

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Everything in this diary comes with an open invitation, and you are very welcome to bring a friend with you too. Go to our website to find all the details and we look forward to seeing you there: www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on/

Monday 3	Teddington Community Café. SPSP. 1.30-4.30pm. Also on 10, 17, 24 & 31
Tuesday 4	Memory Café. SPSP. 1.30-3.00pm
Wednesday 5	First Wednesday discussion group. Mina Hogan Room, St Mary's Parish Hall. 12.45-2.15pm. Topic: <i>Life After Death</i> . Bring your packed lunch
Thursday 6	Parish Coffee. On Zoom. 10.30am. Also on 20 Traherne Reading Group. Mina Hogan Room, St Mary's Parish Hall. 13.30-3.00pm. Also on 13, 20 & 27
Saturday 8	Parish Plod. Next section of the Capital Ring Walk. 10.00am-4.30pm (tbc)
Tuesday 11	Parish Lunch. Piazza Firenze. 12noon Plain & Pearl social crafting group. Mina Hogan Room. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.30pm. Also on 25
Saturday 15	Churchyard Gardening. SMwSA. 10.00am. Also on Thursday 20.
Tuesday 25	Parish Coffee. The Anglers Pub. 11.00am

Adopt a Grave

Nine months ago we launched the scheme where people could adopt a grave or graves in our outstanding churchyard, and look after them. We now have nearly 100 graves adopted, and the results are obvious. The "six foot" of each grave where regular care has begun looks tidied of weeds and overgrowth, and small flowering plants have been used to add some colour and life in respect to those whose life is remembered.

It has been inspiring to have graves tended by descendants of the deceased, or because the name, date of death or age of the person recorded strikes a chord with individual adopters. We also have a group of graves of

children, now being cared for by our local Brownies. Interest in the family history of those buried in the adopted graves has grown, and members of our church recording group have been helping uncover the facts behind the names.

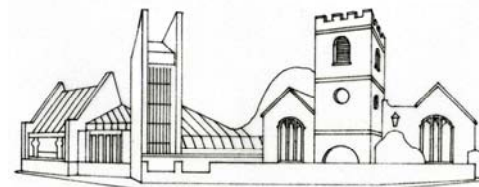
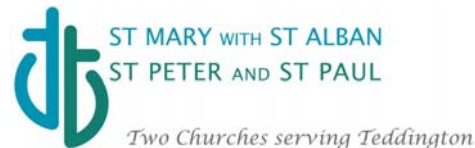
There are still many graves which can be adopted, and we welcome approaches from individuals or groups wanting to be part of this wonderful community endeavour. Every few months a date and time is set aside for adopters to meet, share experiences and seek any further guidance on how to optimise the approach. If you are interested please contact: parishhall@stmarywithstalban.org

Robin Field-Smith

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
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www.teddingtonparish.org



Vicar's Viewpoint

I wonder how many of your Christmas parties were cancelled? The uncertainty of 2021 is rolling over into 2022 and we now know that Covid is not about to vanish, but we need to find ways to live with it as safely as we

can. Despite this shaky start there has been huge progress. The vaccination programme, which this time last year was only just beginning, means that far fewer people are becoming critically ill and this is something to celebrate.

Sometimes life challenges us to look for the positive when we're surrounded by news and experiences which are hard. We want to both acknowledge the uncertainty and struggle, but also be able to celebrate all that is good and life affirming. I think the glass half full or empty saying is unhelpful, few of us are either or. The seasons of life and the seasons of the year understandably affect us in different ways at different times.

Christmas is over, but its message of God sharing in all that it is to be human continues as we turn towards Easter. To help us on our way, one of the first Biblical stories of the New Year is the Wedding in Cana, where water is changed into wine. We learn how Jesus's presence transforms ordinary experiences into something extraordinary, and so gives a different perspective on life.

As we begin 2022, I hope that despite the mixed news, that we can find ways to celebrate the good that is around us. And that very soon the parties will begin again, although unlike the feast in Cana, perhaps we won't be holding back the best wine until last...

Revd Caroline Halmshaw

January 2022 REGULAR SERVICES

at SMwSA unless stated

~ Online service only;
* In-person + livestreamed service

SUNDAYS:

8.00am Holy Communion
9.00am Morning Worship
10.00am Parish Communion*

MONDAYS – SATURDAYS:

8.30am Morning Prayer, on Zoom (Mon-Fri and 9am Sat)~
9.00am-5.00pm Church open for Private Prayer
6.00pm Evening Prayer, on Zoom (Mon-Thur and 5pm Fri-Sat)~

WEDNESDAYS:

9.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Church Mice Toddler Service

THURSDAYS:

12 noon Abide Service at SPSP

Go to our website for further details:
www.teddingtonparish.org

LEARNING HOW TO PRAY



A PARISH QUIET DAY

WITH REFLECTIONS ON THE IGNATION TRADITION – LED BY JOE MOFFATT

TUESDAY JANUARY 25TH
10.00AM-4.00PM
HOUSE OF PRAYER,
EAST MOLESEY KT8 0PB

Sign-up sheet at the back of church,
or contact Parish Office to book

www.teddingtonparish.org

Sustainability Supper Talk

The recent Sustainability Supper Talk was held just after the end of COP-26, organised by the Sustainability Action Group (SAG). We were joined by Helen Stephens from Eco-Church and A Rocha who gave a talk on the work Eco-Church undertake, and the way other Parishes have implemented sustainable initiatives.

