

ST MARY'S CHURCH, THAMES STREET, HAMPTON

The Parish Link



CHRISTMAS 2018

The  King
is coming

See back page for details of our Christmas Services



www.hampton-church.org.uk

If you have just come to live in Hampton, your Parish Church welcomes you. Please make yourself known to one of the Parish Staff or Churchwardens. Please visit our website, Facebook or Twitter feeds for all St Mary's Church and our parish information.

Connect with St Mary's...

Please visit our website for all the latest news, events and activities for all age groups.

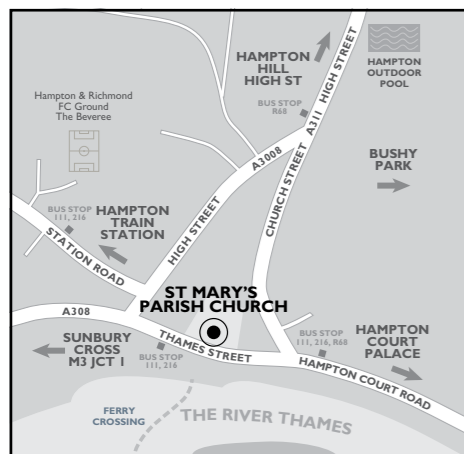
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You can also find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or Instagram...



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Church Street
Hampton TW12 2EB
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parish.manager@hampton-church.org.uk

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John Winterburn.....john@hampton-church.org.uk / 07816 855941
- Bell Ringers**
Alison Ward.....020 8979 9848

Celebrate Christmas at St Mary's

Contemporary Carols

Sunday 16 December 6.30pm

This is an exciting, new addition to the Christmas calendar. Let Us Adore Him is a creative approach to a traditional carol service with a chance to sing many Christmas classics given a contemporary musical twist. The service will be followed by Christmas refreshments. Grab your Christmas jumper, invite your friends and join the festivities.

Carols By Candlelight

Sunday 23 December 6.30pm

The choir leads us in a traditional Festival of Eight Lessons and Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Children's Carol Services

Monday 24 December 3pm & 4.30pm

Our Christmas Eve Children's Carol Service is so popular that we need to hold it twice so that we can comfortably accommodate everyone.

Midnight Communion

Monday 24 December 11.30pm

Celebrate the First Communion of Christmas in our traditional midnight service led by organ and choir. It's a beautiful way to start your Christmas.

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25 December 8am & 10am

8am – Holy Communion (Said)

A traditional spoken service at the start of Christmas Day.

10am – Carols & Holy Communion for All Ages Join us on Christmas Day at 10am for a big family celebration as we celebrate the birth of Christ and hear the good news of Christmas.

The Parish Link

Volunteers deliver the Parish Link free to every home in the parish.

Contact the editor:
link@hampton-church.org.uk

Advertising:
SUSAN SPRAGGS
Telephone: 020 8941 0204
linkads@hampton-church.org.uk



From the Registers

Baptisms

- 16 September Barbara Mary Fewster-Wilkinson OBE
 Joy Heather Wilson
 Rachel Clancy
- 21 October Grace Olivia Winchcombe
 William Anthony Cyril Burnett
- 4 November Cara Emily Harris

Confirmations

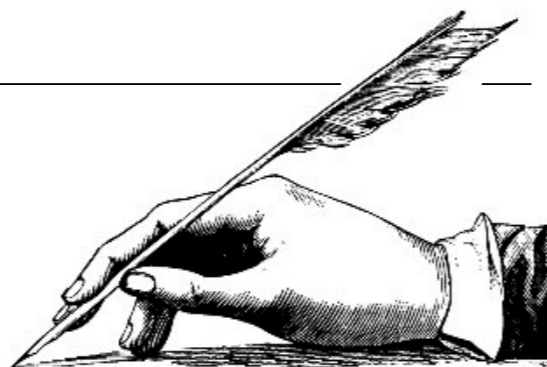
- 16 September Sarah Bell-Wright
 Anya Pearce
 Hayley Croucher
 Alison Gibson
 Benjamin Andrew Edward Stancliffe
 Melanie-Gaye Mercedes Stancliffe
 Kate Parker
 Callum Baker
 Barbara Mary Fewster-Wilkinson OBE
 Joy Heather Wilson
 Rachel Clancy
 Johnathan Abreu Peti

Weddings

- 6 October Damien Sharkey to Francesca Wilkinson
 1 November Christopher Abreu Peti to Chelsea Harman

Funerals

- 26 September Richard Sidney Hook, aged 70 years, of Wordsworth Road,
 to South West Middlesex Crematorium



SERVICE TIMES AT ST MARY'S

SUNDAYS

9.30am Holy Communion
 A choral service with traditional hymns

11am Sunday Praise
 A family friendly contemporary service with youth and children's groups and crèche

6.30pm Prayer Book Evensong
 A gentle, traditional service

WEEKDAYS

9am Morning Prayer
 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)

9am Holy Communion (Wednesday)

10am First Steps Toddler Praise (Wednesday)
 A service for pre-school children with craft, games and refreshments.



