

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

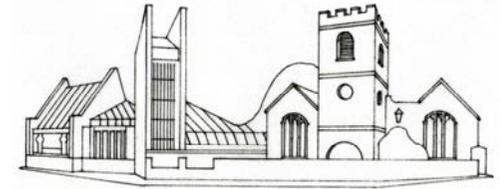
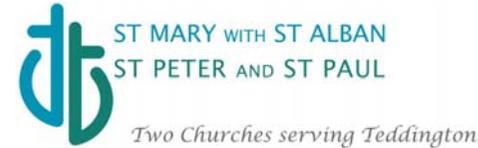
Sunday 2 nd	5th Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 5 th	Church Mice Toddler Service. SMwSA Church. 10.30am. Our mid-week service for babies to pre-schoolers returns (<i>see Updates and Information</i>). Also on 12 th , 19 th & 26 th Weekly Chair-based Standing Exercise Class. On Zoom. 12.30pm. Same login details each week: Meeting ID: 98203293523. No Passcode needed. Also on 12 th , 19 th & 26 th First Wednesday Open Discussion Group. On Zoom. 12.45-2.15pm. Topic: "Coming Home", Report of the Archbishops on the Housing Crisis. Meeting ID 830 2123 5894 and Password 901775
Sunday 9 th	Climate Sunday (<i>see Updates and Information</i>)
Monday 10-16 th	Christian Aid Week (<i>see front page</i>)
Tuesday 11 th	Plain & Pearl. Via Zoom. 7.30pm. A social knitting and crafting group. For details on how to attend please contact Josie on: mailplainandpearl@gmail.com . Also on 25 th
Thursday 13 th	Coffee and/or Lunch. The Anglers. 11.00am. We are now back to meeting-up in the pub. Everyone welcome. For further information please contact us: info@stmarywithstalban.org . Also on 27 th
Thursday 13 th	Ascension Day Holy Communion. SMwSA Church. 8.00pm (with livestream)
Sunday 16 th	7th Sunday of Easter
Monday 17 th	Teddington Community Café. SPSP. 1.30-4.30pm. Also on 24 th & 31 st
Sunday 23 rd	Pentecost – with our 10.00am service in the Churchyard (or in church if raining)
Sunday 30 th	Trinity Sunday

Further details can be found on our website: www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on/

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



Vicar's Viewpoint

I wrote last month about my excitement at welcoming people back to church again. What I didn't anticipate was how good it would be to have outdoor worship in the churchyard. This has been a revelation, transforming our services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and at dawn on Easter Day. I also didn't anticipate that the BBC cameras would be following the Park Lane Stables and the horse they provided on Palm Sunday, thus finding myself on the national BBC news!

Leaving my fleeting stardom aside, there are a number of advantages to churchyard services. The first is that we're all allowed to sing outdoors, unlike in church when we're still restricted to a small choir only. The second is that we tend to draw in a few passers-by who are surprised and delighted to join us for a while. The third is that it often feels closer to the stories in the Bible. Much of the action in these stories is outdoors, so we can more easily make the connections when outdoors ourselves. This was particularly true when thinking of the empty tomb on Easter day in a churchyard full of fallen tombstones.

So we plan to follow suit on a few more occasions, the first being Pentecost on May 23rd and then again for 'Love your Burial Ground Week' on June 13th. This happens to coincide with my last Sunday before taking a three-month sabbatical so I'm hoping for a sunny send-off.

I'm pleased to leave the parish in the very safe hands of my colleague Caroline Halmshaw. Caroline is coming to the end of her three years as a training Curate at the end of June and would normally move on to be the Vicar of another parish. But I'm delighted that she has agreed to stay on for another year with us as Associate Vicar.

Best wishes

Joe Moffatt

www.teddingtonparish.org

May 2021 SERVICES BACK IN CHURCH

at SMwSA unless stated

+ Booking needed; ~ Online service only;
*Services both in-person and livestreamed

SUNDAYS:

8.00am Holy Communion
9.00am Morning Worship at SPSP+
10.00am Parish Communion+*
5.00pm Tea-Time Worship on Zoom~

MONDAYS – SATURDAYS:

8.30am Morning Prayer, also on Zoom (Monday-Friday and at 9am on Saturday)*
9.00am-5.00pm Church open for Private Prayer
6pm Evening Prayer, also on Zoom (Monday-Thursday and 5pm on Friday-Saturday)*

WEDNESDAYS:

9.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Church Mice Toddler Service

Further details, tickets, joining instructions and links for all church activities are on our website: www.teddingtonparish.org



Christian Aid Week returns from 10-16th May, with one important difference. You will receive an envelope in the normal way but to be Covid-secure, it will not be possible for anyone to return to collect it. Envelopes will need to be returned to: The Vicarage, 11 Twickenham Road, TW11 8AQ or donations can be made online at any time: www.christianaid.org.uk

Easter Services 2021

From Palm Sunday through to Easter Day we celebrated with a mix of traditional, varied, beautifully organised and, in some ways uniquely new services. A casual observer or participant might be forgiven for not appreciating just how much forethought, planning and preparation went into offering us no fewer than ten services, three podcasts and one exhibition during those most holy eight days.



