

# CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

If you are self-isolating, live locally to St Mary with St Alban, and are in need of support, we would love to help you.



**StMARY***with***StALBAN** PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



### Contact us at care@teddingtonparish.org or leave a message on 020 8943 2262

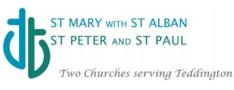
#### How we could help you:

- picking up shopping · collecting urgent supplies
- a friendly phone call
- prayer
- other needs just let us know

You can find more information at our website, www.teddingtonparish.org including online church services.



| Parish Contacts                                    |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| SMwSA Office<br>Administration &<br>Hall Bookings: | Suzanne Parker<br>St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham<br>Road, Teddington TW11 9HF | parishhall@stmarywithstalban.org<br>020 8943 2262    |
| SPSP Office<br>Administration &<br>Hall Bookings:  | Emma Castellani<br>Bychurch End, Teddington<br>TW11 8PS                       | admin@stpeterstpaulteddington.co.uk<br>020 8977 3330 |
| Vicar:   | Rev Joe Moffatt   | vicar@stmarywithstalban.org<br>020 8977 2767         |
| Curate:  | Rev Caroline Halmshaw   | curate@stmarywithstalban.org<br>07483 310330         |
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## **Vicar's Viewpoint**

As I write this, we have started our period of social isolation and over the next few weeks will be in the critical phase of the Coronavirus for our country. The ramifications for our social and economic wellbeing seem to multiply by the day, and over the past weeks we've all experienced

rising anxiety levels as we adjust to the possibility of becoming ill, restricted contact and being confined to a smaller living environment.

This is also an unprecedented time in the life of the church, for the first time in our history we are facing the prospect of celebrating Easter with the doors of our church closed. Our spiritual wellbeing is being tested as well as our social and economic health. However, we know and are increasingly experiencing how the core of the Church is its people and not its cherished buildings, and this year we will meet to celebrate the great feast of Easter in a new way.

The week before Easter is Holy Week, when we remember Jesus's last days before he goes to the cross. The great symbols of Easter are the cross and the empty tomb. The cross tells us that God shares in our suffering and the empty tomb tells us that God's purpose for us is new life. In our current situation we are experiencing simultaneously these two messages and the message of Easter is needed now more than ever.

We are like those first disciples, in a period of waiting. But, because we live in a period after the first Easter, we know how the story ends. The wonderful news of Easter is that nothing can now separate us from the love of God. We may have to live at a distance from each other, but God is always close. Easter establishes an eternal truth, that three days after his death Jesus was raised to life, and so we are a people of hope. I give thanks to God for the many ways we are experiencing this new life in Teddington at this time.



# **April 2020 CHURCH SERVICES**

The church is now closed for all public worship and private prayer due to the coronavirus outbreak. Instead worship is being offered in a virtual form.

Sunday: Virtual Sunday Service on www.teddingtonparish.org

**Daily Podcasts (Thought for the Dav)**: found at www.anchor.fm/ teddington-clergy and on Spotify.

Worship at Home Resources: accessible via

www.churchofengland.org, together with information about other online resources for worship, and also on the parish website.

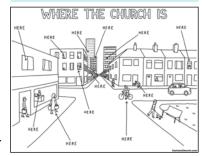
**Care Team**: for those in need.

#### Prayer Requests.

For Care Team and Prayer Requests please use *care@teddingtonparish.org* or leave a message on 020 8943 2262.

All details and links via the parish website

www.teddingtonparish.org



Caroline Halmshaw

### **Commemorative Service at St. Peter & St. Paul's**

On Sunday 8th March a commemorative service was held at St Peter and St Paul's Church to mark the final Sunday morning communion service to be held there, and to herald the beginning of a new phase in the life of the church as a mission centre.



Sheila Cooper and Jerry Bryan reminiscing in front of the old Gatepost

Following the theme, 'A People on the Move', the congregation took a collective journey round the site, starting at the



At the old school wall

gatepost of the original Victorian church on the west side of Church Road, moving

across the road to the 1979 foundation stone of the new church, then inside to the Lady Chapel recalling pilgrimages to Walsingham, out to the garden to see the old school wall and back inside to gather beside the relocated Victorian font. At each point, we were treated to reminiscences and interesting facts about the various stages in the life of the church and about its links with the parish school which previously occupied the site. We also heard from two children about their experience of growing up as part of our church family, including their baptism and entry to communion, and we laid stones in a cairn at the altar to symbolise our pilgrimage journey.



The Church Music Group

We then celebrated Eucharist together, with prayers contributed by one of our church families and songs led by the reconvened Church Music Group. We paused to thank members of the congregation for their contributions over the years, in particular our Sacristan, Denis Wheeler, for his dedication and hard-work. As a token of our gratitude, Dominic





Dominic Topham presenting Denis Wheeler with the icon

Topham presented him with a beautiful icon depicting St Peter, St Paul, St Michael and St George, which had been presented to Dominic's father, the late Fr Paul Topham, on his retirement. There was some sadness for the passing of the old, but our final hymn, 'Walk in the Light', was sung with joy and optimism for the future. It was a very moving experience.

Clare Rider

### **Mozart Mass in C Minor**



Derek Saunders and the choir

It is hard to find words that do credit to the superb performance we were privileged to hear on Sunday 8th March. On entering the forecourt of All Hallows Church, Twickenham, we were greeted with beautiful bell ringing that came from the Christopher Wren tower. It was interesting to learn that the tower, bells and many of the interior furnishings were transferred to this site in 1939 from All Hallows, Lombard Street, and integrated



as part of a new church designed by Robert Atkinson.

At St. Mary with St. Alban's Church we have long been spoiled by the beautiful music our choirmaster, Derek Saunders (*photo*), produces every Sunday morning with our singers and organist, but what we heard on Sunday really was something else. Over 60 singers from Teddington Churches' choirs, with 36 instrumentalists led by Janet Smith, and five wonderful soloists, performed a thoughtfully arranged programme of works by



Derek Saunders and the soloists

Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Allegri, Handel, and finally the great Mozart Mass in C minor. This was composed for his new wife Constanze. The Mass was conducted by Derek with great musical sensitivity, with all musicians performing expertly, and this with only one full rehearsal on the day they performed.

The evening raised about £1,100 for Momentum, a charity that helps families with children with cancer. Thank you to all the musicians for offering their time, to Joe Moffatt for offering St Mary's Church for rehearsals, and to Kay Cassidy for doing most of the organizing, as well as all the volunteers who helped on the day. I feel very grateful to live in a place where so many talented people come together to organize events that give such joy, and support a good cause. I am looking forward to the next concert.

Karin Mayhew

# **Parish Registers**

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

1<sup>st</sup> March: Arlo Alexander, son of Peter & Henrietta Barnes