

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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



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REMEMBRANCE IS A CALL TO ACTION

Revd Peter King, assistant priest, writes

November is the month in which traditionally we as a nation remember those who have given their lives in conflict. It is also the time in the Church's year when we remember the lives of the Saints and give thanks for the lives of the departed. Poppies are sold to raise funds for the British Legion, services are held, marches take place. Thereafter the banners are furled and life proceeds as normal.

Have we missed the purpose of Remembrance? In 1915, John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, wrote the famous poem "In Flanders Field"

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

We are asked not only to acknowledge the sacrifice that was made but to act upon it so that those who died did not die in vain. Sadly, the First World War has been followed by a second and many conflicts thereafter. The imperative of peace and our responsibility to bring it about rests as heavy upon our shoulders now as it was in 1915.

For Christians, Remembrance is not just for November but throughout the year and indeed every week. Central to our worship and community life is the Eucharist, which reflects the Lord's supper with his disciples before he was betrayed and led to his death. In Luke 22:14-23, Jesus indicated his desire to eat the Passover with his disciples before he was to suffer. He gave them the cup to share and then declared,

"I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes". He broke the bread and gave it to them saying "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me" In that meal Jesus was expressing his solidarity with and support of his disciples and also indicating that through his sacrifice a new world order or kingdom would come into being. He expresses the solidarity with those who walk with him and the commitment to bring about change. Small wonder that the Eucharist remains for Christians the lynch pin of our life together and of our commitment with Christ to change the future.

Understanding remembrance is key. "Anamnesis" is a Greek word expressing memorial, commemoration and remembrance. It is not a passive expression signifying that a person or deed is past and absent but quite the reverse. It is an objective act in which the person or event commemorated is actually made present, brought into the realm of the here and now.

In the Eucharist we are present with Christ as were the disciples and express solidarity with him and with our fellow Christians. We pledge ourselves to bringing in the Kingdom, a process already started through the incarnation and sacrifice of Christ.

In the "invocation" of the Eucharist we seek the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon the elements of the meal and to strengthen us together and in God's purposes. Remembrance is our call to action.



...We will remember them...

Act of Remembrance Sunday 10th November

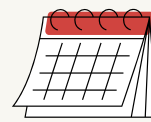
Gathering 10.30am
Service 10.55am

The community will gather on Sunday 10th November at the Sheen Lane War Memorial for the parade and laying of wreaths.

The short service will be attended by veterans, local government officials, the 39F Squadron Air Cadets, other uniformed organisations and ecumenical church leaders. The service will be led by the Team Rector, Revd Jonathan Haynes and sung by the joint choirs of the parish.

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.

All Saints Parish Patronal Service

Sun 3rd Nov 10am AS

The parish joint service celebrating All Saints Day. Do join us for a festal sung Eucharist.

Please note there will be no 10am services at St Mary's or Christ Church

All Saints Parish Patronal Lunch

Sun 3rd Nov 12 noon AS

The parish patronal lunch by ticket only.



Parish Act of Remembrance

Sun 10th Nov 10:45am

The community gathers at the war memorial for The Two Minutes Silence and wreath laying.

9.30am eucharist services at St Mary's, Christ Church & All Saints beforehand



St Mary's Churchyard working party

Sat 2nd Nov morning SM

All welcome to help keep St Mary's churchyard clear and tidy



Memorial Service at St Mary's

Sun 3rd Nov 3pm SM

Annual Memorial service at St Mary's

All Souls Service at Christ Church

Sun 10th Nov 5pm CC

Annual All Souls memorial service at Christ Church

Auction of Promises

Sat 16th Nov 7pm AS

in aid of GlassDoor and All Saints



Community Ventures Lunch

Thurs 21st Nov 12:30pm AS

a bring-and-share lunch at All Saints, all welcome.



Messy Church celebration for Christ the King

Sun 24th Nov 10am CC

Celebrate the end of the Church Year across the parish at 10am.

Messy Church and Mid Service group activities rather than a sermon will be held at Christ Church at 10am followed by refreshments.



Festive Florals

Sat 29th Nov 11am-2:30pm AS

A wreath/table decoration workshop with lunch given by All Saints Flower Team (ASFT)



Advent Carols

Sun 1st Dec 6.30pm AS

A service of Advent carols as the parish celebrates the beginning of the Advent Season.

All welcome from across the three churches and community.



