

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Everything comes with an open invitation, and please bring a friend.

Things in green need pre-booking, please. The website has all the details and links: www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on/, or scan this QR code:



Thursday 1	Parish Social: coffee. On Zoom. 10.30am
Saturday 3	Parish Plod: St Alban's Way. Woodside Park to Elstree. 9.30am
Monday 5	Teddington Community Café. Peter & Paul Centre. 1.30-4.30pm. <i>Also 12, 19 & 26</i>
Tuesday 6	Memory Café. Peter & Paul Centre. 1.30-3.00pm. <i>Also 20</i>
Wednesday 7	Pints of View: unscripted, agenda-free and committee-free fellowship. Tide End Pub. From 8.00pm.
Tuesday 13	Parish Social: lunch. Piazza Firenze Restaurant. 12noon
Thursday 22	Churchyard Gardening. SMwSA. 10.00am. <i>Also Sat 24</i>
Tuesday 27	Parish Social: coffee. Shambles Restaurant. 10.30am

A few things take a break over August, including Church Mice Toddler Services and Children's Church on Sundays, also First Wednesday and Plain & Pearl. All will return as usual in September.

What next for the Churchyard?

The Loving Your Burial Ground Week was met with a lot of enthusiasm, with talks on bee keeping, history much enjoyed, as was the graveyard quiz. School visits added energy and excitement as children searched for quiz items, such as the cat's grave and the nail for the bread basket for the poor. There was much to learn! Still on the theme of children's involvement, the Brownies have done some lovely work looking after children's graves.

However, despite the beauty and the peace to be found in the graveyard, there is some dispute: How much of a wild meadow should it be? All agree that we

love wildlife, and that it should be cherished and protected, but some see the unmown grass as messy and uncared for, and are upset by brambles and weeds growing over the memorials.

There are plenty of graves left to adopt, and it is very satisfying to rescue an overgrown plot, while leaving space for the wildlife in other parts of the ground.

How do we move forward with this; perhaps a glass of wine on a summer's evening in the Burial Ground to discuss the balance? If you have any thoughts or ideas about our Graveyard, please email me, I should love to hear from you on alex@teddingtonparish.org

Teddington Parish Information

CHURCH:	St Mary with St Alban, Ferry Road, TW11 9NN
Vicar:	Revd David Cloake: vicar@teddingtonparish.org
Associate Vicar:	Revd Mary Hawes: mary@teddingtonparish.org
Churchwardens:	Carla Maroussas: carla@teddingtonparish.org Adam Woods: adam@teddingtonparish.org
HALL and OFFICE:	St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Rd, TW11 9HF 020 8943 2262
Hall Bookings:	Nadia Prince: nadia@teddingtonparish.org
Church Services:	Emma Castellani: emma@teddingtonparish.org
Operations & Comms:	Suzanne Parker: suzanne@teddingtonparish.org
Newsletter Editors:	Penny Jones and Sue Stevens: newsletter@teddingtonparish.org

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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024



St MARY with St ALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



Vicar's Viewpoint

In the days to come I will preach on the subject of **compassion** which forms the core of some of the scriptural theming that our church will contemplate. You're a learned bunch, so you will know that our word 'compassion' is derived from a middle-English term used originally by churches to mean 'to suffer with...'; and we all have a sense of its meaning to

us in our own lives.

Earlier this week we had our beloved crazy hound put to sleep – our ever-enthusiastic, oft grumpy, endlessly bossy dog that has been the bane of many a fellow dog-walker along the river path in the mornings. For those who have endured the unique agony of losing a pet, it is cursed by the transactional nature of the decision with the vet concerned and the lingering sense of 'Did I do the right thing?' shortly after "Sign here please, sir". Being in the room – being truly present convinced me that we made the right decision. We saw the suffering, we heard the whimpering and we did what we did out of compassion to her and in the context of a real connection.

It strikes me how disconnected we are from one another. Everything happens through a screen (computer or car) and I notice how compassion is dwindling and finger-pointing is increasing. How readily we can be angry about someone or something until we find ourselves sitting in the same room – when much of that anger dissipates in many cases.

Christianity is predicated upon human contact – not theological treatise. 'God is love' is practically outworked, not the subject of a neat essay. Christians who don't engage 'in person' with other humans cannot, I believe, be truly compassionate people. As summer comes, and we contemplate the harvest let us remember that the harvest of compassion is found most keenly in the faces of real people – not their glass bound simulacrum.