Helen talked about supporting initiatives in communities and in people's homes, and the importance of faith and positivity during these challenging times when hopelessness can feel like the default emotion. She shared the importance of finding time to enjoy nature, giving respite from busy lives, and how sustainability is something we can all be interested in because it impacts all our lives.

Attendees enjoyed a locally sourced vegan meal beautifully prepared by Suzie Gordon. Over dinner the conversation flowed, with people discussing efforts undertaken, and things they'd like to see more of. Recycling, reduced food waste, green energy, fewer flights, stopping idling of cars and others, led to passionate discussion. The topic clearly provokes a lot of opinions!

Helen quoted from 'Phosphorescence' by Julia Baird, "Seek awe and nature daily... show kindness; practise grace; eschew vanity; be bold; embrace friends, family, faith and doubt, imperfection and mess; and live deliberately." In these challenging times, this was a timely and comforting note to end a fascinating evening.

If you'd like to learn more about the S.A.G. please contact sustainability@teddingtonparish.org

Carla Maroussas

Sustainability Book Club

In January, the Sustainability Action Group will launch the Sustainability Book Club bringing interested members of the community together to learn and to share, and to discuss a vitally important subject. We hope you will think about joining us.

The club will meet monthly to share thoughts on books covering the broad subject of sustainability, such as climate change, sustainable living, the natural world, restorative agriculture, conservation and other topics.

It's likely we will host virtual meetings initially, with the intention being to meet physically once health, safety and wellbeing considerations allow. To help with planning, we will be selecting the books in batches of three, and so the first three books will be:

January 2022 – 'From What is to What If: Unleashing the Power of Imagination to Create the Future we Want' by Rob Hopkins

February 2022 – 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree

March 2022 – 'There is No Planet B' by Mike Berners-Lee

We have an agreement with a local independent bookstore to offer discounted prices on our chosen books. If you buy the three books together, a 15% discount is available. If you are interested in hearing more, in joining, or in buying the bundle of books, please contact James at sustainability@teddingtonparish.org

James Morris

Confirmation Day – Two Reflections



1) Firat and I feel very lucky to be included in such a friendly and lovely community. Baptism and Confirmation! It was the two most special moments of our lives, and they are all very special as they shared these times with us.

We would like to thank Caroline and Joe, who have been with us in this special journey and enlightened us at the deepest points. We think that we are very lucky to share the same journey with our course partners Jane, Roger, and Gareth, who shared their deep feelings and thoughts with us. Additionally, I want to share with



you the most meaningful thing that will never leave my side in my life! My small olive wood cross! It will always remind me of this special day and the promises I made. Special

thanks to The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin for this meaningful and thoughtful gift.

I want to be honest about it! Before I started the course, I thought that confirmation was only one of the seven sacraments and a process to be completed, but each session was a valuable way for us to grow in faith and in the life of Spirit. Our faith and thoughts have been endless, but I believe this process takes us one step deeper. At the end of the day, I realised that confirmation was not really the completion of the process, on the contrary, with the promises we made, our faith was starting more deeply now.

Kubra Cengiz
(Kubra and Firat are from Turkey)

2) I loved taking part in the confirmation classes. We started in September and talked about a different topic each week with Joe and Vanessa. We discussed God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church. I enjoyed every class and learned lots. It was nice to talk about our faith together. In November, Joe and Vanessa took us all out for a pizza. Joe ordered the spiciest pizza on the menu but it was very big and he couldn't finish it.

I was quite nervous before the confirmation day but I was also very excited and very proud. My heart was thumping during the service. Bishop Graham was very kind and gave me a cross and Joe and Caroline gave me presents. My dad said it was the proudest day of his life. The experience has brought me closer to God. I am so glad I have been confirmed and welcomed into the church.

Esme Goulbourn (age 11)

Diversity and Inclusion Group

Thank you to everyone who came to our Film Night back in October. Just a reminder that if you want to watch the

whole of the programme we discussed **The School That Tried to End Racism**, it is still available on **All 4**. It's well worth watching in its entirety. We can also thoroughly recommend the following recent, rewarding and sometimes challenging programmes on racism and diversity. All are available on TV catch-up.

Stephen (ITV hub)

3-part series about the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence and the eventual convictions of some of the accused.

BBC Panorama – 'Let's Talk about Race' (BBC iPlayer)

Excellent programme highlighting the particular issues that people from Black and ethnic minorities face on a daily basis in Britain today.

BBC Panorama – 'I Can't Breathe. Black and Dead in Custody' (BBC iPlayer)

The Black experience of custody in the British justice system.

Steve McQueen's **Small Axe series (BBC iPlayer)** in particular, **Episode 1: Red, White and Blue**, the gripping, moving story of the early career of Dr Leroy Logan MBE, former superintendent in the Met, who became the Chair of the Black Police Association.

If you have any queries or comments please contact me at crr1@btinternet.com

Cathy Randall

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS – We welcome into Christ's Church:

21st November: Arabella Grace Leonora, daughter of Rosie and Mark Parton: Seren Titherington and Osian Frederick Titherington, sons of Emily Titherington and Thomas Longhurst

28th November: Amelia Keo Sandle, daughter of Emma and Justin Leclair : Arthur Howard, son of Jane Howard and Tom Nowell

5th December: Beatrice Lydia May, daughter of Marijke and Keith Newman

WEDDINGS – We wish every blessing on the marriage of:

4th December: Heidi Dolan and Richard Alastair Harrison .