Parish Advent Course

Mondays in December 7.30pm SM, CC, AS

Explore the meaning of Advent through carols and poetry.

Mon 2nd Dec at St Mary's Mon 9th Dec at All Saints Mon 16th Dec at Christ Church

open to all the churches and community, the sessions include refreshments.



REMEMBERING PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

This November issue of the Parish Newsletter is about remembrance so we are including links to tributes to parish people who have died during the past year. Some will have lots of words written and said about them, some will have only a few but all have been equally important to our community.

We remember Mary Abel, who worshipped at St. Mary's and was Parish Warden, Verena Baggaley, who worshipped at All Saints and cooked for Holiday at Home, Gerry Dawes, who was Church Warden at St. Mary's, Mary Finlay, who worshipped at St. Mary's and Peter Low, at All Saints. Stephen Rhys, who was Director of Music at Christ Church for forty years, Eleanor Stanier, who worshipped at St. Michaels when she became a local councillor but whose funeral was held in Christ Church and Barbara Tyman, who worshipped at All Saints. We also remember Annie Bridges, who came to worship at Christ Church at the end of her life and of whom Olwen said, "We didn't know much about her except that she worked as a producer in television but she was a woman who blessed those she came in contact with through the joy, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness she shared with us; all signs of God's love shared with those she met. We miss her presence among us."

Eco Church



All Saints Flower Team have embraced sustainability in church flower arrangements. 14 members of the team spent a training morning looking at alternatives to floral oasis. Harvest festival was 95 percent oasis free! Christ Church and St Mary's are also committed to alternatives to oasis.

Christmas Services across the Parish

Sun 22nd Dec

St Mary's

6.30pm Carol Service

Christ Church

6.30pm Carol Service

All Saints

6.30pm Carol Service

Tues 24th Dec - Christmas Eve

St Mary's

5pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christ Church

4pm The Nativity

11:30pm Midnight Mass

All Saints

4pm Crib Service

11pm Midnight Mass

Wed 25th Dec - Christmas Day

St Mary's

10am All Age Eucharist

Christ Church

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Worship for All Eucharist

All Saints

8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Worship for All Ages Eucharist

Memorial Services



The annual All Souls Memorial services continue

St Mary's on Sunday 2nd Nov at 3pm

and at

Christ Church on Sunday 10th Nov at 5pm

Services include readings, music, prayers and a chance to light a candle in memory of those who have died. The names of the recently departed are read out and the services are followed by refreshments.

To include names to be read out please let the clergy or wardens know.

Burns Night Supper



24th January 2025, at All Saints.

With Haggis, Neeps N Tatties, dancing - all to the immortal memory of Robert Burns!

Booking will open soon and details to follow in the next newsletter.

Christingle in the Parish



Symbolising Christ, the Light of the World.

Celebrate the light by decorating your Christingle orange with all ages, as friends or with all the family.

All Saints will be on Sunday 8th Dec at 4pm

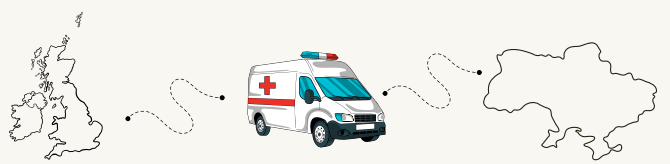
and then in early 2025 at Candlemas at

Christ Church Sunday 2nd February at 10am



Driving an Ambulance to the Ukraine

Alastair Grant writes about his drive to the Ukraine.



In November last year I was asked by another veteran if I would like to be his co-driver to take an ambulance filled with medical supplies to Ukraine. I quickly learnt that an organisation called Medical Life-Lines Ukraine (MLLU) sends a convoy of ambulances every two months. The next step was an interview in Putney with Gerry Strahan. It seemed I passed muster but I still wasn't sure. Would I be insured as an octogenarian? Answer, yes! I realised that MLLU runs an extremely well organised operation. Each pair of drivers had to raise £15,000 to pay for the ambulance and the journey so my share was £7,500. Day by day donations started to come in. By the time we set off in September generous donors had given me something approaching £20,000.

Our team leader in the first ambulance was Mike, an ex-fireman who had led many convoys and previously taken fire engines to Ukraine. He was amusing and caring and we all quickly respected him. In the last ambulance was Mark, another ex-fireman and vehicle mechanic. He was rather more restrained but with much humour, so he too was greatly appreciated. He checked our vehicles every night and had his finger on the pulse. It was made crystal clear that we were under no pressure to go beyond the Polish border and that going into Ukraine was at our own risk.

