

Electoral Roll Renewal – 2007

During the period leading up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24th April we will be compiling a new Electoral Roll – the list of all our Church members. We would like the names of all those who worship at St Mary's to be on it. When the renewal process begins everybody's name is removed from the old Electoral Roll which is cancelled.

It makes no difference how long that one's name has been on the Electoral Roll in the past – everybody must fill in a fresh application form to have his or her name entered on the new Roll. New members will, of course, be most welcome.

Members on the present Roll will automatically be issued with application forms. New members (who must be baptized and aged 16 or over) may obtain application forms from the Church, the Vicarage or from me, the Electoral Roll Officer at 40 Elmfield Avenue, Teddington (Tel: 8977 3990).

Joining the Electoral Roll is a way of saying that one not only belongs and is committed to the Church here in Teddington but to the Church as a whole.

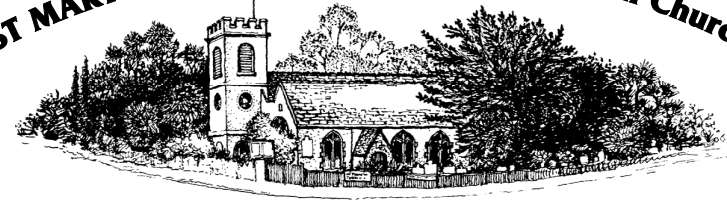
June Hill, Electoral Roll Officer

The Leprosy Mission

World Leprosy Day, which St Mary with St Albans supported, has been observed on the last Sunday of January since 1954. More than 100 countries mark the day, which has helped to raise awareness of a neglected disease and fight the stigma that is attached to it, often leading to severe poverty, hardship and disability. TLM is a leading international Christian development mission, in existence since 1874, working in about 30 countries. TLM works to prevent disability through early detection and medical intervention and helps people with leprosy overcome poverty and stigma. Multidrug therapy cures leprosy in around 6 months but cannot reverse any disability, but after only two days' treatment the patient is no longer contagious. It is so important for victims to seek help early so that they can be cured without any lasting disability. TLM's programmes include education (helping to overcome the stigma, emotional, social and economic consequences), rehabilitation and reintegration of people into their communities. TLM's commitment is to assist anybody affected by leprosy, without discrimination. Their vision is for a world without leprosy – something that really is achievable.

Veronica Baker

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2007

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

More Anniversaries

Last month I wrote that we have 3 important anniversaries to keep this year. On Education Sunday (the 4th of this month) we shall be beginning our celebrations to mark 175 years of the life of our Church school. This year also sees the 100th anniversary of the start of the Scout movement; and in June we shall remember that we have had our refurbished hall in Langham Road for 10 years. The Bishop of London dedicated it in 1997.

2007 also sees three musical anniversaries. 150 years ago on June 2nd the composer Edward Elgar was born. I suppose he is best known for *Land of Hope and Glory*, but the work that really established him as an international composer was the *Enigma Variations*.

The Norwegian composer, Edward Grieg, died 100 years ago in 1907. He wrote one of the most powerful of all piano concertos and his piece *Morning* from the Peer Gynt Suite is among the most recorded pieces of music ever written. Many say that it evokes the early morning sun on the snow capped mountains of his native Norway; but in fact it does nothing of the sort. In the context of Peer Gynt the music is used when he was in Arabia and so it evokes quite a different landscape.

For ice and snow you have to turn to our third cause of celebration, the Finnish composer Sibelius who died 50 years ago in 1957. he is best known for the tone poem *Finlandia* – but I believe that his finest music is found in his glorious seven

symphonies.

It was the pianist Arthur Schnaebel who wrote:

“Sunshine can burn you. Food can poison you. Words can condemn you and pictures can insult you. Music cannot punish – only bless.”

And as with all great art, the really great music points beyond itself. It is not an end in itself but for the religious and spiritual person it will point to the God who has shared his creative powers with men and women in this way. That in turn will turn us to the worship and service of that God.

Lord Boothby put it another way:

“Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and quits the memory with difficulty. Magical music never quite leaves the memory.”

Elgar, Grieg and Sibelius had one thing in common. They were national composers whose work reflected their respective national landscapes. John Allinson commented that:

“They belonged to the last generation of composers to whom nature really meant something and – witness Elgar's nostalgia pre-eminently found in the *Cello Concerto* and the *2nd Symphony* – they knew their world was changing.”

Last month I wrote:

“Anniversaries are important. They give us all a chance to celebrate, to take stock, and to thank God for this grace and mercy.”

