a serene moment, but is God with us in all the uncertainty that life brings. And the message of peace that the angels declare is not a peace that removes us from the reality of our lives, but a peace that comes to us where we are – not an absence but a presence.

Jesus is God with us, and it is his presence that continues to bring peace into the hardest of situations, on both a personal and national level. Our challenge this Christmas is to be able to hear his message within the cacophony of noise. More than in any other recent Christmas, this message of peace needs to be heard, so that we can know God's presence with us, giving us strength and vision to play our part in being peacemakers in these turbulent times.

*O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.*

Caroline Halmshaw

www.teddingtonparish.org

December 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



Carol Singing at The Anglers

THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER ~ 8PM

Come & join a traditional pub sing-a-long led by the Vicar



'Round the back' for an extra special Crib Service

Nothing pleases us more than to see St Mary with St Alban full to bursting three times over for our ever-popular Crib Services on Christmas Eve. There's a real sense of Teddington coming together as a community to celebrate this great festival. And the carol singing raises the roof in a wonderful way that lifts everyone's spirits.

Our only concern is about capacity and comfort. Just as we tell the story about an overcrowded Bethlehem and 'no room at the inn', so there is literally no room in the church for those arriving only five or 10 minutes early, particularly for the 5pm service. A few years ago we added an earlier 2pm service to our regular 3.30pm and 5pm services. But this has simply enabled more people to attend and hasn't reduced the numbers at the later services.

So this year we're making some additional arrangements. We'll still fit people into every available seat and space, but we need to keep the gangways clear down each aisle and in the chancel. When we reach capacity we'll then offer two alternatives. Firstly, there'll be a sheltered area in the churchyard at the back of the church where one of the clergy will run an outdoor version of the service. This will have the added excitement of a 'live' nativity with human actors and specially-made lanterns for those willing to wrap up warm and join in a very traditional carol singing scene. Secondly, there will be an additional Crib Service up the road at St Peter and St Paul (on the corner of Broad Street and Church Road) at 5.15pm – same service, same carols, just more comfortable seating and less crowding.



We hope these arrangements will enable everyone to be suitably accommodated, just as Mary and Joseph were given a welcome space 'round the back'.

Joe Moffatt



Advent Discussion Group

The ticking clock while you sit in the waiting room, the completed last exam where you wonder whether you did enough or perhaps that text you send and the nail biting moments between it being delivered, read and the three dots indicating that they may be replying.

Perhaps, however, it's a twinge, or a hitherto unnoticed, engorged cluster of cells that sparks your attention. The trip to the hospital and a needle siphoning deep red life plunges you into private despair as your blood is placed in a vial in a laboratory awaiting a positive or negative diagnosis.

Waiting can be so hard for many reasons, but advent offers us time as a friend, not a foe.

The Advent Discussion Group, led by Rev Azariah France-Williams, will gather on three Wednesdays in December – 4th, 11th, and 18th – to consider an aspect of waiting each week.

No booking is required and all are welcome to reflect on the significance of waiting at the Mina Hogan room, between 10.30am and noon, in St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road.

Azariah France-Williams

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

For all Christmas services and events please see back page

- Sunday 1st **1st Sunday of Advent**
- Tuesday 3rd Plain & Pearl Christmas Wreath Making SMwSA Church. 10.00am & 7.00pm
- Wednesday 4th No First Wednesday meeting this month, in preference to the Advent Group
- Thursday 5th Parish Christmas Pub Lunch. The Anglers. 12.30pm (now fully booked)
- Traherne Reading Group. St Mary's Parish Hall. 13.00-2.30pm
- General Election Hustings. Teddington Baptist Church. 7.30-9.30pm.**
- With all the local candidates. A Churches Together in Teddington event, chaired by Rev Joe Moffatt. All welcome – questions in advance please.**
- Sunday 8th **2nd Sunday of Advent**
- Tuesday 10th *Plain & Pearl Group moved to the 10th, this month only, see above*
- Thursday 12th *Parish Pub Lunch moved to the 5th, this month only, see above*
- Traherne Reading Group. St Mary's Parish Hall. 13.00-2.30pm
- Sunday 15th **3rd Sunday of Advent**
- Sunday 22nd **4th Sunday of Advent**
- Christmas Eve *No Parish Pub Coffee this month*
- Sunday 29th **1st Sunday of Christmas**

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

- Thursday 29th Supper Talk with local author Ruth Valerio, discussing her new book "Saying Yes to Life"- chosen by the Archbishop of Canterbury as his Lent 2020 book. SMSP School. 7.30pm.

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

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS – We welcome into Christ's Church:

20th October: Willow Mia, daughter of Daniel Weaver and Rebecca Reid; Benjamin Eugene Turk, son of Owain Morris and Lauren Vopni; Isabella Caroline Ann, daughter of Max and Helen Harding; Lydia Faith Kendra, daughter of Mark and Kerishma Perchard

FUNERAL – We remember with thanksgiving the life of:

4th November: Jack Nolan (98)

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
SPSP Office Administration & Hall Bookings:	Emma Castellani Bychurch End, Teddington TW11 8PS	admin@stpeterstpaulteddington.co.uk 020 8977 3330
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
Social Media:	Teddington Parish or @smwsachurch	@TW11Parish