The week before setting off, Mike sent us a series of briefings on WhatsApp. I was lined up with Lottie Martin and we were to be Ambulance No 2. I was asked to pick her up in Epsom at 0500 in the morning. I went early to bed but sleep did not come easily. I was up at 0400 on a horrible wet night and off to find Lottie waiting in the street outside her house. The adventure began. Lottie and I had not met before. She was keen to take part despite being a mother of two young children. We agreed that we were equals and that we would not hesitate to be frank if we felt the other partner was driving badly, losing focus, or becoming drowsy. It worked well throughout. She was an excellent driver.

The whole convoy met for the first time in a petrol station outside Folkestone for a comprehensive briefing. We then lined up with our vehicle snug behind our leader. As our vehicle was similar to others we memorised our registration number. The last three letters were VND, so we nicknamed her 'Very Naughty Diva'. At this stage we were all largely strangers to each other. We would be driving for about nine hours a day for three days.

We would be stopping at about three-hour intervals and only for short periods. Motorola radios were handed out and tested. They were essential throughout the trip. We drove gingerly onto the open flat cars of the Tunnel shuttle.

The first day's journey was to Soest in Germany. It was the hardest day. Most of us were dog-tired after an early start and traffic jams around Antwerp seemed endless. Our German hotel was fine. A hearty supper was provided. I don't want to see another Wiener Schnitzel for a long time but have no complaints about German beer.

We were up at 0600 for an 0700 start. It was a longer drive, but we were getting used to three-hour segments. Avoiding caffeine – both tea and coffee – was essential for me, otherwise I would have to use the bottle! Lottie was not fazed by this, but it was not needed.

The second night was spent in Wroclaw in another nice hotel but with an even earlier start next day. We were in our stride now and enjoyed convoy manoeuvres. Cars and trucks would insert themselves into our eight-car convoy, splitting it up, so Mike developed a procedure. '8, please move out.', then in succession 7.6.5.4.3.2 would move into the fast lane blocking all traffic but ensuring the integrity of our pack. Once there we moved back into the slow lane. Co-drivers played an important role watching the rear mirrors carefully.

We had been warned that crossing the borders would take time. As we arrived, we could see a huge line of trucks. It took us two hours to exit Poland and we then had another three-hour wait for our credentials to be checked again in Ukraine. As time passed there was a need to find a loo. There was only one entrance to a male loo, guarded by a woman in a tiny booth. One of the team had some Ukrainian. We stumbled down dank stairs to a rather unpleasant area where none of the urinals were working and there were just three stalls. There was no female loo so we escorted Lottie, who as usual was unfazed.

Back on the road we were asked to keep in a tight formation. This worked well until we encountered pothole land – potholes so enormous that we often had to cross over the road in the face of oncoming traffic. At last we reached Lviv to find the Ukrainians waiting for us. Handover took a little time as Mark had to brief each set of drivers with Natalia, a consultant from Kingston Hospital, acting as interpreter.

I met one of the drivers who was to take our vehicle to Kharkiv. He had no English, but we hugged each other. It was an emotional moment. Later, we went off to a grand dinner with a number of Ukrainians joining us.

The next morning, we walked into the city centre for a tour by a Ukrainian guide. She gave us an excellent lecture on the history of Lviv which had originally been a Polish city.

Whilst walking along we heard the sirens going off and loudspeakers booming away but nobody took any notice! We arrived at a cathedral and saw an honour guard awaiting the cortege of a dead comrade. Shortly after that we saw placards up with pictures and biographies of men who had been killed the previous week.

Once in the cathedral, we saw rows of placards with the picture of those killed in the past ten years. It was heartbreaking, but worse still were pictures of loving boys and girls with messages posted about how they missed their fathers. Tears came all too easily. We all know how much the Ukrainians (and Russians) have suffered but seeing it close up was truly awful.

Later that day many of us departed for Poland using Bolt. All went smoothly and we were across the border in ten minutes. Then we took a train ride to Krakow and flew home the next day by EasyJet.



Alastair pictured handing over the ambulance in the Ukraine, supporting Medical Life Lines Ukraine

<https://www.medicallifelines.org.uk/>

Medical Life Lines Ukraine have delivered 81 ambulances to war-torn areas of Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion on 24th February 2022. The demand for humanitarian aid, civil defence support and medical supplies is unrelenting.

