

Gospel, the Old Testament and Jewish legend, which together illustrated how women contribute to the survival of their people by their ability to build community. Dr Grey drew on her own experience of speaking to women in Egypt and spoke about her own charity, "Wells for India".

The evening was one of fellowship with people from all Teddington churches and encouragement to reflect on the links between Christ's teaching and the theme taken by the women of Egypt of "Streams in the Desert"

Anthea Bryan

Girls Together

Margaret Squire is the organiser of Girls Together, an initiative that enables women to meet up, enjoy a social evening, have lunch together, learn something new or relearn something from the past. Margaret has found considerable support for the idea, is happy to answer queries and receive ideas. She can be contacted on 020 8977 3362 or on fredandmargaret@blueyonder.co.uk

Parish Registers

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

2 March: Jack Oliver & Layla Isabella, children of James & Zoe Martin; Harlow-Rain, daughter of Wayne & Catherine Martin

9 March: Lewis Alexander, son of Mathew &

Denece Hart

16 March: Thomas Michael Archibald, son of Ashley & Emily Retter

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

March 11: Hugh Jackson, aged 67



St MARY with St ALBAN

PARISH Ceilidh Evening

Saturday 17th May
8pm in the Parish Hall.

Tickets £7.50
to include nibbles and a welcome drink

SCOTTISH COUNTRY dancing with caller
and live music plus games and prizes.
No experience needed - just energy!

www.stmarywithstalban.org

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Assistant Priest:	The Rev Mary Hawes (7898 1504), e-mail: mary.hawes@churchofengland.org
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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014



Vicar's Viewpoint

There are some weeks which eclipse all others: the Cheltenham Festival for those who love horse racing; the Lord's Test for cricket fans; Glastonbury for those who love live music. For anyone who feels drawn to Christ, the same is true of Holy Week. I am increasingly convinced that you can learn more about God and his love for you, understand more about the ultimate human questions, and be changed more profoundly during the solemn, disturbing and (ultimately) joyful seven days of Holy Week than in the whole of the rest of the year put together.

All of the final events of Jesus' life are crowded into these few days. Each day the mood changes – from the crowd's welcome on Palm Sunday, through the companionship of the last shared meal in the Upper Room, to the desolation of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day. To worship on Palm Sunday and not again until Easter Day is as unsatisfactory as reading the first chapter and the last page of a great novel.

Entering into each event, day by day, we begin to appropriate the experience of the first disciples for ourselves. We begin to discover what God has to say about *my* life, *my* suffering, *my* death, *my* resurrection.

So, for those of you who already come to church, I encourage you to come to as much as you can. And for those who are thinking



StMARY with StALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

about coming to church, there is no better week to give it a go.

Best wishes

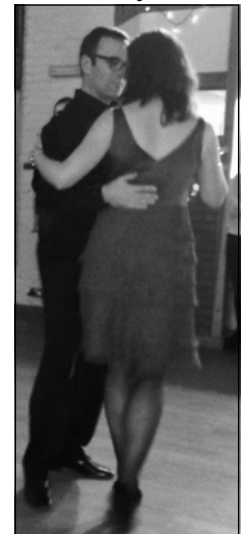
Joe Moffatt

Tango Evening

On Saturday 15 February the Church Hall turned Argentinian for an evening, as parishioners, their friends and more serious students learnt to dance Tango with expert instructor Margaret Lochrie. Although many had turned out with dancing shoes keenly dusted down in order to master the basics and try not to tread on their partner's toes (there were some dangerous heels about), several were more of an intermediate ability, or even beyond.

As it turned out, this could certainly be said of Vicar Joe and his wife Jo, whose solo sponsored spot on the dance floor was the main draw for many. They danced a beautiful, complex, long dance flawlessly, and were rewarded with rapturous applause and the knowledge that about £2,000 had been raised in sponsorship, ticket and raffle sales for church funds. It was a fantastic effort.

I hear that next year it's Salsa.....



Alice Jacobs

We are poets if we did but know it

The work of Thomas Traherne is enjoying something of a revival among St Mary's poetry lovers. Traherne, who served as Chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, is considered one of the leading metaphysical poets of the 17th century, alongside such masters as John Donne and George Herbert. Over the winter, Gerry Gregory has been leading an enthusiastic group in a study of Traherne's religious poetry. Members of the group have also been encouraged to write their own poems in the style of poets such as Thomas Traherne, who is buried in our church.

Interest in his work has been growing steadily in recent years as previously unknown work comes to light, and St Mary's has now established links with parishioners in Herefordshire, where the poet was born.

A river trip this spring to visit the former London residence of Traherne's patron, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, is in the planning stages.

Melanie Peterson

The Traherne Group

The total number of participants so far has been 17, though the average at any particular session is obviously lower.

