

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Everything comes with an open invitation, and please bring a friend. You can expect a warm welcome too. Our website has all the details: www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on

- Wednesday 1 First Wednesday meeting. St Mary's Parish Hall. 12.45-2.15pm. Topic: *Should our CoFE clergy have freedom to bless and marry same-sex couples in church?* Bring your own packed lunch. Tea/ coffee provided.
Bible Discussion Group. On Zoom. 8.00pm. (See article, page 3) Also: 15 & 22, and into March
- Thursday 2 Parish Coffee. On Zoom. 10.30am
Traherne Reading Group. St Mary's Parish Hall. 1.15-2.45pm. Also: 9
- Friday 3 A Warm Space run by SMWSA at Peter & Paul Centre (PPC). 10.00am-12noon. Relax over a book or a chat, with tea/coffee available. Also: 10, 17 & 24
- Saturday 4 Parish Plod: *Thames Path through the boroughs of London*. A new challenge for 2023, starting with Hampton Court to Teddington Lock
- Monday 6 Teddington Community Café. PPC. 1.30-4.30pm. Also: 13, 22 & 27
- Tuesday 7 Memory Café. PPC. 1.30-3.00pm. Also: 21
- Tuesday 14 Parish Lunch. tba. 12noon
Bereavement Café. PPC. 1.30-3.00pm. Also: 21
- Thursday 16 Plain & Pearl social crafting group. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.30pm. Also: 28
- Churchyard Gardening. SMWSA. 10.00am. Also: Sat 18
- Wednesday 22 Ash Wednesday Services: (see page 1)
- Tuesday 28 Parish Coffee. Shambles. 10.30am

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

- Wednesday 1 Day of Prayer. House of Prayer, E. Molesey. KT8 0PB. 10.00am-4.00pm
- Sunday 5 Lent Lunch for Welcare. 11.45am. St Mary's Parish Hall
- Sunday 19 Bishop Rob Wickham and John Tasker join us for Sunday services and lunch, following their recent visit to Mozambique, and our linked Parish of Pemba

Lent Lunch for Welcare

Bring a friend, and join us for our annual Lent Lunch. We will be serving a choice of delicious soups, bread rolls, fruit and brownies. There will be good company and we will be raising funds for Welcare,

supporting their ongoing work locally to empower families to change their lives for the better. Lunch will follow straight from coffee after our 10am service on Sunday 5th March. Please book via our website or phone the office, and donate what you can on the day.

Parish Information

- CHURCH:** St Mary with St Alban, Ferry Road, Teddington. TW11 9NN
- Clergy Team:**
Rev Caroline Halmshaw: caroline@teddingtonparish.org 07483 310330
Rev Mary Hawes: mary@teddingtonparish.org 07967 701891
- Church Wardens:**
Carla Maroussas: carla@teddingtonparish.org 020 8943 2262
Robin Field-Smith: robin@teddingtonparish.org 07768 697178
- HALL + PARISH OFFICE:** St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF
- Hall Bookings Admin:** Nadia Prince: nadia@teddingtonparish.org 020 8943 2262
- Church Services Admin:** Emma Castellani: emma@teddingtonparish.org 020 8943 2262
- Ops & Comms Manager:** Suzanne Parker: suzanne@teddingtonparish.org 020 8943 2262
- Newsletter Editors:** Julien Cozens, Penny Jones and Sue Stevens
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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023



St MARY with St ALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



Vicar's Viewpoint Candlemas

Candlemas takes place at the beginning of February, it's a feast about light, that comes as we anticipate the widening arc of the sun and the lengthening days. The feast recounts the moment Jesus is presented in the temple and

an elderly man and woman recognise him as the one for whom they had been waiting. Simeon's words of joy tell us that, 'a light has come to lighten all the darkness'.

In church we hold our Christingle service at Candlemas, as we sit in a darkened church, the light of the candles gently banish the darkness and the sweet citrus smell of the oranges fills our nostrils. One of the things the church used to do was take the candles from the service out into the village to share the light with those who hadn't been there.

The candles symbolise the light of Christ that has come into our world, reminding us that it's Jesus's presence that transforms even the darkest times. This is a season of hope. There has been a long period of uncertainty and waiting, and now the wait is over. It's a story that resonates strongly with us as we hope for better things in 2023.

As we welcome His light into our lives, we are welcoming a hope that doesn't disappoint us. At the moment it is already dark by 5pm, but we know that this won't last for much longer. If you are looking for some peace, a sanctuary out of the dark, then St Mary with St Alban is open during the day and we would love you to come in and light a candle. *Caroline Halmshaw*

REGULAR SERVICES

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

SUNDAYS:

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

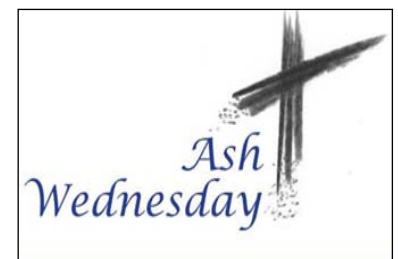
MONDAYS – SATURDAYS:

- 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

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



WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

9.30AM

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

7.30PM

Sung Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

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Calling all children: Sunday and Wednesday mornings

We love having families at church, and children are invited to take part in our services in many ways; writing and sharing prayers, welcoming people, serving and reading. Here are some special types of worship which happen just for children.