It is an impressive list of behind the scenes activities, largely overseen and coordinated by Joe and his churchwardens: beautiful flower arrangements; carefully written intercessions; thoughtful and original sermons; well-rehearsed choral singing; adaptable skills shown by organists, playing both inside and out; holy gardeners who lovingly spruced up the churchyard to accommodate processional palm wavers, a "donkey" as well as socially distanced chairs; holy dusters who continued their assiduous sanitising of the church; an array of techies and their cabling, microphones and cameras for



both indoor and outdoor broadcasting; the supply of craft materials for the children's services; the installation of the *Via Dolorosa*, and last but not least, arranging with the Easter bunny for a supply of chocolate eggs for the Easter Day congregants. Having read all this, you will see for how much and to how many we have to be thankful.



As well as the expected and revered events, this year saw innovation too – the live streaming of all the main services, neatly sidestepped the limit of fifty people permitted to attend in person and enabled those who were unwell, self-isolating or otherwise prevented from attending to take part. Also new this year saw the installation of fourteen prints of simple sculptures (in the style of Eric Gill) of the Stations of the Cross twining round the churchyard and including a large plain wooden crucifix at the bottom of the path, with a simple explanatory leaflet to guide you round. Musically too there were innovations – on Good Friday the choir joined Ros and Joe after the Gospel of the Passion to sing Victoria's *The Reproaches* and on Easter Day, Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

This was a Holy Week like no other (YouTube claims three digit viewing figures for several services). Our spiritual and confessional lives as parishioners continue to be nourished by our wonderful clergy team, and by an army of involved, willing and skilled volunteers. Thank you all.

Susan Jacobs

Parish Registers

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

31st March: Irene Slattery (75)

Will you "Adopt a Grave"?

Many of you walk through our churchyard and notice some of the nearly 400 graves.

For every grave there is a family story, and over the last three centuries people who have been laid to rest deserve to be respected and remembered. Sadly, families move away and all too often the family line dies out, leaving no one to tend the graves. As our churchyard has not had a new burial for some 100 years, many graves are clearly untended.

We would like to encourage members of the local community to come forward and agree to adopt a grave or two. This would involve every few months a bit of physical tidying, removing weeds, saplings and the like, perhaps adding some plants, and making the grave look and feel cared for.

There are many reasons for adopting a grave, for example:

- ◆ It is a grave of a relative or one of your ancestors
- ◆ It commemorates a child
- ◆ It is the burial place of a notable or interesting resident of Teddington
- ◆ It is an outstanding but neglected memorial
- ◆ It will help to maintain the churchyard's biodiversity in the face of climate change

Two members of our church recording group have volunteered to help with research into family histories, using the recently completed West Middlesex Family History Society survey as a start point.

If you feel able to help, please make yourself known to the church by sending an email to: info@stmarywithstalban.org or leaving your name by calling the parish office on 020 8943 2262. So please help us bring more love to our churchyard.

Robin Field-Smith

UPDATES and INFORMATION



Climate Sunday

As the Sustainability Action Group, move forward with their action plan, we are excited to announce our Climate Sunday Service at 10.00am on 9th May. The intention of the service is to not only incorporate the themes of our action plan, but to widen the communication and engagement of this commitment in our Church. Everyone is welcome – please come along.

Carla Maroussas

activate

From the middle of May, we will re-start our Soup + Stretch exercise sessions. These gentle chair-based sessions will run every Wednesday lunchtime, and are an opportunity for people to have a spot of lunch together before the session begins. Initially numbers will be restricted, so please contact us on office@activatechurch.org.uk if you are interested in joining. We also hope to launch an Activate running group as well as specific activities for young people, including a Youth Café. Look out for updates on these activities on social media and on our website www.activatechurch.org.uk.

As well as physical activities we will continue to provide online sessions. Some will run

alongside the physical sessions to ensure as many people as possible benefit, and some will be solely online for the time being, for example the Wellbeing Journey, which is a course we are running, exploring holistic wellness.

Sarah Hallett, Activate Operations Manager



We are delighted to announce that the Church Mice Toddler Service will restart at St Mary with St Alban's Church on Wednesday 5th May at 10.30am.

There will be the usual music, Bible stories and prayers, and while we are not yet allowed to sing together, we are certainly allowed to make lots of noise with our bells and drums in our pews!

We are currently not able to provide drinks and play after the service, but we will as soon as it is allowed.

We look forward to seeing you and your pre-schoolers every Wednesday at 10.30am in St Mary with St Alban's Church. No need to book – just come along!

For more information, please contact Cathy Randall on crr1@btinternet.com.

Cathy Randall