

## St Mary with St Alban Winter Night Shelter

We completed our third winter season in conjunction with the Glassdoor Homeless Charity in the extraordinary circumstances of our time and it turned out the last night for the Richmond circuit was here in Teddington on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. A scratch team led by Paul Hoffman stepped in to cook and serve dinner as a number of the scheduled team were isolating or living with vulnerable people.



It was a strange end to another successful season. Over seventy volunteers and many more bakers and pudding makers were rated top of the leader board by our guests in terms of the quality of food and, as importantly, the quality of the welcome

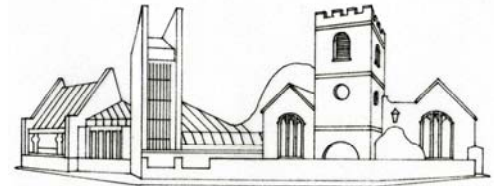
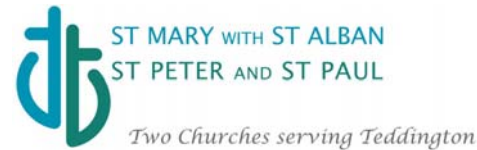
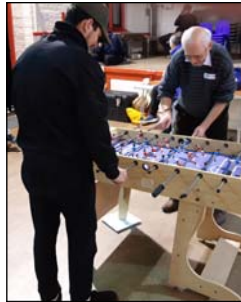
we offered. Each Sunday night we catered for around twenty five men and women of all faiths, and none.

As in previous seasons the guests were overwhelmingly polite, clean and tidy ordinary people – albeit with a range of issues that has led to them being on the street. Everyone involved has found it to be an uplifting experience. It's great that we are able to do something practical for people in need, especially when we can see a little of the weight of the world lifted off their shoulders.

We had been worried about what would happen to the guests once the scheme finished but fortunately the charity was able to arrange hotel accommodation for all of them. After their night with us, charity workers and medics arrived to log and assess the guests before ferrying them to accommodation.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our supporters too – Toast; The Cavan Bakery; Gardenia; Teddington Scouts; The Organic Delivery Company and for the deal given to us by The Teddington Butcher.

*John Mulcahy*



## May 2020 CHURCH SERVICES

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

**Sunday:** Recorded Sunday Service on [www.teddingtonparish.org](http://www.teddingtonparish.org)

**Audio Podcasts (Thought for the Day):** found at [www.anchor.fm/teddington-clergy](http://www.anchor.fm/teddington-clergy) and on Spotify.

**Worship at Home Resources:** accessible via [www.churchofengland.org](http://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](mailto:care@teddingtonparish.org) or leave a message on 020 8943 2262.

All details and links via the parish website [www.teddingtonparish.org](http://www.teddingtonparish.org)

## Life in Lockdown

Lockdown: an unbelievable, impossible-to-imagine scenario a matter of weeks ago. Now a smack-bang enforced daily reality. Ask me at the start of this adventure how it would be possible for the four of us to reside happily (or reside at all) within our four walls and garden and I would have laughed as I waltzed merrily to meet friends for a coffee, having just finished a squeezed-in-fitness-class after work, before picking my kids up from school, taking them to football and then nipping to the shops to pick up dinner. How life has changed!

Initially I was fearful, teetering



## Vicar's Viewpoint

Having recorded numerous sermons and podcasts recently, I feel you've heard more than enough from me. So I'm delighted that this newsletter is full of interesting articles and opinions from others. I'm also very grateful for the positive feedback we've

been receiving about the new things that we've been doing. This has even got into the national press – see below a letter from Margaret Squire that was printed in *The Daily Telegraph* and again in *The Week*. Well done Margaret for flying such a positive flag amidst all the fuss that was made about keeping churches closed.

One thing I was looking forward to in May was a big service to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. We had lots of drama lined up (thanks to our wonderful playwright Cathy Randall) which will now have to wait until later in the year. But she has collected some stories from our oldest members which we will

SIR – Church buildings are closed, yes, but the Church is composed of people, not buildings, and they have moved the Church online.

My church's first online service had more than 700 views – far more than we ever get in the building – and there will be an online service every Sunday.

Every member of our church has been phoned to see if they either need or can offer help, chat groups are forming and virtual choir practice is going strong. I am sure that we are not the exception.

We can be thankful for the technology that enables us to do these things. When churches open again, I am sure that lessons learnt now will not be forgotten.

**Margaret Squire**

*Teddington, Middlesex*

put up on our website in time for the VE celebrations on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

We'll keep going with our recorded services, Zoom coffees, audio podcasts and the like. But how we long to get back to church and to see you all face-to-face. Will the lifting of restrictions feel something like VE Day? Let's hope and pray that it won't be too long.

*Joe Moffatt*

## 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:	Rev Joe Moffatt	vicar@stmarywithstalban.org 020 8977 2767
Curate:	Rev Caroline Halmshaw	curate@stmarywithstalban.org 07483 310330
Newsletter Editors:	Julien Cozens, Penny Jones and Sue Stevens	newsletter@stmarywithstalban.org 020 8943 2262
Social Media:	eddington Parish or @smwsachurch	TW11Parish

[www.teddingtonparish.org](http://www.teddingtonparish.org)

[www.teddingtonparish.org](http://www.teddingtonparish.org)

annoyingly on a constant knife edge, feeling slightly queasy and out of my depth and absolutely shot by the end of the day. Now I'm just shot by the end of the day.

