

Thomas Traherne Lives On

The 17th century poet and mystic Thomas Traherne, was a past incumbent of this church and is buried here, having spent his earlier years as rector of Credenhill, a parish in the diocese of Hereford. The cathedral has recognised his works by commissioning four stained glass windows which are located in its recently-restored Audley chapel. Over a period of 6 months, the internationally-renowned glass artist Tom Denny created the windows, each depicting a different theme of Traherne's writings.

On Passion Sunday (25th March 2007), the windows were dedicated during a choral evensong service, which was attended by more than 300 people. In the commendation part of the proceedings, 10 adults and two children who were connected in some way with Thomas Traherne, read short passages from his works as illustrated in each of the windows.

The Dean of Hereford, The Very Reverend Michael Tavinor hosted an early evening drinks party the previous day, and I was privileged to meet the Bishop of Hereford, The Right Reverend Anthony Priddis; he informed me that he had trained many years ago with our own Bishop Michael of

Kensington. Also present were Tom Denny and The Reverend Richard Birt, who is the Chairman of the Traherne Association which was established in the early 1990s.

In 1982, I was sharing university accommodation with a music student called Stephen Challenger. 25 years later, the two of us were taking part in the same service, with me reading one of the short passages and Stephen, who is a tenor in the cathedral's choir, singing a solo of Traherne's poem *Salutation*; this had been set to music by Gerald Finzi in his composition *Dies Natalis* (Day of Birth) which was commissioned for the abandoned Hereford Three Choirs Festival in 1939.

After the service, the congregation enjoyed refreshments, including bara brith and locally-produced apple juice, and talked enthusiastically about Traherne's poetry.

333 years after his death, Thomas Traherne lives on through his writings, and no article about him would be complete without a quotation from his works: *You never enjoy the world aright till the sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars.* Centuries I, 29.

David Power, Churchwarden

SERVICES: **SUNDAYS:** Holy Communion at 8.00am
Family Communion and Sunday School at 9.45am
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)

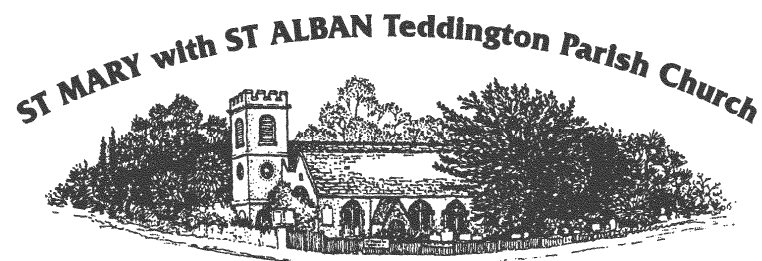
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Harold Lester (8878 0021)

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



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2007

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

A Month of Celebration

June is the month of our Patronal Festival. The parish has long had a connection with St Alban and we have used his feast day, June 22nd, for a number of years now as a time of prayer and thanksgiving for the parish. On the Sunday (the 24th) we will be celebrating 10 years of the life of our refurbished parish hall in Langham Road. It was in June 1997 that the Bishop of London came and dedicated the still uncompleted building. He is sorry that he cannot join us for our Festival Family Communion at 9.45 that morning. However he sends congratulations and best wishes to us all. I am glad that many of our professional advisers at the time will be with us, though it is a pity that our architect, Mike Morris, will not be able to be with us because of recent illness.

On that morning we shall also be launching our long awaited parish website whose address is: www.stmarywithstalban.org I am grateful to our senior warden David Power and our excellent professional team who have worked long and hard on this project. This should be an important part of our outreach to the whole community and beyond.

Earlier this month we have a Flower Festival based on the Saints, and this will be on Saturday/Sunday 9th/10th, which on the Sunday coincides with the annual Teddington in Flower. If our festival three years ago is anything to go by we should have a lot of people passing through the

church that weekend. The Sunday services will be at 8.00 and 9.45am as usual and there is a Baptism at 12.30pm.

So there is much to look forward to this month and much to thank God for. Here is a prayer for the parish you might like to use:

"Almighty God, you have made us members of Christ and of his Church in this parish. May we as a congregation reach upwards to your throne in worship and adoration: inwards to one another in understanding and fellowship and outwards to the world in evangelism and social compassion. Make us like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden, so that all may find Christ as the light of the world, and his Church as the family of the redeemed, and eternal life as the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

(written by Maurice Wood, a former Bishop of Norwich)

From my scrapbook

There has been a good deal of correspondence in the papers recently from people with surnames that have caused them problems, often with hilarious results. This one from a reader in Middlesbrough to *The Daily Telegraph* really made my day. The gentleman concerned was named George Heron.

