

## Heartfelt Appreciation.....

.....to the members of both congregations on Sunday 28th January for their kindness and generosity to the World Leprosy Day retiring collection. We have been able to send £424.36 to the Leprosy Mission to support the specialist care given to patients and families.

*Mary Oughtred*

## Parish Registers

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

11 February: Talia Nicole, daughter of Matthew and Denece Hart.

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

3 February: Oliver Holloway and Georgina Key.

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

19 January: Lorraine Roderick.

23 January: Jeffrey Larwood.

31 January: Basil Dixon.

## A Mother's Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray my sanity to keep.  
For if some peace I do not find  
I'm pretty sure I'll lose my mind.

I pray I find a little quiet,  
Far from the daily family riot.  
May I lie back and not have to think  
Of what they're stuffing down the sink.

Or who they're with, or where they're at,  
And what they're doing to the cat.  
I pray for time all to myself.  
(Did something just fall off a shelf?)

To cuddle in my nice, soft bed;  
(Oh no, another goldfish dead!)  
Some silent moments for goodness sake.  
(Did I just hear a window break?)

And that I need not cook or clean  
(Well goodness, even I can dream!)  
So, now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray my wits about me keep.

But as I look around I know  
I must have lost them long ago!

CNS

## ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007

### VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

#### The Season of Lent.....

.....will be well underway by the time this newsletter is published. The word "Lent" means "Spring" – a time of fresh growth and new hope. Lent is not really a time for giving things up – though some may find this discipline helpful. Rather it is a time to look again at our relationships with God, the world and community, and with each other.

Down the centuries lots of things have been written about God. Here are a few of them that you might find helpful at this time of year.

"God is more truly imagined than expressed, and he exists more truly than he is imagined." *St Augustine of Hippo.*

"A God who let us prove his existence would be an idol." *Dietrich Bonhoeffer.*

"For in him we live and move and have our being." *Acts 17:28.*

"My great concern is not whether God is on our side; my great concern is to be on God's side." *Abraham Lincoln.*

"It is a mistake to suppose that God is only, or even chiefly, concerned with religion." *William Temple.*

"In every place where you find the imprint of men's feet there am I." *The Jewish Talmud.*

And George Herbert summed it all up so well in the words of his well-known hymn:

"Teach me my God and King  
In all things thee to see,  
And what I do in anything

To do it as for thee."

#### Our new neighbour

I am delighted that our neighbouring parish of St Peter and St Paul have not had to wait too long before knowing who will follow Shane Wood as their Vicar. He is the Revd Jack Knill-Jones who is at present working in the Diocese of Wakefield as Vicar of Airedale. He will be joining us in June with his wife and family. They can be assured of a warm welcome in Teddington and we look forward to welcoming them to St Mary's in the not-too-distant future.

#### Thomas Traherne.....

.....was a 17th century mystical writer who was born and brought up in Hereford but spent the last three years of his life as minister of this parish and Chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman. He is buried in the Churchyard. We have a memorial to him in the Church, he is represented on the East End Window and is mentioned on the Incumbents' Board by the font. There has recently been a resurgence of interest in his work although he has always been honoured in the Diocese of Hereford and in its Cathedral. A new chapel window has been commissioned by the Dean and Chapter and it is to be dedicated on March 25th. We sent a contribution from this parish towards the cost of this new window to mark our connection with him in Teddington. Our senior warden, David Power, will be representing us at this service and the Dean has asked him to take a small part in it. We shall look forward to

**SERVICES:** SUNDAYS: Holy Communion (Prayer Book) 8am  
Family Communion (Common Worship Sung Eucharist with Sermon) 9.45am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL: (most Sundays) 9.30am for 9.40am in the Church Hall, Langham Road.  
WEDNESDAYS: Holy Communion, 9.30am  
SAINTS DAYS and other days as announced

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

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Mr Harold Lester (8878 0021)

**CHURCH WARDENS:** Miss S. Cooper, 3 Thelma Grove, Teddington TW11 9AQ (8977 7206)  
Mr D. Power, 76 Field Lane, Teddington TW11 9AS (8943 5194)

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

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

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

hearing about this occasion in a future newsletter. We all need to be reminded from time to time that the Church exists beyond our boundaries into England and beyond.

