

Flower Festival

A flower festival was held in the church during the weekend of 9/10 which was planned by Kathy Gold to coincide with the annual Teddington in Flower. Eleven flower arrangers and the Brownies combined to fill the church with flowers in every corner possible. The theme was the saints, and twenty one saints were represented, which had entailed a lot of searching the Internet to find out who they were and why they were saints, particularly those of obscure origin requested by congregation members who had donated money for the flowers.

The church was open on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and as we were not allowed to charge for entry we asked for donations towards a charity of our choice. This was the Crofters' Club which is a youth club in Richmond for children with special needs. It provides after school clubs, weekend activities and residential holidays. We were absolutely delighted to find at the end of the weekend that a total of £770 had been given by generous visitors to whom we give our grateful thanks.

Jennifer Shaw

Church Officer Posts

We are currently looking for people in the parish who would be interested in taking on

the roles of either the PCC Honorary Secretary or Stewardship Officer. The former post supports the PCC and its on-going activities, whilst the latter is responsible for processing the monies donated through the church's stewardship scheme; this requires dealing with the Inland Revenue to reclaim tax under the government's Gift-Aid scheme. If you would like to find out more about these roles and their responsibilities please contact either of the churchwardens or e-mail them via the website (details on the back of this newsletter).

David Power, Churchwarden

Parish Registers

Holy Baptisms – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*

10 June: Matthew Michael, son of Andrew and Nicola Asherson.

1 July: Lucas Freddy and Dylan Samuel, sons of Matthew and Emma Tomlinson.

Weddings – *We wish every blessing on the marriages of:*

16 June: Daniel James Rolton and Camilla Mary Jackson.

7 July: Matthew North and Claire Avins.

Funeral – *We remember with thanks-giving the life of:*

19 June: Ethel Mohan.

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2007

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

“Like a feral beast.”

One of the things I thank God continually for is that I live in a free country with free press, radio and television. The first thing dictators do is to muzzle these organs of communication which they see as a threat. So it was interesting, to say the least, to hear Tony Blair in one of his last speeches as Prime Minister describe the press as a feral (i.e. wild and untamed) beast.

He complained about intrusiveness, inaccuracies and some reporting that was ultra personal and downright unpleasant. The last comment came to mind when I saw, perhaps as many of you did, a documentary about Cherie Blair on the BBC. In many ways it was quite sympathetic to her; but it did at times reveal a rather nasty side to some media coverage with personal comments about her dress sense and her looks. This seemed wrong and unnecessary. A journalist complained on the programme about her using her position as the Prime Minister's wife to earn money from speeches about her time in Downing Street. He said this was unethical. However it was that same journalist who had been sacked as editor of a national newspaper for forging pictures of British soldiers allegedly abusing Iraqi civilians. The words pot, kettle and black immediately came to mind!

But it could be argued that politicians who use their families to promote their political careers are fair game. Be that as it may. My concerns about the press and the media generally today are rather different. There

seems to be a real blurring of the edges between the reporting of the news and comment about the news – so much so that it is sometimes difficult to see where one ends and the other begins. Newspapers are guilty of this, but so I think are Radio 5 Live and the evening news at 10 p.m. on BBC to mention but two. The Independent newspaper (which I have never liked) at least is honest in this regard and makes a virtue out of this blurring.

In some ways this is inevitable as we live in the days of 24 hour news coverage across the world. We want to know not just what is happening but why it is happening. All news is instant (few of us who saw it are likely to forget the unfolding of 9.11 as it happened) and, as I say, people seem to want instant comment and opinion. The trouble is that we are often surrounded with people who think they are experts on everything and they finish up being experts on nothing.

It would be good if the distinction between news and comment could be restored. By all means have leading articles and special correspondents, but give us back news coverage that is factual without biased headlines.

The Prime Minister referred to the press as a feral beast – that was perhaps over the top. But when we give thanks for the freedom of the press let us also ask that it shows more responsibility. And lay off the nasty personal comments. They are no credit to anyone. The trouble is that I feel sometimes that there are a lot of egos out there who are not as clever, or as informed, as they like to think they are. I write this in the week of the release of Alan Johnston. Here is a fine journalist who is a real

SERVICES: **SUNDAYS:** Holy Communion at 8.00am
Family Communion at 9.45am. No Sunday School during August.
WEDNESDAYS & SAINTS DAYS: Holy Communion at 9.30am

VICAR: The Revd. John Cleaver, The Vicarage, 11 Twickenham Road,
Teddington TW11 8AQ (8977 2767)

CHURCH WARDENS: David Power, 76 Field Lane, Teddington TW11 9AS (8943 5194)
Sheila Cooper, 3 Thelma Grove, Teddington TW11 9AQ (8977 7206)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Harold Lester (8878 0021)

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & HALL BOOKINGS: Gillian Burgess (8943 2262)

CHURCH SCHOOL: St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington
Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Susan Jacobs (8943 0503), Sheila Groom (8977 9399) and
Veronica Baker

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarywithstalban.org

example to all in his profession. There are many other writers and reporters who are excellent and their colleagues could learn a lot from them.

