

## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

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

**Things in green need pre-booking, please.** Our website has all the details and links. We look forward to seeing you there: [www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on/](http://www.teddingtonparish.org/whats-on/), or scan this QR code:

- Thursday 2 **Social: coffee.** On Zoom. 10.30am
- Saturday 4 **TSM Concert: *New Year in Old Vienna*.** SMwSA Church. 7.30pm. Scan this QR Code for tickets. Also available on the door.
- Monday 6 **Teddington Community Café.** Peter & Paul Centre. 1.30-4.30pm. **Also 13, 20 & 27**
- Tuesday 7 **Memory Café.** Peter & Paul Centre. 1.30-3.00pm. **Also 21 Plain & Pearl:** 4-wk knitting course. Mina Hogan Rm. 7.30pm. **Also 14, 21 & 28.** Places must be pre-booked, use QR code:
- Wednesday 8 **'Second' Wednesday Open Discussion.** Mina Hogan Rm. 12.45-2.15pm. Topic: *Archbishop matters?*  
**Pints of View:** unscripted, agenda/committee-free fellowship. Tide End Pub. From 8.00pm.
- Thursday 9 **Traherne Reading Group.** Mina Hogan Rm. 1.30-3.00pm. **Also 16, 25 & 30**
- Tuesday 14 **Parish Social: lunch.** Piazza Firenze Restaurant. 12noon
- Thursday 16 **Churchyard Gardening** (weather permitting). SMwSA. 10.00am. **Also Sat 18**
- Saturday 18 **Tango Church Fundraising Evening.** St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.15pm. Open to anyone. Tickets available in advance with this QR Code, and also on the door. *See page 3.*
- Sunday 19 **Sustainable Event: Gift Aid.** St Mary's Parish Hall. After 9.00am and 10.00am services. *See page 2.*
- Tuesday 28 **Pub Social: coffee.** Shambles Restaurant. 10.30am

### LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY

- Sunday 2 **Dementia in the Spotlight:** a free lunchtime talk & discussion with representatives from the Alzheimer's Society. St Mary's Parish Hall. 12.00-2.15pm. Everyone welcome, scan this QR code to book your place.
- Christingle Service.** SMwSA Church. 4.00pm
- Saturday 8 **Quiz Night** with Fish & Chip Supper. St Mary's Parish Hall. 7.00pm. *See page 3 for more details.* Scan this QR Code for tickets.

## Teddington Parish Information

<b>CHURCH:</b>	<b>St Mary with St Alban, Ferry Road, TW11 9NN</b>
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
<b>HALL and OFFICE:</b>	<b>St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Rd, TW11 9HF 020 8943 2262</b>
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 JANUARY 2025



### St MARY with St ALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



### Vicar's Viewpoint

This is late, terribly late. The esteemed editor of this month's Newsletter is probably vexed and I wouldn't blame her. This should have been written last week. I could cite services and other vicarly activities, but late is late and I nearly missed the deadline. I didn't have enough time and things just happened.

This seems to be a theme of my life and I wonder if you can relate to that. Perhaps you are wonderfully organised but I tend to get caught out by the unexpected. I seek no sympathy – save that for the editor! Many of us live lives that are so ordered by our schedule or rotas that a glitch cannot be accommodated and I doubt that it is a new human phenomenon. We like order; we treasure routine.

Where would this leave us if God spoke to us as he did Mary? 'Sorry to interrupt your day, Mary, but I need you to do me a significant favour – you see I am hoping to have a Son...!' 'Sorry God, but I have no bandwidth; maybe next time...!' We all begin a new year, all fresh and sparkly, many complete with a plethora of resolutions and good purpose but how many of us have resolved to leave space for the unforeseen. After the more – gym, less-gin, carb-lite intentions of January, where is the gap, the unscripted moment?

As you begin this new year, you do so with the prayers and warm wishes of your local church and her people. Whatever you need from me or them, you need only ask – and if you need some of that rare commodity, unscripted silent space, the church building is yours to use. I wish you the best of everything, and I also wish you nothing at all.

www.teddingtonparish.org

### 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
- 10.30am Church Mice Toddler Service

Go to our website for further details:  
[www.teddingtonparish.org](http://www.teddingtonparish.org)



### Christingle Service

4pm

Sunday 2 February

everyone is welcome to attend  
this wonderful candlelit service

## A First-Timer's Impressions of the Christmas Bazaar

This year's Christmas Bazaar was my first, and it is an experience that will remain with me. In the lead-up, it was clear how much effort went into preparing for the day. Watching everything come together made me appreciate just how dedicated and collaborative this community is.

What struck me most on the day wasn't just the event itself but the way it brought people together. There was a sense of shared purpose and joy that filled the room, creating an atmosphere that was hard to miss. It wasn't about the individual stalls or activities but about the connections being made – friends catching up, families spending time together, and new faces being welcomed. Everyone seemed to have their own part to play, whether it was running a stall, helping behind the scenes, or simply being there to support. That sense of belonging, of people coming together for a shared celebration, felt like the true heart of the day.

