

## Time and Talents

In November we put out an appeal for members of the congregation to offer their time and talents and the results could loosely be summarised in a Christmas theme:

On the first day of Christmas God sent to Teddington...

- ... a Vicar with a vision
- 2 altar servers
- 3 holy dusters
- 4 calling carers
- 5 golden writers
- 6 geese a-reading
- 7 swans a-coffee serving
- 8 maids a-cooking
- 9 ladies teaching
- 10 lords a-fixing
- 11 pipers welcoming
- 12 drummers delivering

You'll see from the above that we've had an encouraging response with over 70 forms returned so far. If you haven't had the opportunity to participate and would like to, please go to our website or pick up a form at the back of church.

Our thanks go to all of you who have completed the questionnaire and offered your

time. Special thanks to those who already work tirelessly to contribute to the growth of our church and help foster faith and friendship both here and to our wider community in Teddington.

*Julia Hornsby*

## New Year in Old Vienna

Welcome in the New Year with the wonderful music of Johann Strauss, Franz Lehar, Robert Stolz, Schubert, Mozart and many more

*With Maud Millar (soprano);  
Alexander Knox (baritone);  
Tony Lamb (clarinet);  
Tom Higgins (piano);  
Richard Fawkes (narrator)*

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 7.30pm  
at Parish Church of  
St Mary with St Alban**

Tickets will be available on the door  
Priced at £10 (£7 concessions)

*This concert is in aid of fund raising for  
Teddington Summer Music, a new festival  
to be launched in June 2013*

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## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013



StMARYwithStALBAN

PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

### Vicar's Viewpoint



There are times when I despair of the Church of England. The failure of the General Synod to pass the women bishops' legislation last November was just such a time. We need women bishops and we need them soon. It's a subject I could go on about. But a lot has already been written. And I believe that the overwhelming support of both churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike will ensure that something is done about it sooner rather than later.

I'd rather write about the times and the people in the church that give me hope, not despair. Hope comes from the steady flow of parents who ask us to baptise their children (75 last year); from the couples who ask to be married (9 last year); from the hundreds of parishioners who flock to our church for the Christmas services; from the scores of small children who love coming to Sunday School and proudly showing me their art-and-crafty creations; from our over-subscribed and very active Guide and Scout groups; from members of the congregation quietly supporting one another through life's ups and downs; from the wisdom and willingness to listen that is shared in discussion groups and countless conversations. All of this gives me hope and are reasons why I still love the church and believe in its mission.

I'm also greatly encouraged by the presence of young people in our congregation. Last year we were lucky enough to appoint Emily D'Silva as our Pastoral Assistant. Emily is in her early twenties and has helped with a wide range of church activities, from a toddler group to visiting the elderly and housebound, from Scouts and the youth group to organising big parish events like our Olympic Fete. I'm delighted to say that she is now exploring a vocation to ordained ministry and will be continuing in her role with us as she goes through this often lengthy 'discernment process' (church-speak for selection). To think

## Exploring the Christian Faith

An opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere, without pressure to conform or commit.

**Thursday evenings 8.00-9.30pm  
in the Mina Hogan Room,  
St Mary's Parish Hall.**

*Four intriguing topics for discussion:*

- Jan 17th** Is it OK to come to church and not believe?
- Jan 24th** Has the church detonated its credibility over women bishops?
- Jan 31st** Is Jesus the only way? What about Mohammed, Buddha and Shiva?
- Feb 7th** How can the church help me to grow in faith?

Sessions led by Caroline Halmshaw and Joe Moffatt.

*To enquire or book a place, please contact Joe (details on back page).*

that we might play a part in fostering future priests is hugely encouraging.

Finally, I have been delighted by the response to our Jubilee Doors Appeal that was launched in November. At the time of going to press we've had over 79 donations totalling £7,916.07. Thank you to all who have given so generously. If you would like to help us reach our target of £12,000 then please donate online via our website or send a cheque (made out to 'St Mary with St Alban') to the Parish Office. We hope to place an order very soon and have the doors installed in time for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's Coronation in June 2013.