The feedback from the second Traherne course was positive, and as there is appetite for more Gerry Gregory is prepared to offer a third course of five sessions from Thursday April 24th to Thursday May 22nd from 14.00 - 15.30 in the Mina Hogan Room.

If you would like further information please contact Gerry on gerrygregory38@aol.com

Flower Festival

We will be celebrating Teddington in Flower this year with our Flower Festival the weekend of June 7/8th. The theme is "Favourite Songs". We would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved; flower arrangers, gofers and stewards. Please contact Josie at josie.shantonas@stmarywithstalban.org or Kathy on 8977 8668.

Details about sponsorship and dedications are

available in church. The Festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, with Hand Bell Ringing in the Church and Cream Teas in the Churchyard on Sunday.

Josie Shantonas

Farewell to Debbie Taylor-Osborne



On March 30th we bade farewell to our Parish Administrator, Debbie Taylor-Osborne, who is moving to the south coast to be nearer to her grandchildren. Debbie has been with us since September 2010, providing a friendly

service for anyone wanting to hire our hall or enquire about the church. During this time she has booked hundreds of parties and churned out thousands of service sheets. In addition, she has dealt with a myriad of other administrative tasks that have come her way.

I am very grateful for the part she has played in maximising the use of the hall by the local community, so that now there is hardly a spare hour in the week when we are not hosting one group or another. She has also helped to make the parish office an increasingly effective hub for all the administration that is needed to support a growing church.

We wish her well in her new home and in her new job in the care sector.

We hope to be announcing the appointment of a new Parish Administrator in the May newsletter.

Joe Moffatt

Women's World Day of Prayer

This ecumenical service was hosted by our own Church on Friday 7th March and was well attended. 62 people came and the collection amounted to £309. These donations will help the work of WWDP in England, Wales and

Northern Ireland, as well as projects run by Christian charities around the world.

This year the service, organised by Diana Simons, was prepared by the Christian women of Egypt, who took as their theme "Streams in the Desert". There was great emphasis on the essential nature of water for survival and the fact that we must treasure it. The service linked Ancient Egyptian history, the role of Egypt in the history of the early church, and the modern day struggle of Egyptian women in education and the labour market.

There were readings and a play, in which Jesus likens the Christian faith to being as water to the thirsty: a life-giving spring.

Women from St Mark's, St Peter and Paul, Sacred Heart, Methodist and the Baptist churches took part, as well as some from St Mary's: Rosamund Mc Dowell, Hilary Adamson, June Demont, Ann Johnson, Sue Stevens and Anthea Bryan. Rachel Pickering kindly played the organ and Laura Luck led the choir. We especially enjoyed their uplifting performance of *Panis Angelicus* by Cesar Franck during the offertory.

We were very fortunate to have as our speaker Dr Mary Grey, a distinguished Roman Catholic theologian from St Mary's University College, Twickenham. She gave a very engaging talk linking stories from the

Diary for April

<i>SERVICES</i> –	<i>Sundays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am</i> <i>Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9.00am</i> <i>Parish Communion (with Sunday School) at 10.00am</i> <i>Holy Baptism (most Sundays) at 12 noon</i>
	<i>Wednesdays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion at 9.30am</i> <i>Church Mice Toddler Service, 10.30am</i>
	<i>Monday-Friday:</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm</i>
Wednesday 2 nd		Lent Course, Mina Hogan Room, 10.30am -12.00pm Lent Course, Church, 8.00-9.30 pm
Thursday 3 rd		Contemplative prayer in Church, 8.00 pm followed by Compline 8.30pm
Sunday 6 th		Passion Sunday Concert of Music for Passiontide, Church 6.30pm
Monday 7 th		Friday 11 th Musical Theatre Holiday Club- <i>The Selfish Giant</i> , Parish Hall
Tuesday 8 th		Plain and Pearl Knitting, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30pm
Wednesday 9 th		Lent Course, Mina Hogan Room, 10.30am -12.00pm Lent Course, Church, 8.00-9.30pm
Thursday 10 th		Parish Lunch at The Royal Oak, 12.30pm
Friday 11 th		<i>The Selfish Giant</i> , 7.30pm, Church
Saturday 12 th		Time to Talk, 10.30-12noon, St. Peter & St. Paul
Sunday 13 th		Palm Sunday
Sunday 13 th		Sunday 20 th Holy Week and Easter Services (<i>see insert</i>)
Wednesday 16 th		Lent Course, Mina Hogan Room, 10.30am -12.00pm Lent Course, Church, 8.00-9.30pm
Friday 18 th		Good Friday
Sunday 20 th		Easter Day
Tuesday 22 nd		Plain and Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30pm
Tuesday 29 th		Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Parish Hall , 7.30pm
	<u><i>Looking ahead</i></u>	
Saturday May 17 th		Parish Ceilidh, Parish Hall, 7.30pm