

The whole team – Claire Bowie, Nerida Burnie, Chris Darling, Eddie Gunvenzve, Nick Harris, Minnie Harris, Sarah Prager, Hugo Studholme and Sam Tasker - finished the course and together raised over £1,000 for Welcare. Many thanks to all our generous sponsors.

Hugo Studholme

Choral Evensong with Advent Carols

Sunday 27th November
6.30pm

Sunday School Trip

At this year's Sunday school trip to Horton Park Farm we were blessed with blue skies and sunshine making a very relaxing and enjoyable day out. On the coach journey the families partook of a church quiz, somewhat of a tradition thanks to Explorers teacher, Hugo. At the farm the children were able to see a variety of animals from lizards to llamas. The animals were not the only creatures enjoying the weather; many parents were found lying on the grass basking in the sunshine!

There were numerous outdoor play areas designed to appeal to discerning young adventurers... and some of the adults. Everyone left tired but happy. On the return journey quiz prizes went to Amy Hallett and Evie Moffatt who got 100% right. Well done girls and thank you for sharing your sweets. Thanks also to Helen Cooper for organising the trip.

Sam Tasker

Advent Course:

The advent wreath candles remind us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. Each week we'll take a closer look at these figures:

Nov 30th The Patriarchs
Dec 7th The Prophets
Dec 14th John the Baptist

These bible-study sessions are on Wednesday mornings 10.30-12 noon in the Mina Hogan Room and all are welcome (no previous experience required!)

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011



StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

Vicar's Viewpoint

Ever since I met (aged 18) a real-life Franciscan friar (in Tanzania of all places) I've been attracted by the story of St Francis and I've sought out Franciscans to help with my spiritual journey. Their stress on simplicity of living, on humility, love and joy, and on the balance of prayer, study and work, is the kind of thing I need to get back in touch with whenever life gets too busy and fraught. Imagine my delight, therefore, when I discovered that a member of our early morning Sunday congregation was a 'lay' member of the Franciscan community. I was all the more delighted when it turned out that he (Paul Alexander) was also a professional actor who had developed a one-man show about the life of St Francis and that he was willing to give a performance in our parish hall. My joy was complete when he offered to do this for free, so that every penny we take on the door will help raise money for the church.

So let me introduce this extraordinary medieval saint and the man who will bring him to life for us.

Joe Moffatt

St Francis of Assisi

Short of stature, sticking out ears, a straggly beard and as thin as a rake. A quality of inner stillness, fiery, penetrating eyes, with a tangible aura of spirituality. A magnetic personality drawing people from a huge variety of backgrounds. As equally at home with animals as with people, people flocked to hear him speak, to be near him. Enigmatic, illusive, very humble, a friend of beggars, lepers, kings and popes. An outcast to his father but at the end of his life well over 5000 men and women following in his footsteps.

His influence on the 13th century was enormous. His influence today is equally great

acclaimed as the patron saint of the environment and followed by such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Lech Walesa of 'Solidarity' fame.

The show will present the ups and downs of this extraordinary life, lived on the edge, lived at full stretch. Don't miss it.

Paul Alexander:

Paul's most recent accolade is as Dave Hill in Stephen Spielberg's film 'Warhorse'. He has appeared in over 60 television parts such as *Doctor Who*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Casualty* and *Upstairs Downstairs*. He has worked extensively in the theatre with The Royal Shakespeare Company where he was a member of Peter Brook's 'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream', The Lyric Theatre, The Young Vic and many other national theatres.



Paul has toured throughout Europe, North America and Canada with several one man shows including *John's Gospel* which was filmed in Israel and shown on BBC1 TV.

The Life of St Francis

A one-man show

by Paul Alexander

Saturday November 19th, 7.30pm

St Mary's Parish Hall,

Langham Road, TW11 9HF

Tickets £10

(£5 for students and under-18s)

Book via Parish Office:

info@stmarywithstalban.org 020 8943 2262

Harvest Festival Parade Service

On a glorious autumn morning our family service began with a packed congregation singing 'Come Ye Thankful People, Come'. Scouts, Guides and Brownies formed the parade and a drama, entitled 'Church Mice' was performed by the younger members.

The service continued with an anthem and traditional harvest hymns, conveying our thanks to God for 'all good things around us' while beautifully decorated gifts were presented by the children. These have been shared between SPEAR, Welcare, Salvation Army and Elleray Hall. SPEAR, was also the recipient for the service's cash collection.

Patricia Richards

Confirmation service

On the evening of Sunday 18th September, the Right Reverend Paul Williams, Bishop of Kensington, came to St Mary's to confirm nine members of the congregation: six young people and three adults. The church looked beautiful, filled with families, supporters of the confirmation candidates and members of the congregation.