Best wishes

REGULAR SERVICES

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

SUNDAYS:

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

MONDAYS – SATURDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- NO Church Mice Services in August

THURSDAYS:

- 8.30pm Compline, on Zoom~

SCHOOL DISCO

Saturday 28th Sept
St Mary's Parish Hall
6.30pm-10.30pm

Fundraising for vital church facilities

£45 ticket includes
Live 80's & 90's music,
fab food, sweet treats

AUGUST OFFER
scan now for
£39 ticket

www.teddingtonparish.org

A Celebration of ALMA

I write this as I return from the annual ALMA Sunday celebration at St Paul's Cathedral. No, this isn't a celebration of all things 'Coronation Street', but rather an opportunity to celebrate our link, as a parish, with the parish of Pemba, Cabo Delgado in Mozambique with whom we are partnered through the Angola London Mozambique Association (ALMA). It was a service of celebration for a warm and reciprocal friendship with Fr. Bulaki and his people, and to pray for a region of Africa that is currently subject to unspeakable violence and the oppression of Christians. Recently, the school was destroyed by insurgents and the church robbed, with many of the residents fleeing into the bush to survive these incursions.

As we gathered in the pomp and circumstance of one of the finest cathedrals in Christendom, I wondered how far we were from the blood and dust of Pemba, where people worship in fear of their lives. Bishop Filomena from Angola preached a sermon on persistence in the quest for justice and I was reminded, in my clean robes and safe cathedral, sitting at the 'front' as an undeserved 'dignitary', that this fight and this persistence for justice can begin anywhere, even in London (and perhaps especially so).

It was a glorious service in both English and Portuguese (the language of Mozambique), and I come away reminded that the God of white marble tourist attractions is the same God in the desperate circumstances of lands I cannot begin to comprehend. I return home humbled because in relative terms, my faith is easy. For our friends in Pemba, theirs comes at a high price.

David Cloake

Saint of the Month

St Mary the Virgin

Madonna del Rosario (c 6th century icon)

Love her or (inheriting traditional Protestant mistrust) hate her, the one thing you



can't do with Mary, our patronal saint, is ignore her. It was from her that our Saviour learnt his humanity.

There are few biblical references to Mary; in some, there are, echoes of passages in Hebrew Scriptures. They are worth looking up: The Annunciation, the Visitation and Magnificat (Luke 1); the birth of Jesus, his Presentation in the Temple, and Mary remonstrating with him in the Temple as he entered adulthood at 12, (all in Luke 2); Jesus shoehorned into the miracle at Cana by his mother (John 2); Mary trying (and failing) to have an audience with her son (Matthew 12: 46-50); Jesus' words from the cross (John 19:26-27); and Mary praying with the disciples in Jerusalem after the Ascension (Acts 1:14). The woman, clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet in Rev 12:1, who appears in the East window of our church, has also been interpreted as a reference to Mary.

If you spend enough time sitting with Mary and praying with her, shutting your mind to all the hot air and prejudice, you will find that, like any good mother, her one purpose is to lead you into the presence of her Son.

The Reformation martyr Hugh Latimer preached as follows:

"as the saffron-bag that hath been full of saffron [...] doth ever after savour and smell of the sweet saffron that it contained; so our blessed lady, which conceived and bare Christ in her womb, did ever after resemble the manners and virtues of that precious babe that she bare".

Rosamond McDowell

Come on in, the water's lovely!

A casual conversation after a 10.00am Sunday service last October resulted in the formation of the parish lake swimming group. I'm not sure whether we intended (or thought we'd be able) to swim through winter but, with laughter (most of the time) and camaraderie (all of the time), we came out the other side and are now enjoying the warmer air and water temperatures.

We cater for all: attire ranges from just trunks to full body neoprene (wetsuit, gloves, boots and cap); the water temperature from 2°C to 20°C; and



distances swum from 100m to 2+km (depending on attire and water temperature). Smiles at the end are always broad!

We swim at Shepperton at 7.30 or 8.00 every Sunday so we can be back for church at 10.00am. We also swim midweek on an ad hoc basis, either at Shepperton or one of the other local lakes.

We'd love some more company, so why not dip a toe in the water and join us? For more details, please speak to one of the bedraggled-looking members of the congregation, or contact me on ian.rae@hotmail.com.

Ian Rae

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS

We welcome into Christ's Church:
23rd: June Francis and Phoebe

FUNERALS

We remember with thanksgiving:
25th: June Jim Rattray (94)
17th: June Dai Morgan (83)

Building Anew Project Fundraising

St Mary with St Alban Church Foreign Currency Donation Scheme



Do you have any current or old foreign currency sitting in the back of a kitchen drawer that you would be happy to donate? If so, please pop it into an envelope and drop it into the Parish Office letterbox in Langham Road, Teddington, TW11 9HF.

Donations of any notes and coins, including pre-euro currencies such as deutschmarks,

francs, pesetas, etc, can help us build vital facilities for your parish church. For more information on this and other fundraising activities, please visit the Building Project page on the parish website: www.teddingtonparish.org

Buy-a-Brick Appeal

Commemorative bricks are selling fast! If you would like to be part of the legacy of this historic community project, then scan the QR code below to donate £100 today. Over half of the limited edition available have already been sold.

All donors to this scheme will be offered the opportunity to have their name recorded in the project's Commemorative Book of Bricklayers and on the parish website 'Bricklayer Wall of Fame', as well as receiving an invitation to the opening ceremony.



Steven Randall