At 9.00am every Sunday, there is a family friendly service with lots of roles for children and a sermon for everyone. It lasts about half an hour and once a month includes Holy Communion. This service is followed by Coffee and Craft each week at the Parish Hall – a chance for parents and carers to have a coffee and a chat whilst the children enjoy colouring or a simple craft activity.



At 10.00am every Sunday, there is a traditional Parish Communion service with a special Children's Church group, who move over to the hall during the second hymn and return before Communion. There are a variety of activities – acting out stories, treasure hunts, games, crafts and more. Everyone welcome! For those little ones who would prefer to stay in church there is a cosy children's corner with bible storybooks and colouring-in.

On Wednesdays, we are delighted to run our popular, weekly Church Mice Service, for babies through to pre-schoolers, at 10.30am. This lasts about 20-minutes, with all the usual singing, bible stories, prayers and musical instruments to enable lots of noisy fun. This is free-play and refreshments after the service too, offering a relaxed opportunity for both children and adults to see their friends – and meet new ones.

For more information: please contact Ruth Chaperlin on ChildrensChurch@teddingtonparish.org.



Three Cheers for the Teddington Bakers

I think it is about time to give a BIG THANK YOU to all those men and women who, quietly and reliably contribute cakes and biscuits for our community café. Not many know who they are and even I, despite co-ordinating the rota, only know a few of them personally. However, like magic, every Monday an array of delicious home baking appears at PPC's hall to the delight of all the café visitors and organisers.

It would be nice to thank all these volunteers personally, but for many it is difficult to attend the café. So, please bakers, imagine a big clap from the café organisers, visitors and, of course, from me for all the work you have done and, hopefully, will carry on doing.

P.S. If anyone, reading this, feels like becoming part of the baking community and contributing a cake every other month or so, please contact me on karinmay@hotmail.com

Karin Mayhew

Lent Reflection Group

We warmly invite you to join us for our weekly Lent Reflection Group which will run for 6 sessions from 1st March – 5th April. The course is open to everyone. The first session will be a Parish quiet day at the House of Prayer, East Molesey, which will be an opportunity for reflection, prayer and discussion. We will then meet each Wednesday from 10.30am–12.00pm in the Parish Hall. The course will be based on the Church of England's Lent resources for 2023 entitled *Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness*. There will be a booklet to accompany the course with Bible readings, short reflections, prayers and practical ideas to help us draw closer to God during Lent. We hope that you will be able to join us. For further information or to sign up, contact sarah@teddingtonparish.org

Sarah Williams

In Memory of Sheena Harold



We were all saddened and shocked to learn of the sudden death of Sheena Harold after a short illness, on 9th January. Sheena was Chair of the Teddington Society and well known to many of us at St Mary with St Alban. She had been very active in the Society for more than twenty five years, and we knew her particularly in connection with many local events such as Teddington in Flower, Richmond in Bloom, the Christmas Lights and the revival of the Teddington Village Fair, when Vicar Joe formed a very effective partnership with Sheena and Lesley Bossine at the Landmark Arts Centre.

Although not a Churchgoer, Sheena became a good friend of ours, attending many events at St Mary with St Alban, Teddington. The Borough of Richmond presented her with the Borough Outstanding Community Award in 2017, for outstanding public service. We will miss her greatly, she left her mark in many different and meaningful ways.

John Demont

Online Bible discussion group: Acts of the Apostles

We are pleased to announce the return of our Wednesday evening Zoom discussion group. Reading and reflecting on the first half of the Book of Acts, we will trace the fortunes of Jesus's disciples as they spread the Gospel, build the early church, and embark with Paul on his first mission.

The course began on 18th January and will continue to run until 1st March. You are welcome to attend some or all of the remaining four online sessions from 1st February (excluding 8th February), 8.00pm–9.30pm. Please contact Sarah Rae (sarah.rae@tiscali.co.uk)

Clare Rider and Sarah Rae

Teddington in Flower 2023

After three years' absence, *Teddington in Flower* is set to feature once again on the Teddington Society calendar. This is a rare chance to discover some of our beautiful Teddington gardens and, for garden owners, a short moment to share a little of the joy our own plots bring us.

We are looking forward to a super spring show of open gardens on Sunday 23rd April 2023, 2.00pm to 6.00pm and hoping to welcome lots of local visitors. The St Mary with St Alban community is playing a key part on the day with bells rung by Anne Johnson and her team, teas served in the churchyard and the sale of some unique handmade items from Plain & Pearl.

Gardens and garden sitters needed

Teddington in Flower is coordinated by long-time resident and keen gardener, Jo Nicholds. If you might like to open your garden, please do get in touch. It doesn't need to be a Chelsea contender. As the saying goes, gardening is a process, not a product and although we might strive for perfection, most of us rarely get there. If you love and care for your green space, consider sharing it with others. Do bear in mind though, there'll need to be safe access via an outside path so visitors aren't tramping through your house. We are also looking for a team of volunteers to 'garden sit', welcoming garden visitors on the day. If that's you, I'd love to hear from you.

For more information, email jo.nicholds99@gmail.com or call Jo on 07968 960459. *Jo Nicholds*



Lent Lunch 2023
SUNDAY 5 MARCH
11.45am
St Mary's Parish Hall