Bishop Paul's engaging sermon was about how we all tend to strive after whatever we think will make us happy, and how ultimately it is in Jesus that we find our hearts' deepest desire. The service was full of Christian symbolism as the Easter candle was lit and the candidates processed to the font to be sprinkled with water by the Bishop. He then laid his hands on them, saying the words of



From left to right: Zoe Millington Jones, Peter Rae, Susan Lewis, Joanna Bell, Chris Lewis, Rachel Bell, Bishop Paul, Joe, Aoife Mulcahy, Kate Randall and Fred Cornwell

confirmation and anointing them with the oil of chrism. After communion each candidate was presented with a candle by a supporter.

Cathy Randall

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper is one of the highlights of the church's social calendar and this year only served to endorse this. A delicious meal of cold cut meats and salads was a welcome sight on one of the hottest days of the year followed by tempting apple pies with cream. The meal was admirably organised by June Demont and Josie Shantonas and their merry team of supporters.

The night's festivities continued with a quiz that would have taxed even the most ardent devotees of cryptic crosswords and Christine Walker enthralled the audience with her lovely singing. With the help of a drop of wine, people enjoyed joining in with the more well-known pieces. The range of age groups shows the enduring appeal of the Harvest Supper and I encourage everyone to book their tickets early next year.

Jack Harrison

Exploring The Christian Faith

What does being a Christian mean today? A number of parishioners are telling us that they would like an opportunity to ask those questions about church and faith that they don't normally get a chance to ask, such as:

Are Christianity and science in opposition? What's the role of a traditional church in a progressively liberal society? Who does Jesus say he is? What's the relationship between Christianity and other faiths?

We are therefore keen to develop a new course, simply titled EXPLORING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. The aim is to provide an opportunity to explore the Christian faith and ask questions without pressure to conform or commit.

The course will be convened by members of the congregation, with the vicar present to offer thoughts and reflections. Come along to the initial meeting at 8pm on Thursday 10th November in the Mina Hogan Room in the Church hall, and help shape the course by

letting us know which questions you would like to see included. The course will then run for 4 weeks, starting in January 2012.

For further details, please contact Caroline Halmshaw 07803 007533 or Cathy Randall 0771 2598721

Parish Registers

Holy Baptisms – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*

18th September: Phoebe Elizabeth, daughter of Sarah & William Powell

25th September: Alice Sarah & Harry Edward, daughter and son of Sarah & Andrew Dines

23rd October: Matilda Grace, daughter of Sarah and James Harman

Holy Matrimony – *We wish every blessing on*

the marriages of:

7th October: Alicia Lancaster & Nicholas Attoo

15th October: Marrena Marren & Nicholas Bradshaw

Funerals – *We remember with thanksgiving the lives of:*

16th September: Anne Coates, aged 91

17th September: Charles Harold Noterman, aged 91

24th September: Laura Lilian Tebbett, aged 85

Sponsored walk for Welcare

On Sunday 4 September a team from St Mary's Church did the Richmond 10k River Run, to raise money for Welcare. It was a fairly fast course, looping from Kew Green to the Old Deer Park and back via the tow path.

Diary for November

<i>SERVICES</i>	–	<i>Sundays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am</i> <i>Family Communion and Sunday School at 9.45am</i>
		<i>Wednesdays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion at 9.30am</i>
		<i>Weekdays (except Mondays):</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm</i>
Tuesday 2nd			1st Wednesday Club, Mina Hogan Room, 12.30 pm. Topic: Fostering faith & friendship, how do we all go about it? All Souls Service, 7.00 pm
Thursday 3rd			Memorial Service for Noreen Rowland, 2.30 pm Silent Prayer, 8.30 pm followed by Compline 9.00 pm
Saturday 5th			Wedding 2.00 pm
Sunday 6th			3rd Sunday before Advent Baptism, 12.00 pm
Tuesday 8th			Plain & Pearl, Mina Hogan room, 7.30–9.30 pm, Mina Hogan Room
Thursday 10th			Parish pub lunch at The Anglers, 12.30 pm Exploring the Christian Faith, 8.00 pm, Mina Hogan Room
Friday 11th			Quiet day, St Michael's Convent, Ham
Sunday 13th			Remembrance Sunday. No Family Communion Service at 9.45 am Parade from British Legion at 10.15 am Service of Remembrance outside Teddington Memorial Hospital, 10.50 am Youth Group in Parish Hall, 6.30–8pm
Tuesday 15th			Tea Club, Mina Hogan room 2.30–4.30 pm
Saturday 19th			Paul Alexander Show, "The Life of St Francis", 7.30–10.00 pm
Sunday 20th			Christ the King
Tuesday 22nd			Plain & Pearl, Mina Hogan room, 'Craft', 7.30–9.30 pm Playwam Christmas Shopping Evening, Parish Hall, 8.00–10.00pm
Saturday 26th			Christmas Bazaar, 11.00 – 2.30 pm
Sunday 27th			Choral Evensong with Advent Carols, 6.30 pm
Wednesday 30th			Holy Communion, St Andrew, 9.30 am