The Bazaar felt like a perfect summing up of all that is good about Teddington. The hard work, warmth, and generosity of everyone involved made it a day that brought people together in the best possible way.

This year's Bazaar broke records by realising just over £7,500, which will be used for the benefit of the church, its congregation and the parish

*Sister Tom*

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

It is hoped as many people as possible will be able to attend a service convenient for them

Sun Jan 19	St Mary's	6.30pm
Mon Jan 20	Sacred Heart	9.30am
Tues Jan 21	St Michael's Fulwell	10.30am
Wed Jan 22	St Mary's University Chapel	5.30pm
Thurs Jan 23	St Mark's	9.00am
Fri Jan 24	Teddington Baptist Church	12noon
Sat Jan 25	Teddington Methodist Church	10.45am

## Reuse, Regift, and Recycle Festival

On Sunday the 19th of January, we are hosting another fun Sustainability event at the Parish Hall with another Reuse, Regift and Recycle event.

Come along and donate or swap unwanted items, exchange gifts that don't quite fit, find that book you've always wanted to read, pick up a new piece of clothing, and more. After your Christmas clear out, it's a chance to give your old things a new home and find some treasures in return! Remaining items will be donated to a local charity.

*James Morris*

## Our Graveyard

It's winter, it's cold and it's rainy. But the graveyard adopters are still there, working alongside the Holy Gardeners. We have had some enthusiastic new grave adopters, and it is lovely to see the newly cared for graves with their attractive planting.

In the autumn we held a gathering with wine and nibbles in the Churchyard. Although it had poured with rain and thundered in the afternoon, in the evening it cleared up and about 30 people came. It was obvious what an important part of the Church the graveyard is and how much interest there is in its development (although there is always room for more!).



I spread out a plan of the graveyard and we found that a few of the graves had been 'double booked' with two adopters. Luckily this was easy to sort out and people were good humoured about the discrepancies. There was also the opportunity to share some stories about what drew people to adopt a particular grave. This was often the case if the grave belonged to a child or a young person, or if

there was a personal or historical interest. One such grave is that of GERTRUDE ALICE BAIRD who died April 25. 1876 aged 17. Recently her grave was visited by her great niece who was pleased to see that it was cared for by the Brownies. It is rare that the graves have family that can tend to them so it is very important that the Teddington community is involved in various ways.

However, there are questions to ask about how we continue to develop and appreciate the churchyard:

Who is the churchyard for? Do you go there, if so why? How can it contribute to diversity and inclusion? Whose responsibility do you think it is? How might you contribute?

Please contact [alex@teddingtonparish.org](mailto:alex@teddingtonparish.org) with your views. I am hoping to have another evening gathering in the Churchyard in the spring when thoughts can be aired. It will be looking at its best with the bulbs showing through.

*Alex Ruffer*

## Parish Registers

### BAPTISMS

*We welcome into Christ's Church:*

17<sup>th</sup> November: Freddie

1<sup>st</sup> December: Lachlan and Cora

### FUNERALS

*We remember with thanksgiving:*

10<sup>th</sup> October: Sally Beeson (70)

31<sup>st</sup> October: Lesley Buck (73)

14<sup>th</sup> November: Carol Larmouth (76)

21<sup>st</sup> November: David Hitchcock (77)

## Dementia in the Spotlight

Do you have questions about the nature of dementia and the support available to those with the condition, and their families? If so, join us for 'Dementia in the Spotlight', a lunchtime session of talks and discussion with representatives of the Alzheimer's Society from **12pm to 2.15pm** on **Sunday 2 February** in St Mary's Parish Hall. Attendance is free but donations will be welcomed towards the sandwich lunch. Please book in advance to assist us with numbers, but walk-ins will also be welcome.

Please book through the office or by QR code in diary.

*Clare Rider*

## Parish Plod



The Parish Plod has continued through 2024, with completion of the Thames path in May, and the rest of the year walking the St Alban's Way. Excellent exercise in great company and lots to see and enjoy.

*Robin Field-Smith*

## Building Anew Project Fundraising

We're getting 2025 off to a flying start with a couple of great events lined up in St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road.

Firstly, a **Tango Evening on Saturday 18 January**. Starting with a beautiful Tango performance, followed by a short Tango taster lesson and then the opportunity to try out your new skills on the dance floor or just socialise at the bar. Your £15 ticket includes a free drink on arrival. Many thanks to Margaret Lochrie and all those at Freedom Tango for staging this. Doors open from 7.15pm to give you time to come and settle with a drink before the show starts at 7:45pm. Tickets available in advance by scanning this QR code.



If music and dancing are not for you, book your place now at our epic **Quiz Evening on Saturday 8 February**. This includes a tasty fish 'n' chip supper to keep you fuelled through a fun 8-round general knowledge quiz from famed local Quizmasters Mark & Debby. Expect lots of fun whilst challenging your grey matter. Tickets sold separately, or in teams of any number up to 8. Just enter details when you book. Scan this QR code for tickets (£20 per person).



For more information on the project and all fundraising activities, visit the parish website at: [www.teddingtonparish.org/fundraising-activities](http://www.teddingtonparish.org/fundraising-activities)

*Steven Randall*