Anxiety has, at present, been encouraged to take a break by the bubble we are trying to make and as days go on, daring to relish.

The world outside is very real and very much in turmoil. What we feel we owe to all those on the front line is unquantifiable. Our offering is to stay at home and as passive as that first sounded, this challenge is very real too.

However, real too are the good times, the overwhelming acts of kindness we are witnessing, our community pulling together, the support of our friends, the unending love from our own families, thank goodness for FaceTime. Above all, we are sticking together as a family and I couldn't be more proud; particularly of our kids aged 7 and nearly 5.



Far be it from being bored- there's very little respite; for which I'm very grateful. I expect many are in a similar Lego, endless craft, football, paddling pool, baking, drawing, Joe Wicks, board games, constant feeding akin to army catering, haze. And that's not to mention the delights of Google Classroom which is quite frankly an absolutely life raft of a resource from SMSP who continue to roll with the punches and support us without fail. Who knew that a fusion of pyramids, newly born lambs and the Great Fire of London would even be a possibility?

Virtual drinks, quizzes, turbo trainers, cross trainers, Zoom, chocolate, (a few glasses of wine), family dinners, frequent grandparent calls are also becoming regular and relied on parts of our current existence.



The lovely highs are coupled with some tricky lows. We have laughed, we have cried. We're pretty exhausted; but – with absolutely no place to hide, it's to my grateful surprise that the crazy times have been less than expected and I'm regularly hit by tidal waves of love and gratitude for the many good things we have in our lives.

Many thanks to Joe and all who are continuing to bind us together as a community during these unprecedented times. SMwSA has turned its hand swiftly and deftly to grasp the new technology and keep us all held close together, whether it be through the e-newsletter, YouTube services or even on Zoom. We are grateful to be held by you – thank you. So it is with crazy, unstraightened hair and infrequently applied make up that I can honestly say that so far, so not-that-bad. A crazy time; a terrible time in so many ways, but that is also showing itself to be an incredibly rich and loving time.

*Jo Scoones*

## Parish Registers

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

3<sup>rd</sup> April : Mr Robert Redpath (84)

20<sup>th</sup> April: Mr David Hogg (61)

22<sup>nd</sup> April: Miss Patricia Burrow (93)

24<sup>th</sup> April: Mr Arthur James (88)

28<sup>th</sup> April: Mrs Muriel Roxburgh (100)

## Streaming Virtual Services

Lockdown and the Coronavirus have forced us to learn new skills to support ourselves, each other and the Church. Our clergy in particular have had to learn very quickly how to create and lead a service when none of us can be in Church. Well it can't be that hard, can it? YouTube is filled to overflowing with precocious teenagers making millions out of apparently compelling video content – so just get your phone and start recording, livestreaming or blogging – couldn't be easier.

Well it is not so straightforward – it is technically not as easy as it looks and the content has to be different. What works 'live' in Church is not always so good recorded and if you are recording something you have different creative possibilities. Joe, Caroline and Mary have had to re-think the service and incorporate video, audio, photos and PowerPoint – all within the proper constraints of Common Worship and theology. Having created the content and written the script it all has to be edited together.

For a few years now I have taken photographs for Church events and have even started doing some audio recordings – so I 'volunteered' for the edit. Moving pictures is a whole new world that I have been grappling with over the past few weeks. If you watch the Church recordings I hope that you can see the improvement, from a pretty shaky start in week 1 (Windows photo editor) through to some smoother efforts with VideoStudio.



Hopefully you are enjoying the services but however good we get, we know that they are no substitute for the real thing – let's pray we get there soon.

*Fred Squire*

## Reflections in Strange Times

One of the few silver linings to this dark cloud in which we find ourselves has been the regular podcasts from the Teddington clergy, available via the parish website [www.teddingtonparish.org](http://www.teddingtonparish.org). Since Joe introduced the podcasts on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Mothering Sunday, we have been treated to a series of extraordinarily thoughtful – and often deeply moving – short talks by all members of the clergy team.

Before Easter, the podcasts included reflections on some of the lesser known characters in the Bible. In many years of churchgoing, I don't think I had ever once stopped to consider Jesus's brother, James (if I was even aware of his existence), but Jonathan Williams, historian and member of the congregation, gave us an illuminating reflection on him, providing a whole new perspective on Jesus by placing him within the context of his earthly family. This also complemented a wonderful talk on Cleopas by Azariah the previous week. Caroline Halmshaw offered us a fascinating insight into the life of Phoebe, mentioned by St Paul in his Letter to the Romans, a leader of the early church and very likely a businesswoman. We even had Joe talking about Palm Sunday from the perspective of the donkey! Over Easter itself, there were beautiful contributions from Bishop Martin Wharton, Rosamond McDowell, and Mary Hawes. Although we couldn't be in church, I found it a particular comfort to be able to listen to these voices speaking their words of reflection to me as I sat in my living room.

The podcasts are continuing, broadcast three times a week, offering us all an opportunity to reflect together in these anxious times. And unlike a sermon, you can always replay them, or even pause them, so that you don't need to miss a word.

*Cathy Randall*