The Eternal King Is Coming...

My family and I have made the most of living down the road from Hampton Court Palace. We have loved our visits. It's unadulterated fun for the children to explore the maze or the Magic Garden, and an amazing educational experience to discover the history of this country.

I was struck on my last visit when I saw a list of monarchs and the length of their reigns by how short many of them were. Henry IV may have two Shakespeare plays written about him, but the present monarch has ruled for almost five times as long as he did.

I have wondered how the current Queen's record-breaking length of reign has changed our perspective of monarchy. We live in an extraordinary time where no one under the age of retirement has seen the throne change hands. You are likely to have to be around seventy years old or older to recall any coronation that has happened in this country.

The average length of reign in England is less than twenty years. In most other times of history someone of my age would have seen a couple of kings or queens crowned.

Undoubtably this time of stability and continuous reign has brought advantages, but we must have lost some of the wonder and mystery of seeing someone new crowned king or queen.

At this time of year Christians look to the coming of the Eternal King, Jesus Christ. We remember his birth in Bethlehem, but we are also reminded that the baby born at Christmas is the King above all other Kings. This baby, born in poverty, is the true monarch of the whole world.

As someone who missed the start of the current monarch's reign by thirty years I probably fail to grasp the wonder of a new ruler ascending to the throne. I'm not sure that I fully understand the sense of excitement and adventure that must be coupled with the mourning of a fading past and insecurity of the future.

We see all these themes within the Christmas story. The palpable excitement that causes shepherds to abandon their duties and rush to a baby's crib. The majesty that attracts magi to travel across continents. The fear of the local rulers knowing their authority is being undermined. The escape of the Holy family, abandoning all they know, to take refuge in another country.

Although I am sure the transition of rule is far more harmonious in today's society, the coming of the King in the baby Jesus is met with with all the emotions and actions I imagine a new monarch must bring. In the nativity, as told in the Bible, excitement and majesty are coupled with fear and uncertainty.

However, the story is not yet finished. The rule of Christ may have started 2,000 years ago but it did not end there, nor is it complete.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, the season of Advent, the church reminds itself that the rule of Christ may not be fully known now, but one day it will be. This is why we are declaring that The King is Coming in the lead up to Christmas. The Christian hope is that the rule of Christ will bring peace, healing and restoration. This next era of the story will not be a temporary time, but eternal. The long, relatively stable rule of the present monarch will pale against the rule of Him who has defeated death, He who promises to wipe away all tears and make all things new.

Written by Ben Lovell

ST MARY'S VISIT TO MANDIMBA, MOZAMBIQUE OCTOBER 2018

Written by Fiona Rowett



It is four years since the last visit from St Mary's to our partner parish of Sao Paulo's in Mandimba, Mozambique and eight years since my last visit.

The warmth of the welcome which was heartfelt and genuine, was unchanged. Our visit started with worship together; a holy communion service lasting nearly 3 hours. The singing was absolutely amazing, led by two choirs and with enthusiastic participation by the whole congregation.

The generosity of their hospitality was humbling. Meals were provided by members of the congregation in their homes or the church and consisted of n'shima (carbohydrate made of ground maize or cassava flour and water), rice, spaghetti, greens (pumpkin or sweet potato leaves – delicious!) and chicken, fish or omelette. Their care of us was exemplary.

Travel has become, if anything, more challenging. A major road development programme is still underway, but far from complete. The result is that the existing main road has not been maintained and travel was hot (37 degrees one day), dusty, uncomfortable and lengthy. In fact, it became better when we left

the road and drove on potholed tracks. We were fortunate to have a superb driver.

The growth of the church in Mandimba is exciting to witness. It was a huge pleasure meeting the new priest, Padre Austen, who is a God-centred man with a demanding role. The number of congregations has increased, giving him an extremely large geographical patch to cover in difficult terrain.

