

River Blessing

"The presence of our Lifeboat Station is a reminder of how powerful the river is. We should all enjoy it, whether that's by walking alongside it, paddling it, sailing, rowing or even swimming in it but it deserves our respect. Respect in the sense of being careful but also respect in the sense of being in awe".

These were the words spoken by Reverend Joe Moffatt, priest in charge at the Church of St Mary with St Alban in Teddington, during the fourth annual River Blessing on July 14th.

Katherine Matthews, PCC Secretary of the Church explained. "This is a service of thanksgiving to recognise and celebrate the importance of the River Thames to the local community, supported by many societies and organisations with a



connection to the river. In normal times they not only send a representative to attend the church service but also have members gather on the river in their boats and vessels."

This year they were represented on the water by Thames Discoverer, (captained by Gunnar Christensen, also a volunteer for the lifeboat crew), from the www.thamesboatproject.org, a charity which provides access to the River Thames for people of all ages, including those with a special need, disability or mental health condition. The service was pre-recorded and is available to view at teddingtonparish.org/news/fourth-annual-river-blessing/

*The tide In Teddington ebbs and flows
Like life itself it comes and goes
Let's row together side by side
Knowing God's love will be our guide.*

Poem by Liz Stewart


Edited story reprinted courtesy of the RNLI

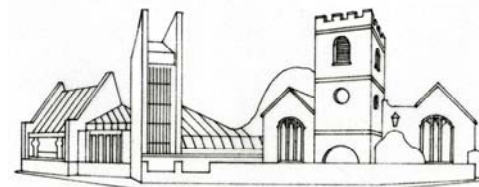


Parish Contacts

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:	Teddington Parish or @smwsachurch	@TW11Parish

www.teddingtonparish.org

 ST MARY WITH ST ALBAN
ST PETER AND ST PAUL
Two Churches serving Teddington



Vicar's Viewpoint

August is always a mixed-mode month: part holiday, part work. But this year it's mixed-mode in the extreme: everything is part lockdown, part back to normal. It's a difficult state to find ourselves in.

Mixed-mode is how I would describe our public worship at the moment; part online, part back in church. We've already restarted our small, quiet services – 9.30am on Wednesdays and 8.00am on Sundays. Then we're restarting our all-age Sunday 9.00am service on August 2nd, conscious that our families with young children might be the most eager to return to church. But, in order to avoid the overlap with the 8.00am service, this will take place at St Peter & St Paul. And we're not allowed to sing so we will have to listen to pre-recorded songs on a video screen. Finally, we're not restarting our Sunday 10.00am service until September 6th since we need to build up slowly and get the right measures in place to have two services safely in the church on the same day. Hopefully by then the restrictions on singing and numbers might be eased a bit, but we're not expecting it to be entirely back to normal. We will therefore keep going with our online pre-recorded services throughout August and beyond (*see box*).

Learning to live in a mixed-mode state might be one of the positives that emerges from this pandemic. Offering worship in both our buildings and online is just one of the ways we can do this. Learning to offer hospitality that is both generous and safe might be another. I hope we all learn a few mixed-mode skills. But let's also be gentle with each other and ourselves, since none of this is easy.

Best wishes

Joe Moffatt

www.teddingtonparish.org

August 2020

REGULAR SERVICES:

St Mary with St Alban (SMwSA)

Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion, then church remains open for private prayer to 12.30pm
Saturday 2.30-5.30pm church open for private prayer
Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion

St Peter and St Paul (SPSP)

Sunday 9.00am Morning Worship

Worship in Virtual Form

The following worship will continue to be offered in virtual form.

Sunday: Recorded Sunday Service on www.teddingtonparish.org

Morning Prayer (Mon-Fri, 8.30am, Sat 9.00am) &

Evening Prayer (Mon-Thurs, 6.00pm, Fri-Sat 5.00pm)

both via Zoom: Password: 0vDrup
<https://zoom.us/j/992902759>

Podcasts: Mon, Wed & Fri, at www.anchor.fm/teddington-clergy

Worship at Home Resources

www.churchofengland.org

Care Team: for those in need.

Prayer Requests

email: care@teddingtonparish.org or leave a message on 020 8943 2262.