### **Annual Parochial Meeting**

This is to be on Tuesday April 24th in the hall. Prior to this the Church electoral roll has to be completely revised and everyone has to sign a new form. This process is well underway and many have already submitted their completed forms to our electoral roll officer, June Hill. If you come to the Church and are over 16 you are entitled to be on the roll. Forms are available in Church and can be left there when completed.

### **Confirmation 2008**

This may seem a long way off (it is on February 4th at 10am) but this is an advance notice about the preliminary meeting for all those interested. This will be held straight after Family Communion on Sunday April 29th.

### **From my scrapbook**

Some words by William Arthur Ward:

“Four questions I should ask myself each night:

- Was I easy to live with today?
- Was I pleasant to work with?
- Did I help someone along the way?
- Did I grow a bit today?.”

With best wishes to you all.

*John Cleaver*

### **Christian Unity Sunday**

Sunday 21st January 2007 was Christian Unity Sunday. In recognition of this, a United Service was held at the Sacred Heart church, sponsored by Churches Together in Teddington. Father John Deehan welcomed the full congregation, and the service opened with prayers and the enchanting singing of *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*. All the sung psalms and hymns were accompanied by the church's orchestra, which included

an acoustic guitar.

Deacon Duncan Macpherson took the homily and said that, whilst there were differences between the various denominations, there was unity on three key aspects: the Bible's teachings, the Holy Spirit and a united mission to defeat world poverty. In support of this, a retiring collection had been set up for *Phakamisa*, a charity that provides support and education in the AIDS-ravaged KwaZulu Natal province of South Africa.

At the end of the service, everyone was invited to have refreshments and use this opportunity to meet new friends. Thanks go to all those at the Sacred Heart for both organising and hosting the United Service.

*David Power*

### **Commemorative Stamps**

On Saturday 24th March, the eve of the 200th anniversary of the passing of the Act to end the slave trade, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are to lead a walk of witness through London. They will be accompanied by an African drummer beating a lament. Churches are encouraged to send supporters to the march.

The General Synod voted last year to apologise for the Church's involvement with the trade, from which bishops, clerics and lay people benefited. The National Trust has expressed regret that some of its grand houses were built with money gained from slavery.

The Royal Mail is to issue a set of commemorative stamps on 22nd March featuring six campaigners against the trade. The poet Hannah More is seen against the title page of her work, *The Sorrows of Yamba*. The former slave Ignatius Sancho, who became an accomplished composer as well as a grocer, appears against the background of one of his trade cards.

The other stamps will feature the Evangelical Parliamentarian William Wilberforce; the former slave Olaudah

Equiano; and Thomas Clarkson and Granville Sharp.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill, said that Christians should now combine “to stop the new people-trafficking around the globe”.

*Church Times*

### **St David's Day**

March 1st is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom “an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request” – but nobody knows

the reason. Why anyone should have “requested” that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint is a mystery. We do know that David – or Dafydd – of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century.

In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others – living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

*Church News Service*

### **Diary for March**

*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.*

Thursday 1st	St David's Day.
Friday 2nd	Women's World Day of Prayer. Local Service at St Peter and St Paul Teddington at 7.30pm.
Sunday 4th	Second Sunday in Lent.
Wednesday 7th	Lent Course in the Mina Hogan Room from 10.30am until 12.00 noon.
Sunday 11th	Third Sunday in Lent.
Tuesday 13th	Hall Committee Meeting at 7.30pm.
Wednesday 14th	Lent Course in the Mina Hogan Room from 10.30am until 12.00 noon.
Saturday 17th	St Patrick's Day. Holy Communion at 9.30am.
<b>Sunday 18th</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday.</b> Special parade and family service for Mothering Sunday, including presentation of flowers, at 9.45am.
Tuesday 20th	The Institution of the Revd Peter Vannozi as Vicar of St James' Hampton Hill at 8.00pm.
Wednesday 21st	Lent Course in the Mina Hogan Room from 10.30am until 12.00 noon.
Sunday 25th	Passion Sunday and the Feast of the Annunciation. Meeting by the Church Council after Family Communion to approve the annual accounts. We are responsible for the service at Teddington Hospital at 4.00pm.
Wednesday 28th	Lent Course in the Mina Hogan Room from 10.30am until 12.00 noon.
Saturday 31st	Bach: <i>St John Passion</i> performed by Twickenham Choral Society in Kingston Parish Church at 8.00pm.

### **And looking ahead**

Sunday April 1st is Palm Sunday..