We travelled to a new community at Mongola, reached by a 1.5 hour drive, followed by a walk to the lakeside, a 40 minute row across the lake and a further walk the other side. We heard the congregation's exuberant singing before we saw them, as they walked and danced out to greet us. This community is led by a catechist and currently receives four visits a year from Padre Austen. They are farmers and fishermen, 30 km from the nearest health clinic and too far from the nearest school for most children to attend, with a poor water supply, and a grass roofed church which is not waterproof during the rainy season. Despite their poverty, they gave us a (live) chicken, dried beans and peas, sugar cane



and cassava. It was hard to receive these from people who could ill afford such generosity but was a sign of their appreciation of our visit from so far away.

We visited both schools attended by the Good Seeds – the children whose education we support. The junior school has two classes running at a time, held in an open sided temporary classroom, with a blackboard at each end. Whilst the new brick classrooms have been built by the school, they are awaiting roofs which are the responsibility of the authority to provide – there is no completion date for this work. At the secondary school, facilities remain basic although they do have brick built classrooms. Students in both schools completed questionnaires for us and were delighted to receive the beautiful pencil rolls made for them by Cherie Wilcox. They also joined us for a bring and share lunch on our last day together.

Meeting Jorgina, a Good Seeds graduate and now a trainee nurse supported by us was a real highlight. She is in Cuamba, 3.5 hours away from Mandimba. Her training is going very well and we visited her college and then shared a meal together. We were also very pleased to see Eduardo N's progress. (Eduardo is one of the Good Seeds whose wheelchair was repaired during a previous visit by St Mary's representatives.) He has secured employment in a school during the mornings and attends classes in the afternoons where he is completing his final year of education. He is a positive young man and was very happy to see us and share his good news.



An unusual aspect to this visit was the blessing of the football team before their match. The team was set up to give young men something positive to do and is open to boys of all faiths. The match was hard fought and ended in a draw, with a repeat match scheduled the following week to determine who will go on to the finals. Exciting stuff!

There has been progress at the hospital with the building of a surgical block. More complex cases



are transferred to the hospital in the province headquarters, but some surgery does take place, although they have no blood bank and obtaining blood donors when needed can be a challenge.

The waiting house for expectant mothers is still in use – invaluable, given the challenges faced by women in rural areas, such as Mongola where those with difficult labours do not fare well. Travelling to main hospitals in Malawi or Nampula has been more difficult and expensive and our health fund is still enabling those in need to access medical appointments and treatment. We met Talumba, one of the Good Seeds students and were sad to hear of her treatment options: surgery which will result in her become paralysed, or to remain in constant pain requiring medication which can only be prescribed a day's travel away. Eduardo C. a former Good Seed needs to travel to Malawi for a



month to have his prosthetic leg repaired and properly fitted – funding for this had already been agreed, and we hope this will happen shortly.

We had an excellent meeting with key members of the team in Mandimba and the province Headquarters in Lichinga, reviewing progress of all projects and accounting for funding spent.

We received the same message from everyone we met from District Governor, the hospital doctor, school staff and church members to the Good Seeds themselves: thank you for coming and for your partnership which means so much to us; please continue it and enable others to benefit.

The congregation at Sao Paolo's send their warm greetings to all in Hampton and continue to thank God for our friendship and partnership together.



Mini COSMOS

FOR INFANTS 3 TO 7 YEARS

Mini-COSMOS begins in the church service and then the children leave for their own activities in the church hall.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month during our I I am service.

We come back in time for a blessing in the service.

COSMOS

FOR CHILDREN OF JUNIOR SCHOOL AGE

COSMOS meets in the hall during our I I am service for activity, craft and fun.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month during our I I am service.

We come back in time for a blessing in the service.



FIRST STEPS BABY & TODDLER PRAISE

An opportunity for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups to get together for singing, stories, crafts and Jesus.

Every Wednesday during term time at 10am.

St Mary's Church, Thames Street, Hampton TW12 2EB

Contact Cara Lovell for further details:
Telephone: 07879 404 201
cara.lovell@hampton-church.org.uk

BIBLE STORIES SINGING CRAFT & JESUS

OASIS

FOR BABIES, TODDLERS & THEIR GROWN-UPS

A safe space for your little ones to play while you relax, have a cup of tea and make friends.

Our weekly activities include craft, singing and story-telling. If your baby is still too young to join in with some of these activities then we have baby mats so your baby can still enjoy watching the older toddlers play.