Yours with hope for the coming year,

*Joe Moffatt*

### Advent Craft Workshop

The Advent Craft workshop took place on 17<sup>th</sup> November, attended by 28 children spanning 17 families. Joe explained that Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas and that we light four candles to remember special biblical



characters including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the prophets, John the Baptist and Mary, mother of Jesus. The children made a Jesse tree for the church. This is a branch or large twig on which each day during Advent is hung a picture of a symbol representing the various biblical characters. Joe gave the families a list containing each of the characters and relevant paragraph from the Bible as a talking point as to why each of these people were and still are so significant. The children also coloured in pictures to take home and create their own Jesse tree for their own homes.

The more green-fingered children helped to create a Christmas wreath of holly and ivy to



surround the candelabra for the four Advent candles in order that they look extra splendid in church as each candle is lit as we await Christmas Day. And thank you to Mary, Emily and Joe for organising such a fun yet meaningful event.

*Mel Woodcock*

### Parish Registers

**Baptisms** – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*  
18<sup>th</sup> November: Jonathan Kieran & William James, sons of Brian & Anne Dean

25<sup>th</sup> November: Daniel Benedict Yamato, son of Patrick & Yuka Willcocks; Isla Emily, daughter of Liam & Tomoko Houlit; Henry Richard Kennedy & Hugo Louis Ferguson, sons of James & Sarah Cullen; Montgomery David, son of Henry & Joanna Piatek-Stewart

9<sup>th</sup> December: Elliot Jude, son of John & Polly Sanders;

16<sup>th</sup> December: Samuel Edward, son of James & Louise Coupe

**Wedding** – *We wish every blessing on the marriage of:*

30<sup>th</sup> November: Katie Firman & Jack Hey

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

24<sup>th</sup> October: Frank Cooper, age 77

7<sup>th</sup> November: Julia Cotton, age 49

21<sup>st</sup> November: Obi Duru, age 44

### Nervous Knitters

Are you a nervous knitter? Would you like to learn to knit? Can you cast on, but have never managed to cast off? Why not come to Plain & Pearl's Nervous Knitter's session on Tuesday 12 February 7.30pm in the Mina Hogan Room at the Parish Hall, Langham Road.

*Plain & Pearl* is a social group open to

anyone in the area interested in *making things*. We meet twice a month to chat, eat cake, swap ideas, and if the mood takes us knit, sew & create beautiful things. More details contact [josie.shantonas@smmarywithstalban.org](mailto:josie.shantonas@smmarywithstalban.org)



### Diary for January

*SERVICES* – *Sundays:* Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am  
Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9.00am  
Parish Communion (with Sunday School) at 10.00am  
*Wednesdays:* Holy Communion at 9.30am  
*Monday-Friday:* Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Silent Prayer in church, 8.30pm, followed by Compline at 9pm

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> **New Year in Old Vienna** Concert in church, 7.30pm

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Epiphany

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Plain & Pearl Knitting, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm  
Baptism Preparation Evening, Parish hall 8-9pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Parish Lunch at *The Anglers*, 12.30pm

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Christ  
Baptism, 12 noon  
Youth Group in Parish Hall, 6.30pm

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Tea Club, Mina Hogan Room, 3-5pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Exploring the Christian Faith Course, Mina Hogan Room, 8pm

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> –  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### *Week of prayer for Christian Unity*

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Christian Unity Service at **Teddington Baptist Church**, 12-12.50pm

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Christian Unity Service at **St Francis de Sales**, 8.30am

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
Ecumenical Service at **Teddington Methodist Church**, 4pm

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Christian Unity Service at **Sacred Heart**, 7.30pm

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Christian Unity Service at **St Mark's**, 10am  
Plain and Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Christian Unity Service at **St John's**, 7am

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Christian Unity Service at **St Mary with St Alban**, 5pm  
Exploring the Christian Faith Course, Mina Hogan Room, 8pm

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Education Sunday  
10am service with SMSP School Choir and talk by Head Teacher  
Baptism, 12 noon

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> PCC meeting, Mina Hogan Room, 7.45pm

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> Exploring the Christian Faith Course, Mina Hogan Room, 8pm

### Looking ahead

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February Christingle Service at 4pm