Mothers' Union



The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, wife of a Rector, who invited young mothers to the Rectory for Bible study and friendship. There are now 4 million members worldwide in 84 countries. The Branch in this Parish opened in 1906.

In Southwark Diocese we are involved with hospitals, especially the Evelina, prisons and teaching English to refugees. Membership is open to all men and women. At our Coffee Morning on December 7th at St. Mary's we are raising funds for AFIA "Away from it All" to help families have a holiday, or even days out. Please come and support us and read our leaflets about all that Mothers Union has to offer; If you would like to join the MU please get in touch with the branch chair Penny Bell Wright via email at penny_b_w@yahoo.co.uk

The annual bring and buy coffee morning is on Saturday 7th December 2024 from 10.30 am. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be available, and a raffle for MU funds. We look forward to seeing you.

Congratulations Msgr Bill!

Celebrating 40 years!



Warm congratulations to our ecumenical friend Monsignor William Saunders, priest at Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic church, who is celebrating 40 years of ordained ministry!

We wish to thank Msgr Bill for his partnership and support to the Church of England parish over the years and look forward to continuing that relationship.

We send blessings and "safe travels" as he marks his special anniversary of his vocation in Rome.

Many congratulations!

Team Rector induction 4th November

Revd Jonathan Haynes will be instituted and inducted as Team Rector at a service led by Bishop Martin, the bishop of Kingston and the Area Dean, Revd Alex Barrow on Monday, 4th November, at 7.30pm in Christ Church.

The historic patron of the parish, the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral, will be represented by Canon Dr David Bryer.

All are warmly welcome to attend this Eucharist service and stay for refreshments.

Remember 9th November 7pm

Bernard Adams produces an evening of music, poetry and remembrance

Bernard Adams will produce an evening of music, poetry and remembrance at Christ Church on Saturday 9th Nov 7pm.

In this staged performance, Christ Church will remember the 304 men of the parish who died in the Great War, which began 110 years ago. The names of the fallen are not displayed on the War Memorial on Milestone Green but will be shown in Christ Church along with songs, music, and poems by Siegfried Sassoon and others.

We are very grateful to the children of Sheen Mount School for their help in the planning and displaying of the names and we invite the community to come, reflect and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**Tickets available on the door or at Sunday services
Adults £10 Students £5**



Got questions?

Baptism and Confirmation and exploring faith.



If you would like to explore faith, ask about prayer, learn about Baptism or discover what is meant by Confirmation please do feel welcome to speak to Revd Jonathan, Fr Alex, any other member of the Clergy, or one of the Readers or Pastoral Minister who will be able to help.

There are no wrong or silly questions.

Christianity is a voyage of discovery and open to all to explore.



“Io, io, io!” by priest and people sungen.

join the choir this Christmas season...

Tis almost the season... if you like singing why not see if singing in a church choir is for you!

The parish choirs welcome new singers of all abilities and aim to be flexible around pressures on the diaries.

Perhaps you have sung before and want to get back into it, or maybe you have never had a go?

Adults of any age and older children are encouraged to speak to wardens, clergy or current choir members to find out more. The choirs are open to those of all faiths and none.

For those younger members of the community wanting to sing (Year 5 and below) please speak to Revd Jonathan or Fr Alex.

Music is such a brilliant way to express ourselves and help unlock some of the big questions of life. Singing is also tremendous fun and carols are a great way to start.

Ring out wild bells!

why not ring in the season at St Mary's



Up in the tower St Mary's has an historic peel of bells which ring out on a Sunday and have done for many years.

The ringers welcome new volunteers who would like to find out more and have a go.

If bell ringing is something you would like to try, and you're over the age of 12, why not get in touch and try your hand at ringing.

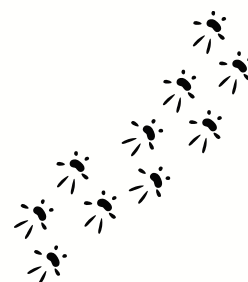
Full training offered and there is no pressure to be added to a rota!

Come and see what ringing is all about at your local parish church.

Mortlake, the Mouse, Puzzle Page



“Mortlake”, the church mouse, has some puzzles for you this month, have a go at solving them...