We are here every Monday during term time, 1.30–3pm

St Mary's Community Hall, Church St, Hampton TW12 2EB

Contact Mary Collins for details:
Tel: 07415 814 195 maryjcollins86@gmail.com

TOYS CRAFT STORY SONGS COFFEE CHAT FRIENDSHIP

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NO.5

Our Youth Pastor Nick Neilan tells us what our young people are up to.



This term we've enjoyed looking at some big questions: Are faith and science compatible? Do miracles really happen? Is the bible fact or fiction? Is Christianity sexist? Why does God allow suffering? Why doesn't God make Himself more obvious? Why did God kill all those people in the Old Testament

– Is He unjust? Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross – couldn't God just forgive us without Jesus dying? How can a good God send people to Hell? What am I here for? What happens when I die?

It has been a really good term, where we have learned a lot and had fun in the process. We have also managed to get out...socials are a key part of what we do as a group and it was great to go up

to London and see the boys take on the girls at Cluequest escape room. This time the boys managed to pip the girls, escaping the room before them by a mere 10 seconds! We are also looking forward to our upcoming trip to Indigo at the O2 for the finale of the Illuminate your City tour with LZ7, Guvnor B & guests along with an audience of 2,000+ people.

Having spent the past term looking at the big questions, next term's focus will be on the big story, honing in on 10 key stages of the biblical account.

No.5 is a very welcoming, encouraging and open youth group for 11-18 year olds that meets on Sundays from 10.45-12.00 at the old vicarage – 5 Church Street. Our last session before Christmas will be on Sunday 16th December and the new term will start on Sunday 6th January 2019.



**A YOUTH CLUB FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8-14**

Friday evenings, 7-8.30pm during term time

Activities include football, crafts, drumming & other games.

To find out more about MTV please visit our website at mtvhampton.org.uk. To get in touch or to find out how you can become a supporter of the club please email: info@mtvhampton.org.uk

MTV Youth, Hampton is a registered charity, run by the community for the community and runs on Friday nights 7pm-8.30pm.

It's a safe space for 8-14 year olds to enjoy a range of activities, to meet with and make new friends and have a chance to be independent in a supportive setting.

WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY?

We are currently running from two sites: Hampton Baptist Church, where we run a variety of crafts, cooking and games each week and St Mary's School for outdoor football and other sports on the floodlit courts.

Young people are free to choose what they want to do throughout the evening. At the Baptist Church recent crafts have included using the sewing machines to make skirts and back packs, making slime, torches, juggling balls, jam jar night lights and building forts. We've also been cooking pizzas, 'armpit' fudge and jam tarts.

The club is supported by professional youth workers and trained volunteers, all of whom are DBS checked. Our adult to child ratio is high with at least 3 adults on each site, usually far more. Entrance costs £1 and we offer free squash, sandwiches and fruit, together with a tuck shop.

To attend, parents need to complete the consent form found on www.mtvhampton.org.uk/consent and then just turn up. Young people can then come on any Friday that they are free. There are also opportunities to join our Junior Council, become a Young Leader (13+) and to be nominated for a Jack Petchey Award (11+).

For more information contact us at:
info@mtvhampton.org.uk

MTV Youth Values:

Lead by example, Stand with and for each other, Have fun.

THE STRENGTH AND CONVICTION OF BERNADETTE

Written by Nally Fernando



Some of you will know that I was away with a group on pilgrimage to Lourdes, France at the end of October. Following this St Mary's invited a guest speaker, Tim Anthony, to Evensong where he spoke

about Lourdes. A recording of this can be found on the church website.

You could even say that it was Lourdes that drew me here to St Mary's Church as it was at Lourdes that I met my wife who was brought up in Teddington and went to St Mary's University. We married and lived in Hampton and, although I drifted for a while, I finally settled on worshipping at St Mary's.

My recent trip was different to the ones I had been on before, as although I was the deputy group leader, I wasn't a key helper to anyone. This gave me more time for prayer and reading my bible, focusing on small parts and trying to reflect on what was written.

I have always felt uncomfortable about the veneration of the saints and wanting them to intercede on our behalf to God our Father. Maybe that is the Anglican in me. Surely Jesus died on the cross for us and it is he that we should be asking?

For those who know little of Lourdes it is a place where a Vision appeared to a child of a family who had fallen on hard times. The child, Bernadette, was sickly and was searching for firewood to heat the little cell which the whole family of six were living in. The cell was about the size of St Luke's Chapel (under the bell tower at St Mary's) and had been condemned as not fit for habitation. Over the next few months there were eighteen apparitions and among them was a call to wash in the waters (a spring sprung up for people to do this) and come in procession (more about that later).