"When handing in some clothes for dry cleaning the young lady assistant seemed to be having trouble with my name. Heron, I said, Heron, as in bird. Later I looked at my ticket – Mr Azinburd."

With best wishes to you all.

John Cleaver

Joan Pugh

My family and I would like to thank everyone who so generously gave donations in memory of Joan. Thanks to their generosity over £500 was collected which is being sent to The Foundation and Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to purchase books for their library.

Alan Pugh

Quiz Night Success

Many thanks to everyone who supported the St Mary Teddington Bell team's quiz night on 28th April. Eight teams turned out to enjoy an evening of wine, fish and chips and pointless trivia, and congratulations go to the "Various Artists" team who beat off stiff competition to romp home with a winning 86 points! The evening made just over £400, which will be used to purchase new music and various other essential items for the bell team."

Christine Walker

Church Flower Festival: 9th-10th June



"All sorts of flowers the which on earth do spring
In goodly colours gloriously arrayed."

On June 2nd we celebrate the birth near Worcester 150 years ago of Sir Edward Elgar, hailed as the greatest English composer since Henry Purcell, 200 years previously. His "Enigma" remains.....

Parish Registers

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

15 April: Amber, daughter of Mark and Ann Sinclair-Potter; Elizabeth and Charles, children of Robert and Jane Norris; Thomas James, son of Daniel and Joanna Earp.

29 April: Honor Susan, daughter of Paul and Katie Avon.

6 May: Edward George Henry and Tom William John, sons of Alan and Jennifer Hunt; Charles Ethan, son of Paul and Jane Stallard.

Wedding – *We wish every blessing on the marriage of:*

7 May: Nawtej Dosanjh and Amanda Jane Root.

Funeral – *We remember with thanksgiving the life of:*

9 May: Stephen Valentine.

A Home for Clothes and Toys

As Parish Representative for Welcare, I am very kindly offered things that children have outgrown to give to Welcare families. Unfortunately I have always had to refuse the offer as Welcare doesn't have the facilities for storage or distribution. However, The Children's Storehouse, a Christian organisation, receives and distributes donations of good quality clothes, toys and equipment suitable for children up to the age of 11. Families are referred by Health Visitors, Social Workers and organisations such as Welcare, and they can then visit the centre and choose what they need for free.

The Storehouse is open Thursdays 10-1.00pm term time only, and is based at The Vineyard Centre, 513 Browells Lane, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 7EQ (near cinema complex). If you have anything to donate give Doris or Anne a ring on 020 8890 2626 or fax 020 8890 3999, or email storehouse@riversidevineyard.com

They are also looking for volunteers to help.

Margaret Squire

Diary for June

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.

Sunday 3rd	Trinity Sunday.
Tuesday 5th	Meeting of Hampton Deanery Synod at 8.00pm.
Wednesday 6th	First Wednesday Club in the Mina Hogan Room from 12.30 until 2.00pm. Topic: "Do Miracles Really Happen?" Please bring sandwiches – drinks provided.
Saturday 9th/ Sunday 10th	Church Flower Festival.
Sunday 10th	Holy Baptism at 12.30pm. Teddington in Flower from 2.00pm.
Tuesday 12th	Confirmation Class in the Parish Office at 7.30pm.
Wednesday 13th	Meeting of Church School Governors at the school at 7.30pm.
Friday 15th	The Vicar is on duty at St Paul's Cathedral and will celebrate Holy Communion at 12.30pm.
Saturday 16th	Wedding of Daniel James Rolton and Camilla Mary Jackson at 3.30pm.
Sunday 17th	Trinity 2. United Service of Holy Communion at Teddington Hospital at 3.30pm, sponsored by Churches Together in Teddington.
Thursday 21st	Church School Arts Evening from 5.00 until 7.00pm.
Friday 22nd	Feast of St Alban. Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Sunday 24th	Patronal Festival Special Family Communion Service to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the refurbished hall and the launch of the parish website – www.stmarywithstalban.org – at 9.45am.
Friday 29th	Feast of St Peter. Holy Communion at 9.30am. Induction of the Revd. Jack Knill-Jones as Vicar of St Peter and St Paul Teddington at 8.00pm.
Saturday 30th	Church School summer fair from 2.00pm.

And looking ahead

Sunday July 1st	Teddington River Festival.
Sunday July 8th	Sea Sunday. Parade and Family Service at 9.45am when we welcome members of the local branch of the RNLI.