As we thank God we are reminded of the momentous words in Haydn's *Creation*:

<u>SERVICES:</u>	<u>SUNDAYS:</u> Holy Communion (Prayer Book) 8am Family Communion (Common Worship Sung Eucharist with Sermon) 9.45am <u>SUNDAY SCHOOL:</u> (most Sundays) 9.30am for 9.40am in the Church Hall, Langham Road. <u>WEDNESDAYS:</u> Holy Communion, 9.30am <u>SAINTS DAYS</u> and other days as announced
<u>VICAR:</u>	The Revd. John Cleaver, The Vicarage, 11 Twickenham Road, Teddington TW11 8AQ (8977 2767)
<u>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:</u>	Mr Harold Lester (8878 0021)
<u>CHURCH WARDENS:</u>	Miss S. Cooper, 3 Thelma Grove, Teddington TW11 9AQ (8977 7206) Mr D. Power, 76 Field Lane, Teddington TW11 9AS (8943 5194)
<u>CHURCH SCHOOL:</u>	St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476)
<u>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & HALL BOOKINGS:</u>	Gillian Burgess (8943 2262)
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITORS:</u>	Susan Jacobs (8943 0503), Sheila Groom (8977 9399) and Veronica Baker

“The heavens are telling the glory of God
The wonder of his works
Displays the firmament...
Achieved is the glorious work
Our song must be the praise of God.
Glory to his Name for ever
He sole on high exalted reigns.”
With best wishes to you all.

John Cleaver

Christmas

Over 2,000 people, many of whom were guests, took part in the wonderfully joyous Christmas celebrations at St Mary's with St Albans. Early in December we enjoyed the charming Christingle Service.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

A full Church greeted the choir for the traditional opening processional carol *Once in Royal David's City* on the evening of Sunday 17th December. As has been the custom here now for many years, the orchestra plays in place of the organ; this adds a new dimension to our worship and contributes greatly to both our involvement and our enjoyment of the occasion. The choir, whose ranks were swollen by several much appreciated visiting singers, sang four choruses from Handel's *Messiah*, including a beautifully sung solo by Kay Cassidy of *O Thou who tellest good tidings to Zion*. The familiar words of the lessons, the spirited singing of the congregational carols, the skilful playing of the musicians and the beautifully decorated and candlelit church made this service very special.

The Crib Services.

Yet again both Crib Services were very well attended with standing room only at 5pm. It is very helpful to have the younger children at the 3.30pm service when there is space to accommodate most of the pushchairs, although some had to be parked outside. It was wonderful to have so many families with us – Christmas Eve being on a Sunday this year – and to know that the true

meaning of Christmas was put at the heart of everyone's celebrations. Our Vicar was on splendid form coping with over 600 at the two packed services and, as ever, the singing of the last carol, *Good King Wenceslas*, saw a draw between the 'Kings' and the 'Pages' – the Vicar gave each a “9”.

Midnight and Christmas Day.

Packed congregations celebrated with these very moving, traditional services with the children showing their presents on Christmas day. A huge vote of thanks to Harold Lester and the choir for all the inspirational music provided over this period. It is a real delight to realise just how lovely our organ is as its restoration proceeds. Very many thanks also to Jennifer Shaw and her team of flower arrangers. Their decorations were beautiful and set the scene perfectly. They were very grateful for the generous donations given for the flowers and hope the donors liked what they saw.

We are so privileged to be able to take part in such a joyous Christmas celebration with so many people contributing to it and with the leadership of our Vicar, John Cleaver.

*Susan Jacobs, June Demont,
Veronica Baker*

Welcare

A very grateful *Thank You* to everyone for their very generous donations. We had the pleasure of taking a car absolutely full to its roof with presents and a cash donation of £450.00 to Welcare. Seventy children were at the party and had a marvellous time. Your support is very much appreciated.

Margaret Squire

Parish Registers

Funerals – *We remember with thanksgiving the lives of:*

7 December: Charles Whiteway.

21 December: Amy Pyle.

Lent Group

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 21st February and the Lent Group will meet for a five week course, beginning on Wednesday 28th, in the Mina Hogan Room, from 10.30 – 12.00 noon. We will be following a course provided by York Courses, which is a format we have used once or twice before. This year's topic, to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in this country, is *Can we build a better world? Learning from William Wilberforce*. It would be useful if those wishing to attend could sign the list at the back of the church in time for enough booklets to be ordered. They are £3.50 each, payable later. The group is open to everyone.

Susan Jacobs – 020 8943 0503

Valentine

For God so loved the world,
That He gave
His only
Begotten
Son
That whosoever
Believeth in Him
Should Not Perish,
But have Everlasting Life.

John 3:16

C. N. Services

Diary for February

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 Holy Communion every Wednesday at 9.30am.

Saturday 3rd	Wedding of Oliver Holloway and Georgina Key at 1.30pm.
Sunday 4th	Education Sunday. Parade and Family Service at 9.45am that marks the start of the 175th anniversary celebration of our Church School. The preacher is Anji Phillips, Director of Education and Children's Services in the London Borough of Richmond.
Tuesday 6th	Hampton Deanery Synod at 8.00pm at St Mary's, Hampton.
Wednesday 7th	First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan Room, 12.30 – 2.00pm. Topic: Religious education in schools – John Logan, Head of our Church School. 7.30pm. Church School Governors' Meeting.
Thursday 8th	Service at St Paul's Cathedral at 7.00pm to launch the second phase of 'London Challenge'.
Sunday 11th	Second Sunday before Lent. Holy Baptism at 2.45pm.
Sunday 18th	Sunday before Lent.
Wednesday 21st	Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Sunday 25th	The First Sunday in Lent.

And looking ahead

Friday March 2nd Women's World Day of Prayer.
The local service is at 7.30pm at St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Road, Teddington.