This year we visited a model display of scenes around the history of the apparitions and Bernadette. The models were a bit out of scale but the final scene did have an impact on me which I hadn't really thought of before. The scene was set in

a court room and this tiny, hardly educated girl of fourteen was surrounded by stern looking men, priests, bishops and other so called scholars of the age. They were interrogating Bernadette.

Bernadette stuck to her story against all the questions and, as I said, I hadn't thought about this before. What was giving her the strength and conviction to do this? Then it struck me that it was the Holy Spirit that had given her the strength and the will to do this. It was her love and faith that she believed that it was Mary that had appeared and the final proof was when the vision referred to herself as the Immaculate Conception, which had at that time only recently been agreed by the church as a term for Mary.

We have been hearing about the what the Holy Spirit can do in recent weeks during our series of sermons on Acts at our Sunday morning services: Stephen praying for forgiveness on those who stoned him, Peter preaching and healing. The great explosion of the early church.

What must it have been like for Bernadette - I know that I struggle all the time with my faith and lack of understanding, trying to comprehend the magnitude of what Jesus did for us. Maybe it was easier for someone who was barely literate and not pressed by the constant instant world we live in today, when what happens in even the furthest corner of the world is news plastered all over the internet within seconds.

One of the requests that Bernadette had was to come in procession. In Lourdes this is done by a

torchlight procession starting near the Grotto and walking with lighted candles around the domain ending the the Rosary Square. This procession takes place every night (weather permitting) during the season (Easter to end of October). The decades of the rosary are said in different languages with the same hymns and Hail Marys and to me it has lost all feeling and wanting of Christ in our lives. Yes it is a spectacle, but the singing is poor and the priests that lead it seem to have lost the devotion that it could and maybe should have. Maybe it is because they are repeating the same words every night for six



THE STRENGTH AND CONVICTION OF BERNADETTE cont.

months of the season. Maybe it is in French, German, Spanish, English, Chinese and a multitude of other languages that the meaning and feeling is lost. This makes me feel sad as I am sure that this is not what Mary wanted. It is such an opportunity to invite Christ into our hearts and lives, but it did make me think that do we do things here by rote.

Do we sing hymns and songs because of the music with the words only as an afterthought? As someone who sings in the choir and the worship band we often take more time getting the notes right and less time on the words. I know sometimes we sing in another language which makes that more difficult. Is that just an excuse?

Do we read the bible and not take it in, not taking time to reflect on what is said?

Do we say and read our prayers not really understanding what is written any more?

My challenge is to take the time to reflect on the Creed, the Eucharistic Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the hymns we sing. This might take the rest of my life.

I know I want Christ in my life but so often I do not feel worthy. Why do I feel this way? I think only God knows, but then what I think doesn't really matter. Our Father knows what is in our heart. Do we over-complicate and over-think things? Probably.

Jesus invites us to receive the Holy Spirit and, with the Spirit, have the conviction to do what Bernadette did and not be afraid to proclaim our faith and beliefs against all adversity.



SOMETHING TO HIDE

By Didie Bucknall

We all love a murder mystery, don't we, with its twists and turns and

unexpected final revelation. St Mary's Drama Group kept us all on the edge of our seats. Jean Wood once again has produced an excellent entertainment at the Hampton Hill Theatre. *Something to Hide* by Leslie Sands, ex Z-Car actor and writer, is set in the fifties before the advent of mobile phones and instant communication.

The action takes place in the country home of a successful publisher and her novel writer husband. Richard Poole convincingly played the part of Howard Holt, the husband and devious philandering author, seen with his glamorous mistress Julie (Nicola Doble). Howard can't leave his wife as she holds the purse strings, but, unbeknown to the audience, they have been hatching a deadly plot. The wife returns unexpectedly, Julie makes a hurried exit but, horror upon horrors, she runs under the wheels of the returning car. Howard refuses to let his wife phone the police to report the accident convincing her that she will be facing manslaughter charges and rushes off to dispose of the body. Mr Purdue the local garage man, a lovely character part played by Paul Lawson, is called in to repair the car. Should news of the accident leak out, they are relying on the local dozy bobby to dismiss any rumours but, wouldn't you know it, astute Inspector Davies (Darren McIlroy) arrives instead. He is intrigued by the account of the accident, and asks seemingly innocent questions

which lead the two protagonists to telling conflicting stories.