F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	N	U	M
W	D	R	R	T	N	I	L	O	R	D
I	S	A	I	N	T	S	H	R	C	R
N	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	E	Y	E
F	A	T	H	E	R	H	G	R	T	D
O	R	R	U	O	I	V	A	S	H	E
R	E	D	I	V	O	R	P	S	G	E
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I	L	L	T	S	O	I	R	S	M	E
A	O	E	E	R	G	V	T	E	L	R
H	S	G	O	D	R	O	E	J	A	O

LORD

ALMIGHTY

REDEEMER

PROVIDER

HOLY

SAVIOUR

JESUS

GOD

LOVE

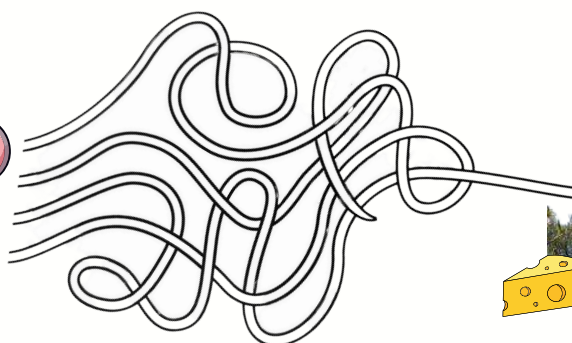
FATHER

FAITHFUL

SAINTS

TEACHER

Mortlake wants to go to church. Can you help him go to church?



?? Mortlake's Muddles ?

One day the Rector went for a walk, and it started raining. He forgot to bring an umbrella and didn't have a hat. When he got home, his clothes were soaking wet, but not a hair on his head was wet. How was this possible?

Answer to the riddle will be in next month's newsletter

PARISH CONTACTS



a verse to rehearse...

“ I know that you can do all things
and that no purpose of yours
can be thwarted. ”

Job 42.2

PARISH OFFICE

Administrator Cheri Crump

Please call for an appointment.

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

Tel: 020 8876 1630

Email: office@mortlakeparish.org.uk

Website: www.mortlakeparish.org.uk



The Parish

Team Rector	Revd Jonathan Haynes	vicar.cces@gmail.com
PCC Secretary	Cheri Crump	office@mortlakeparish.org.uk
Parish Treasurer	Jon Blythe	jblythe@sampsonfielding.co.uk
Parish Warden	Brenda Morris	brenda.morris114@btinternet.com
Parish Warden	Kate Woodhouse	katewoodhouse20@gmail.com
Safeguarding	Ruth Mann	ruthmannuk@yahoo.co.uk
Parish Newsletter Team	<i>c/o The Parish Office</i>	

St Mary's

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

Team Vicar	<i>in vacancy</i>	
Wardens	Ginny Waterkeyn	thewaterkeyns@blueyonder.co.uk
	Sarah Coggins	sarahjcoggins@gmail.com
	Anita Larsen	anita.smwarden@gmail.com
Assistant Curate	Revd Matthew Watts	<i>(currently stepped back from ministry)</i>
Director of Music	<i>in vacancy</i>	<i>c/o the parish office</i>
website		www.stmarymortlake.org.uk

Christ Church

Team Rector	Revd Jonathan Haynes	vicar.cces@gmail.com
PTO Priest	Revd Olwen Williamson	olwenontour@hotmail.com
Reader	Paul Russenberger	paul.russenberger@btinternet.com
SPA	Deirdre Munro	deirdre.munro1@btinternet.com
Wardens	Dilys Zeegen & Sharika Fernando-Ewing	wardens.cces@gmail.com
Director of Music	<i>in vacancy</i>	music.cces@gmail.com
Community Hall	Mireille Stanton	bookCCCH@gmail.com
Bookings		
website		www.christchurcheastsheen.org.uk

All Saints

Team Vicar	Revd Alex Barrow	vicar.ases@gmail.com
Assistant Curate	Revd Sylvia Collins-Mayo	sylvia.collinsmayo@gmail.com <i>(part time)</i>
PTO Priest	Revd Peter King TD BEM	kingpd@hotmail.com
Reader	William Arnold	wbmjarnold@gmail.com
Wardens	Jan Wright & Bob Mann	churchwardens.ases@gmail.com
Director of Music	James Cryer FRCO	james@thecryers.me.uk
Hall Bookings	Mike Stewart	allsaintshall.sheen@gmail.com
website		www.allsaintschurch.org.uk

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

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

See contacts above