

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Mary's Mortlake with Christ Church & All Saints East Sheen



[WWW.MORTLAKEPARISH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.MORTLAKEPARISH.ORG.UK)

As we approach our Annual Church Meetings Revd. Jonathan Haynes, Team Vicar of Christ Church, has been taking the long view of the role of churchwarden.

Some historical reading unearthed one "Roger Martin" c1527-1615, who was a catholic recusant and churchwarden of Holy Trinity, Long Melford, Suffolk. His writings are a valuable primary source explaining the pre-Reformation ceremonies and decoration of the church at a time of great upheaval as his (long!) tenure as churchwarden covered the reigns of Mary Tudor, Elizabeth I and James I & VI.

The removal and the putting back, of ornaments that accompanied the shifts in reformation theology was arduous for any churchwarden and Martin's writings highlight the importance of the office. It is still an essential role.

Trying to ensure seemly worship - whatever that happened to mean at the time - was tough, and failure to comply with the C16th equivalent of the faculty process resulted in far harsher treatment from the Archdeacon than we can expect today! Recusants like Martin faced a bar from buying and selling land, heavy fines, forfeiture of goods, or the threat of ending up in the Bridewell or Newgate prison... or worse!

Wardens are now much safer but in a recent article in the Church Times the issue of struggles to find wardens was highlighted and there is a present reality of asking a question of what a church might look like without a warden.

At one end, paid support staff, at the other church closure? Churchwardens are one of the oldest elected offices in the country dating back to the 13th century. They are part of the history of democracy, long before universal suffrage.

Historically a congregation elected a 'People's Warden' at an annual vestry meeting; the incumbent would appoint another: the 'Rector's Warden'. In modern times the practice is that two and any assistants are all elected by those on the electoral roll or volunteer to fill a vacancy.

They remain officers of the Bishop and are governed by sections E and F of canon law. Wardens have ancient powers of arrest, although it is strongly advised that these powers are held lightly and the proper authorities concern themselves with keeping the peace in this way. Practically, wardens have a responsibility for fabric and fixtures of a church, they ensure the securing of valuables and keep an up-to-date inventory of all the property, ornaments and

moveable objects. Wardens are the petitioners for faculties when changes to fixtures and fittings are made but are not alone in project management.

The whole church community needs to share prayer and ministry but also take care to ensure we all have enough rest, holiday and spiritual nourishment by keeping in touch and communicating. All roles within the church (lay and ordained) should be life giving and draw on our strengths, our differences, life skills and experience.

We, like many church communities, struggle to recruit wardens, as the role does have a reputation of being burdensome and somewhat life-consuming. I wonder whether we might actively try to challenge this notion? The dangerous issues faced by Roger Martin are long gone, the modern church faces new challenges as the CofE changes.

The role ought not to be seen as something that takes over, nor to keep the status quo but rather to help shape and articulate the Christian witness, mission and work of the church, as well as ensure seemly worship and the proper maintenance of buildings. 'Ensure' is a key word, it doesn't mean a warden does all the work but with other members of the church family fosters and nurtures the enabling and equipping of others. Each warden therefore makes the role what it is. Wardens have developed and morphed through ecclesiastical and societal changes, reformations, interregnum and restoration of the crown, world wars, recessions and pandemic, flourishing congregations or dwindling numbers.

In each generation people have come forward to serve for a season of their Christian life as a warden. Everyone in our community might consider prayerfully a time when it is *their turn* to come forward and have a go. To have *their say* on what a warden might be in their current context.

Each parish will have a unique and most importantly a shared ministry for the practical, spiritual and missional running of a church, this is something to celebrate and fully engage with.

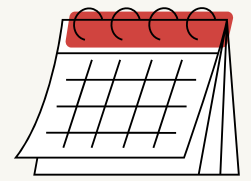
God often calls us to areas where we feel we would be unsuited or 'not the right time' or 'we'd be no good'. The bible is full of vocations of those ministering from places of uncertainty and vulnerability; vocation of any kind is to respond to God's call with trust.

We are hugely indebted to those who have volunteered for this season and past seasons, those who have represented and served God, Bishop, incumbent and people of the church.

Might God be calling you for another season?

# PARISH DIARY

*Save the date*



Venues for events are listed: SM - St Mary's, CC - Christ Church, AS - All Saints

Whether or not you attend church you are welcome to join in these community events either as a guest or a volunteer.

## Ascension Day, Parish Service

Thurs 9th May 8pm CC

Choral Eucharist, commemorating Jesus Christ's Ascension into heaven on the 40th day of Easter sung by the joint parish choirs.



## Songs from the Shows

Sat 11 May 7pm AS

Broadway, the West End & the American Songbook.

licensed bar opens 6:30pm

Young artists from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama come to East Sheen!

Enjoy an evening of enchantment and famous songs.

Tickets £15 (students/children free) All Saints on Sundays in April - or at the door on the night

## Bishop Christopher preaching and presiding at Christ Church

Sun 12th May 11am CC

Sung Eucharist at 11am (note different service start time!!)



**BRING & SHARE PATRONAL FESTIVAL LUNCH** following in the Community Hall & garden, Celebrate the Ascension with worship, live music, face-painting, food and fun - All welcome!

## Community Ventures

Fri 17th May 5pm CC

Join us at the Christ Church Community Hall at 5pm when Nicholas Jarrold will give a talk 'Personal reflections on life in the diplomatic service' The talk will be followed by refreshments.



## APCM & PCC Meeting

Mon 20th May 8pm AS

APCM - All welcome & strongly encouraged to attend this annual meeting and discussion followed by PCC meeting.



## Pentecost

Sun 19th May SM, CC, AS

The celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit & the birthday of the Christian Church.