Thanks

To Kathy Gold, Jennifer Shaw and all the flower arrangers who made our Flower festival in June such a success. The arrangements on the theme of the saints were quite stunning and a lot of people visited the Church over the two days. Thanks too to June Demont for the excellent teas in the Churchyard. And the launch of the website went well on our Patronal Festival alongside the 10th anniversary of the opening of the refurbished parish hall. The successful morning was crowned with champagne and an excellent birthday cake. I think our closing hymn that morning summed it all up well:

“Now thank we all our God
With heart and hand and voices;
Who wondrous things have done
In who his world rejoices;
Who from our mother’s arms
Hath blessed us on our way;
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.”

From my scrapbook

I like this. An Irish grace:

“May the roof above never fall in
May we below never fall out.”

With best wishes to you all

John Cleaver

St Mary’s and St Peter’s goes Royal!

The school was delighted to host a visit by HRH the Earl of Wessex on 27th June to help us celebrate our 175th Anniversary. We received confirmation of the Royal Visit several weeks ago and so were able to begin preparations. A great deal of work went in by all to ensure that the one hour visit packed in as much as possible and that HRH was able to see as many children and staff as possible.

On arrival HRH was introduced to the new Mayor, the Bishop and other special guests.

In the Hall he was treated to a short drama by some of our 5 year children outlining the history of the school. He was able to visit the Reception classes and Key stage one classes, where he was treated to a variety of activities. I was highly impressed with the way he spent time talking to the children and when asked “How’s your mum?” by one 5 year old, responded appropriately with the reply “She’s very well thank you, and how’s yours?”

As he travelled around the school he saw a wide range of activities on the go, including a re-enactment of the siege of Troy, a musical production, using voice and instruments and a science lesson in our new green leaf garden on the earth, sun and moon. He met representatives from the ‘Friends’ and the 175 committee, and many other people connected with the school. Finally he unveiled a plaque to commemorate the visit.

There was a real sense of being involved in an important part of the on-going history of the school. A follow up letter from HRH’s Private Secretary described how much he had enjoyed the visit and sending his best wishes for our 175th year.

You can view some of the pictures of the visit on our website:

www.smsp.richmond.sch.uk

John Logan, Headteacher

The Prayer for St Mary’s and St Peter’s School on its 175th anniversary

God of love, inspire by your spirit all those involved in the life of St Mary’s and St Peter’s School.

We ask you to bless children and parents, teachers and governors, all administrative staff, and all who care for the school in any way.

We thank you for the years that are past and we pray today that we may all work for the common good.

We pray that our school may always be a place where your Name is honoured, real learning takes place, and where we can discover the true meaning of life.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
John Cleaver

Variety Concert Acts Required

St Mary Teddington Bells are hosting their 4th Annual Variety Concert on Saturday 29th September and are hoping to find some different stage acts to make this year’s concert another great success. If you would like to be considered to be included in the programme, please contact Sheila Insley with details of what you can do. Any type of performance will be considered so that we can maintain the variety and enjoyment of the evening.

Sheila Insley, 01932 247079



Diary for August

Unless otherwise stated there is Holy Communion (Prayer Book) every Sunday morning at 8.00am and Family Communion with Sunday School at 9.45am (Common Worship).

There is no Sunday School and no First Wednesday Club in August.

There is Holy Communion every Wednesday at 9.30am.

Saturday 4th	Weddings at 1.00 and 3.00pm.
Sunday 5th	The Transfiguration of our Lord. Holy Baptism at Family Communion.
Wednesday 8th	Wedding at 1.30pm.
Sunday 12th	Trinity 10.
Sunday 19th	Trinity 11. Holy Baptism at 2.00pm.
Saturday 25th	Wedding at 3.00pm.
Sunday 26th	St Bartholomew.

And looking ahead

Saturday October 7th is Harvest Sunday.