

JANUARY 2026

REGULAR SERVICES

SUNDAY

8am: BCP Holy Communion
9am: Morning Worship
10am: Parish Eucharist (+ livestreamed)
12noon: Holy Baptism (most Sundays)

WEDNESDAY

9.30am: Said Eucharist
10.30am: Church Mice Toddler Service

MONDAY to SATURDAY (on Zoom)

Morning Prayer: Mon-Fri: 8.30am, Sat: 9am
Evening Prayer: Mon-Thu: 6pm, Fri-Sat: 5pm

THIRD SUNDAY EACH MONTH

10am: All-age Eucharist (+ livestreamed)
6.30pm: Evensong

EVERYDAY (daylight hours)

Church open for private prayer

Christingle

4pm

Sunday 1 February



@teddingtonparish

all welcome to this beautiful
candlelit service

www.teddingtonparish.org

Vicar's Viewpoint



Depending upon the timing and efficiency of the process of producing this edition of the Newsletter, I offer either my best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas, or my hope for a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Either way, I hope and pray that your festivities are, or have been a joy to you.

It may also be the case that for some of you who are reading this, Christmas was not a season of festive joy but a time of a renewed sense of loss, a time of acute loneliness and darkness or a time when you had to negotiate scarce time between competing pressures – and if that speaks to your situation, please be assured that you were in my prayers too.

However Christmas was/is for you, we begin again with a brand New Year. You may make a seriatim list of resolutions that may or may not involve levels of exercise or reduced caffeine intake. That is for you and I wish you good fortune in whatever you commit to. As your parish priest (my solemn role in Teddington Parish whether you come to [this] church or not, Christian or other) I ready myself and my church community to meet you in the 'moments'. In 2025, we met many hundreds of you in your 'moments' – baptisms, weddings or funerals and we are here again this year. We are not purely a 'Sunday organisation' – in fact I work with more people across the other days of the week nowadays.

In simplest terms – my job, my ministry to you, is to be here when you have need of me and us in your 'moments'. I will baptise you or your children, I am ready – in the main – to marry you, and I will – without qualification – accompany you in your bereavements (I will insist on the Lord's Prayer, but that's it really) – both me and my parish family with me. I won't qualify you with a label or a pattern of attendance, but will – like the Jesus I believe in – welcome you when come to my door.

I wish you a very Happy New Year – and close with a simple reminder that St Mary with St Alban's is for life, not just for Sundays!

Best wishes

 Fr David

www.teddingtonparish.org

WHAT'S ON - JANUARY

THIS MONTH'S EDITOR: SUE STEVENS

church service

Reserve

requires pre-booking

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

SATURDAY
3

PARISH PLOD
10.15am
Bushy Park

MONDAYS
5, 12, 19, 26

COMMUNITY CAFÉ
1.30-3.30pm
Peter & Paul Centre

TUESDAYS
6, 20

MEMORY CAFÉ
1.30-3pm
Peter & Paul Centre

WEDNESDAY
7

FIRST WEDNESDAY
DISCUSSION GROUP
12.45-2.15pm
Topic: *As Christians, do we feel "saved"?*
Mina Hogan Room

WEDNESDAY
7

PINTS OF VIEW
from 8pm
unscripted fellowship
in Tide End pub

THURSDAYS
8, 15, 22, 29

TRAHERNE READING GROUP
1.30-3pm
tbc Mina Hogan Room or Balcony

TUE
13

FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL LUNCH
12noon
Piazza Firenze

TUESDAYS
13, 27

PLAIN & PEARL
SOCIAL CRAFTING
7.30pm
Mina Hogan Room

THU & SAT
15, 17

CHURCHYARD GARDENING
10am-12noon
SMWSA Churchyard

SUNDAY
18

ALL-AGE PARISH EUCHARIST
10am
SMWSA Church

SUNDAY
18

CHORAL EVENSONG
6.30pm
SMWSA Church

MONDAY
19

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ
10-11.30am
Peter & Paul Centre

TUESDAY
27

FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL COFFEE
10.30am
Shambles Restaurant

FRIDAY
30

NEWSLETTER BUNDLING
2.30pm
St Mary's Parish Hall

SUNDAY
1 FEBRUARY

Looking ahead:
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
4pm
SMWSA Church

visit www.teddingtonparish.org for more details

Vicar: Revd. David Cloake: vicar@teddingtonparish.org
email us: enquiries@teddingtonparish.org
call us: 020 8943 2262
and find us on social media: @teddingtonparish

Church (SMWSA): St. Mary with St. Alban, Ferry Road, TW11 9NN
Parish Hall, Mina Hogan Room, Balcony Room and Parish Office:
St. Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, TW11 9HF
Peter & Paul Centre: Church Road, TW11 8PS

Las Posadas

Posada is a Mexican word meaning “inn” or “lodging.” In Mexico, the days before Christmas are marked by lively *posadas*, teaching people about Mary and Joseph, and the birth of Jesus. What began in churches – with Eucharist, food, music, and piñatas – soon moved into homes, becoming a joyful tradition that helps families prepare for Christmas.