All details and links on our parish website www.teddingtonparish.org

Parish Registers

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

25th June: Andrew Gillespie (76)

26th June: Edna Barry (87)

13th July: Margaret Hall (87)

Building Anew

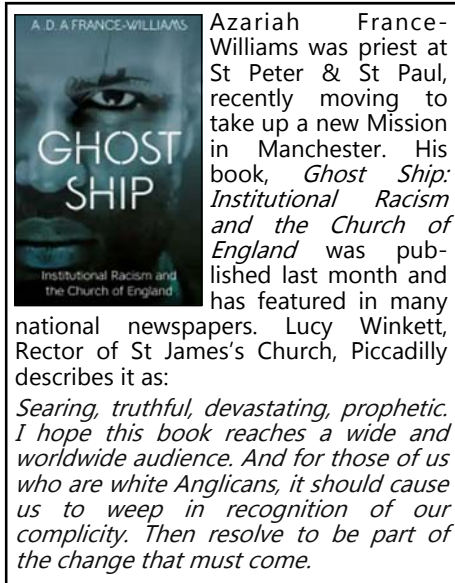
An exciting new scheme for the development of our church building is now taking shape. Over the past two years a team of experts has focused on determining the best way to provide the facilities we need to flourish today and in the future, while also enhancing the whole building.

In early 2019 a Governance Group was formed to oversee the project. This has been drawing on the expertise of several volunteers in our congregation and the local community, with experience in planning, engineering, project management, grant applications and the wide range of other skills needed.

Just over a year ago, a specialist assessment of the significant heritage features of our beautiful church was completed to provide the basis for all future planning (this is called the Conservation Management Plan). Since then, the team has been busy defining our requirements, preparing a design brief, appointing an architect and consultant team – including heritage, archaeological, engineering and cost consultants – and ensuring costs are carefully managed. This has been done with PCC approval at each stage and in regular consultation with the Diocesan authorities.

Following exploration of a variety of concept design options with the architect, a preferred scheme is now taking shape. We have received permission from the Diocese to excavate trial pits in a few key areas of the churchyard to investigate the archaeology that would be encountered. With the information from these excavations, we look forward to beginning consultations shortly with the congregation, local organisations and wider community – as well as statutory bodies such as Richmond Council and Historic England – to collect feedback on the proposed scheme. We very much hope everyone will share our enthusiasm for it.

Progress over the past four months has inevitably been hindered by the coronavirus pandemic, but we have been able to maintain good momentum. In our latest plans, we aim to submit a formal planning application to Richmond Council early next year with a view to beginning fundraising as soon as permission is granted. All being well, construction work will begin in 2021. *Steve Randall*



Resuming Public Worship

Azariah France-Williams was priest at St Peter & St Paul, recently moving to take up a new Mission in Manchester. His book, *Ghost Ship: Institutional Racism and the Church of England* was published last month and has featured in many national newspapers. Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's Church, Piccadilly describes it as:

Searing, truthful, devastating, prophetic. I hope this book reaches a wide and worldwide audience. And for those of us who are white Anglicans, it should cause us to weep in recognition of our complicity. Then resolve to be part of the change that must come.

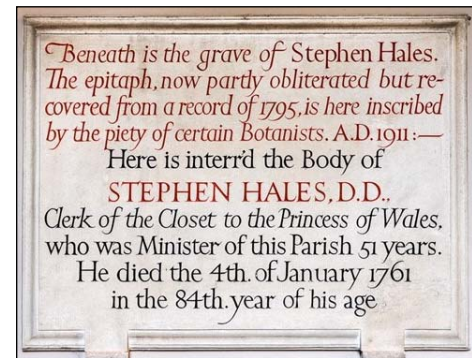


Church Memorials

Black Lives Matter has focused attention on statues and memorials found in public spaces. Churches often contain many of the latter, and here in St Mary's we have over forty, covering some four hundred years of village life. Our Church Recording project, due to finish in a few months, has captured details of them all, which has helped us check if any of them might cause concern or even offence. There are some notable figures commemorated, of whom the following merit a mention.

Thomas Traherne was briefly curate around 1670 and his religious poetry is now popular. He was chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, a great royalist, who supported evangelical work with Native Americans and helped clarify processes for transfer of property.

Henry Flitcroft was a renowned 18th Century architect and Peg Woffington an acclaimed 18th century actress, very close to David Garrick. John Walter founded *The Times* newspaper, and successfully challenged the Church of England in the High Court to stop the practice of charging for the use of pews – and then leaving them unoccupied. Shortly afterwards he was elected Churchwarden.



Stephen Hales, along with being the resident priest for nearly fifty years, is a famous scientist, respected across the world. Apart from leading and providing most of the funding for the 18th Century 'Building Anew' project, he campaigned against the abuse of gin, and was one of the Trustees for the Establishment of the colony of Georgia, in North America, where slavery was prohibited.

All in all we have forebears of whom we can be proud, and many of them invested in the Church and Parish.

Robin Field-Smith

The Online Collection Plate

Without our normal collections for the past four months, we need to appeal for some help. We predict a 'lock-down loss' of income in the region of £60,000 (mainly hall income and cash collections). We would therefore be hugely grateful for any donations to keep us going. Online donations can easily be made by clicking on the red donate button at the top of our website www.teddingtonparish.org or cheques to 'PCC St Mary with St Alban' can be sent to the Parish Office, St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF. Many thanks. *Joe Moffatt*

