

March 2018 Edition 27

**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matt 5:16)**



You may remember that in the Gospel reading on Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21) we were reminded that our prayer, fasting and

charitable giving during Lent should be done secretly rather than making a big show of it. God knows our devotions and that is enough.

By contrast, our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to remember all that has taken place over the past year, to recognise where we believe we have encountered God, to give thanks for one another and the ways God works in our lives and to look forward to the year ahead.

As the reports have gradually filtered in for our Annual Report, I have been heartened to read of the many ways in which we here at St. Mary's witness to God in Cuddington and beyond.

One of the greatest joys for me is seeing the various ways in which our gifts are used. From pastoral support to maintaining the buildings and grounds; from teaching and caring for the young to catering and offering hospitality, we are a community which seeks to value what each individual brings

*Theos*, a public theology think tank, has been recording conversations with a diverse range of people, asking them what is sacred for them – what they cherish and hold dear. I wonder whether you are able to answer that question – and whether you can see the connection between the gifts you bring to St. Mary's and the wider community and what you hold dear?

Perhaps these are conversations we may begin to have with one another in the coming year.

**Rev Theresa Ricketts**

## The Silent Soldier

Few can have failed to notice the 'Silent Soldier' who took up position in the Church Car Park prior to the last Remembrance Sunday and who will be with us throughout the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last year of the First World War, but it is worth a word explaining why he has appeared.

World War 1 began on July 28<sup>th</sup> 1914 and by the time the guns fell silent on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918 over 10 million soldiers of all nationalities were dead, including 1.1 million British and Empire service men and women. World War 1 changed the world forever.

The Surrey Royal British Legion (RBL) started the giant Poppies on Lampposts scheme in 2014 which has spread across the country and there are now thousands every year.

Keen to ensure we continue to pay our respects, The Surrey RBL invited sponsors for the 'Silent Soldier'. The intention is that the silhouette of the silent 'Tommy'

returning home will appear across Surrey throughout 2018 as we remember the end of WW1. They are appearing on buildings, roundabouts, in gardens and fields. Companies, communities, churches, local organisations and

individuals are joining the tribute by sponsoring a 'Silent Soldier' and having it proudly on display.

You may well have noticed them on various buildings in Kingston and particularly County Hall, where 'Silent Soldiers' stand either side of the main doors.



The RBL is marking the anniversary with commemorations and projects with a focus on remembrance, education and legacy. They are hoping that everyone in the County will have an association with a 'Silent Soldier' and our own tribute, who has been anonymously sponsored, appeared quietly in the church grounds in November 2017.

**Martin Gerrard**

## The Stations of the Cross

This year we are visiting the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings during Lent. 15 pictures have been put up in church and we visit each in turn for a brief meditation and prayer.

The pictures depict Christ on the day of his crucifixion, walking the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be his actual path to Calvary. The purpose of the stations is to help Christians make a spiritual pilgrimage, through contemplating the Passion of Christ. There are fifteen numbered pictures, these are:

1. Pilate condemns Jesus to death
2. Jesus takes up his cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene carries the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls for the second time
8. the women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus
9. Jesus falls for the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus speaks to Mary and John
13. Jesus dies on the cross
14. Jesus is taken down from the cross
15. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

The 16<sup>th</sup> station, The Resurrection of Jesus, will be displayed on Easter Sunday.

Common Worship tells us that The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus.

They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's House to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those Christians brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late fourteenth century the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. These kinds of images are now commonplace inside churches, and occasionally outside them.

**Linda Charlton**

## Snapshots of Friday Mornings at the Toddler Group



Our Story Time & Crafts

## April Services and Events

<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>06.00</b>	<b>Service of Light</b>
<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Easter Communion</b>
<b>Saturday 7</b>	<b>08.30</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast at The Queen Adelaide</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Café Church followed by Holy Communion</b>
<b>Saturday 14</b>	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Spring Clean Morning</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Sung Communion and Children's Groups</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Annual Church Meetings</b>
<b>Thursday 19</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Thursday Club in the Cuddington Hall</b>
<b>Saturday 21</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Family Communion with Baptism</b>
<b>Monday 23</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>Church Estates Comm in Leverton Room</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>

**Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9 am.**

Please send feedback, photographs and articles to: **Linda Charlton (Editor)**  
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Longhand is welcomed too. Please hand to me or leave in the C pigeonhole beside the choir vestry door