Pretty soon blackmail notes arrive demanding large sums of money. Suspicion falls on nosy neighbour Miss Cunningham - a great comic part for Sue Birks - or could it be the maid Stella (Gina Way) who seems a trifle over-anxious to please? The Inspector has a nasty habit of turning up when anyone least expects him, looming bulkily at the door and giving everyone the jitters.

SMDG were very fortunate recruiting two excellent new members Susan Reoch and Darren McIlroy who gave good sustained performances holding the suspense and keeping us guessing.

Of course all is not what it seems but, in case they stage the play again, I won't let you into the secret. What I can say is that it was well performed and supported by the backstage team and, of course, many congratulations go to the director Jean Wood.

We perform several plays each year. Actors and backstage help always welcomed. Contact: Bill Bulford (Chairman) 020 8941 5987 or Sue McMillan (Secretary) 020 8941 1267.



A BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATION IN TEL AVIV

Written by Hilary Hart

On a cold, frosty Monday morning at the end of October, nine of us flew out from Luton Airport bound for Tel Aviv to attend a Bar Mitzvah celebration.

Although I had visited Israel on pilgrimage twice, I had never visited Tel Aviv before. It is a relatively new city; nearly all the development having taken place since Israel was formed. The city is right on the coast and has a beautiful beach which seems to stretch forever and is well equipped with lifeguards, changing facilities and watering holes! Walking south along the beach, you arrive at the old port of Jaffa, with its Arab influence, interesting 'flea market' and excellent eating establishments.

We were staying in a hotel one street back from the beach and overlooking the 'Branch' office of the American Embassy, which has now moved to Jerusalem.

David and his father Gal are old Israeli friends from Tel Aviv. For the past 12 years they have spent a week in Devon with us in the summer, partially to avoid the heat in Tel Aviv. The understanding was that, when the time came, we would all fly out to Tel Aviv to attend David's Bar Mitzvah celebration.

The Bar Mitzvah is the Jewish coming of age ritual for boys. According to Jewish law when boys become 13 years old they become accountable for their actions and become a Bar Mitzvah. The preparation for the ritual involves many hours spent with your Rabbi learning to read from the Torah. This is written in an ancient form of Hebrew and is read with special intonations and emphases.

Having spent a few days seeing the sites in Tel Aviv, Jaffa and a visit to the Dead Sea, on Thursday morning

we had to be up early to be at the Synagogue for 9 o'clock. Before entering the synagogue all the men were given skull caps specially made for the event with the date and David's name on them. Inside, the women were ushered upstairs to the gallery while the men entered the main body of the synagogue. Most of the men and David were wearing the Tefillin, sometimes called a phylactery. These are cubic black leather boxes with leather straps that are worn on the head and arm during weekday morning prayer. The boxes contain 4 hand-written texts from the Torah which include instructions to wear certain words on the hand and between the eyes.

The service took place entirely in Hebrew so was very difficult to follow, and at times appeared to be organised chaos. The Rabbi was even texting at one stage! There was a lot of 'chanting' however, eventually, the time came for the 'Ark' to be opened and the appropriate scroll to be removed. The scrolls are kept in beautiful ornamental cases and are very heavy to carry. David's portion of scripture was Genesis chapter 23 which tells of the death of Sara Abraham's wife. He read it beautifully using a 'yad' which is a stick with a finger pointer on the end, as it is not permitted to touch the scroll.

At several points during the ritual sweets were thrown at David. I gather this happens partly as it encourages the younger children to attend.

Following the serious part of the morning, all the guest were invited for breakfast in the hall and an opportunity to meet many of David's friends and relations and at last to hear some English. It was all quite an experience.



**BELL RINGING
AT ST MARY'S**



For anyone who would like to combine pleasant physical and mental exercise. Tuesday 8pm practice. Contact: Alison Ward 020 8979 9848

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**St Mary's
Church
Choir**

For keen and able singers of any age. Practice Friday evenings 7.45pm, for 9.30am Sunday services. Trainee choristers (adults and children) welcome. Contact: David Pimm 020 8399 2404

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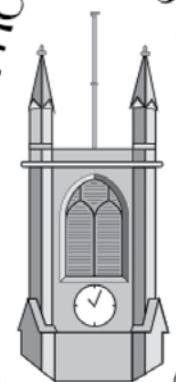


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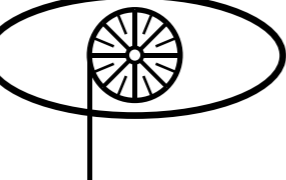
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