Luke's Gospel tells us that Mary and Joseph travelled from their home town of Nazareth to Bethlehem, for a census. The 70-mile journey would have taken four or five days, if not longer. Where did Mary and Joseph stay along the way? Did kind families welcome them, or did they camp by the roadside? The Bible story does not say.



During Advent, here at St Mary with St Alban's, we have our own *posada*, a knitted version. Any who wish, are invited to welcome the Holy Family for a night. A number of characters and blocks can be used to create a nativity scene, and there is a journal in which keen hosts can tell of Mary and Joseph's Teddington adventures. Those with an eye on our social media may see Mary and Joseph travelling through the parish as we get ready to celebrate Christmas together.

Rev. Joy

Christmas Bazaar

On Saturday 29 November, the Parish Hall was transformed into a Christmas wonderland to welcome the local community for a day of joy and good cheer to celebrate the beginning of our seasonal celebrations. Visitors were faced with a plethora of enticing stalls selling everything from homemade jams, stunning cakes, beautiful crafted items made by the talented team at Plain & Pearl, homegrown plants and a whole array of soft toys and games to attract children and adults alike.

The cafe was busy all day, serving a

delicious menu of savoury and sweet items alongside mulled wine, tea and coffee.

But no visit to a Christmas fair is complete without a visit to Santa who was to be found in the most atmospheric fairytale grotto high up on the top floor of the hall. Thank you to all who gave time, talents and finances to make this Bazaar a record-breaking success, with Teddington businesses donating over 40 amazing Raffle prizes, raising £1490 alone. This year's footfall was the highest on record, and we took in over £8,600, but this is as nothing when held beside the many friends that we welcomed and new contacts made. It was a joy to welcome a new school choir (and their families) together with those who already support us, as we continue to build vital bridges into our local community. The money raised is much needed funds to keep this church open to serve you. Thank you to you all!

Cathy Randall and Katherine Matthews

Parish Pastoral Meeting

Sunday January 25th 2026

A meeting will be held in the Parish Hall after morning coffee at about 12.00, for those involved or those who wish to become involved in the church's pastoral ministry. Sandwiches will be provided

Baptism

A baptism is an exciting, joyful occasion as you are welcomed into the church family.

I think of baptism as being about the 3Bs – **beginning, belonging, and believing.** Baptism marks the **beginning** of our Christian journey. It's about **belonging** to the worldwide church family and about **believing** in God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



During the service you (or your child) will be baptised with water. “Baptizo” is the

Greek word meaning to dip repeatedly. Water nourishes, cleanses, and gives us life. The water in the font is therefore the symbol of us saying goodbye to our old life and starting afresh in the Christian faith. For a child being baptised, their godparents play a significant role in supporting the child on their faith journey. We baptise adults too; I wasn't baptised until I was thirty-five.

Baptism preparation evenings are held to offer you a chance to find out more about what is involved from both a theological and practical perspective. You will also be introduced to a baptism supporter, who is there to answer any specific practical questions you may have, and will be there for you on the day.

So if you are thinking of being baptised, or having your child baptised, and want to know more, please contact baptisms@teddingtonparish.org

Rev. Sarah

Bereavement Café.

Birth, Baptism and Marriage give us new people and something to enjoy. But the death of family members or friends brings grief and a sense of loss. Sometimes we need to go somewhere where it's OK to talk about death and not feel awkward.

As a church over the years we have provided many funerals, but recently we recognised that we needed to offer more for those grieving. Since September 2024

nine volunteers have received training from Princess Alice Hospice as listeners at the Bereavement Café, which is held on the third Monday of each month from 10.00 to 11.30 at the Peter & Paul Centre, on the corner of Church Road and Broad Street. This is a free 'drop-in' cafe, providing a safe space and mutual support for anyone grieving a loss, whether recent or much longer ago. There is no agenda, and you can choose to share your story or listen to others, while enjoying refreshments. We offer no solutions, but can provide information on other support services. Attendance is open to all in the community, whether or not they have any faith or belief.

The next dates are Monday January 19th and Monday February 16th.

Hilary Adamson

(bereavement@teddingtonparish.org)

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS

We welcome into Christ's Church:

16 November: Clara and Maximilian

30 November: Harper and Sonny

FUNERALS

We remember with thanksgiving:

14 November: Mary Crowther (74)

1 December: Anne Smith (98)

1 December: Nicola Baker (61)

3 December: Dominic Arthur (67)

Building Anew Project Update

The first phase of building works is now underway! A massive, heartfelt thank you to the project team and everyone involved in so many different ways over the past seven years for their stamina, tenacity and generosity in making this community project a reality.



Contractors started apace on site in December and have already demolished the old choir vestry, with a little help from Father David! Following this they will work on constructing the foundations

and drainage needed for the new facilities.

Archaeologists on site monitoring the demolition spotted some graffiti in the choir vestry brickwork, mostly from the 1970s, which has been recorded for posterity. Does anyone claim responsibility?!



The works are expected to be completed in the autumn of 2026, following which we look forward to welcoming everyone in the community to the new, fully accessible facilities.

For more information about the project and how you can support it, visit our parish website.

Steven Randall