Please see notices in each church for service details.



## Community Ventures Bring and Share lunch

Thurs 13th June 12:30pm AS

All warmly welcome at All Saints Church at 12.30 pm



## St Mary's Garden Party

Sun 30th June 3pm-5pm SM

All welcome from 3pm this annual party - fun for everyone!



## COMING SOON - watch this space

Across the Parish SM CC AS

Bible study on the Book of Hebrews.

Parish Quiet Day (away day).

Study course 'introduction to the liturgy'.

Parish away day to Sandham Chapel and more...

NEW



## IN MEMORIAM



Bishop Martin blesses the bench placed outside Christ Church

Many thanks to those who donated to the fund to install a bench in memory of the late Revd Chris Griffith (1982-2021), Team Vicar of Christ Church Feb - Aug 2021. The Area Bishop blessed the bench at a service in March.

## REV MATTHEW WATTS

an update on our curate

UPDATE

Thank you for your prayers for Matthew during the last 10 months; as you can imagine it has not been an easy time for him. We are pleased to be able to say that, as a next step, Matthew is undertaking a 6 month placement at St Michael and All Angels, Barnes. He is not doing so in an ordained capacity but will be able to share in the liturgical and congregational life of the church.



## PARISH WARDENS

Brenda Morris hopes to be able to resume her role as Parish Warden after a period of convalescing. Meanwhile, Kate Woodhouse has been acting Parish Warden and we hope she will be appointed formally at the APCM to succeed Celia.



## RECTORY GARDEN

Thanks to all the willing gardeners who helped clear the worst of the overgrowth in the Rectory garden before Easter. Builders have been asked to quote for extensive work to the house and garden walls and fences which we expect to begin soon.

LATEST NEWS

## INTERREGNUM NEWS

The congregations of all three churches have contributed to the making of the Parish Profile which will now be put together by the Parish Wardens and will be sent to the Diocese for editing and polishing. This process is expected to take 2-3 weeks and the post of Rector will then be advertised. We hope that by the date of the next Newsletter at the beginning of July we will have several candidates for interview.



## FIRE IN ST MARY'S

Thanks to Cheri Crump's quick action, a fire which had been started on a small table inside the church was prevented from growing and did little damage. Please all be vigilant when passing any of our churches because there has been no arrest as far as we know.



## A RECIPE FOR THE SEASON

An ascension day soufflé - can you beat it?

Ascension Day used to be one of the most celebrated of church feasts. Until recently the congregation would be compelled (another job for the churchwardens) to beat the bounds of the parish with branches. The boys would also be beaten to make them remember. It's too late to organise that this year but instead here's a suggestion for beating eggs instead.

The traditional soufflé takes much time, patience and energy (the making of the white sauce, the folding in of yolks, the beating of the whites and even after all this you need a bit of luck for it to turn out golden brown on top and fluffy throughout,) so instead, why not try this stodge-free alternative:

Choose an individual-size microwave-proof cup and butter it, beat one or two whole free-range eggs, grate a tablespoon of sharp cheddar or parmesan or cheese of your choice, pick and chop a handful of spring herbs - chives and thyme are good - tip all of these into the cup, mix together, add salt, pepper, possibly a touch of mustard, put in microware, uncovered, and cook on de-freeze for 3-4 minutes depending on number of eggs, microwave settings etc.

With a wing and a prayer your mini-soufflé will rise and shine.

It will also deflate quite quickly.

*bon appetit, Celia*



# PARISH CONTACTS



## PARISH OFFICE

Administrator Cheri Crump

Please call for an appointment.

Address: St. Mary the Virgin Church,  
Mortlake High Street, SW14 8JA.

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Website: [www.mortlakeparish.org.uk](http://www.mortlakeparish.org.uk)



*a verse to rehearse...*

**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”**

*John 14.27*

## St Mary's

Team Rector *in vacancy.*

Churchwardens: Ginny Waterkeyn

Sarah Coggins

Anita Larsen

Assistant Curate Revd Matthew Watts

Director of Music Christopher Hughes

All enquiries during the vacancy may go to

website

**The Churchwardens are in charge of St Mary's during the vacancy**

[thewaterkeyns@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:thewaterkeyns@blueyonder.co.uk)

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*(currently stepped back from ministry)*

[hughesonkeys@gmail.com](mailto:hughesonkeys@gmail.com).

[office@mortlakeparish.org.uk](mailto:office@mortlakeparish.org.uk)

[www.stmarymortlake.org.uk](http://www.stmarymortlake.org.uk)

## Christ Church

Team Vicar Revd Jonathan Haynes

PTO Priest Revd Olwen Williamson

Reader Paul Russenberger

SPA Deirdre Munro

Director of Music Tom Coxhead

Community Hall Mireille Stanton

Bookings

website

[vicar.cces@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.cces@gmail.com)

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[www.christchurcheastsheen.org.uk](http://www.christchurcheastsheen.org.uk)

## All Saints

Team Vicar Revd Alex Barrow

Assistant Curate Revd Sylvia Collins-Mayo

PTO Priest Revd Peter King TD BEM

Reader William Arnold

Director of Music James Cryer

Hall Bookings Mike Stewart

website

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## PCC

Secretary Cheri Crump

Parish Treasurer Jon Blythe

Parish Warden Celia Catchpole

Parish Warden Kate Woodhouse

Parish Warden Brenda Morris

Safeguarding Ruth Mann

Parish Newsletter Team

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*(currently stepped back from duties)*

[ruthmannnuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruthmannnuk@yahoo.co.uk)

c/o The Parish Office

## BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Please speak to the vicar of the church where you anticipate having the service.

See contacts above