

Mothering Sunday, 18th March

The Church was full to overflowing for the Mothering Sunday Service as we celebrated and gave thanks for family life in general and mothers in particular. The 2nd A Teddington Guides, including the Brownies and Rainbows, and the 1st Teddington Scouts, including the Beavers, Cubs and Explorers, made a colourful parade, much admired by the younger member of the congregation and we were treated to some wonderful music played by Janet Smith and Chris Thresh on violins, Katherine Smith on cello, Harold Lester at organ and piano, Jamie Hindley on saxophone. Beethoven's Trio Opus 11 in B flat was played and Katherine played the first movement of Schumann's Cello Concerto.

The Vicar spoke eloquently and, at times, humorously of the importance of families in society, and the special role of mothers. The giving of the flowers to all the mothers present was a highlight of the service, and thanks must go to the team of fathers who made up the beautiful posies the previous evening.

After the service the Tradecraft Stall and the Brownies' cake stand did brisk business.

Minnie Harris

Parish Registers

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

1 April: Harry Gerard Hugh, son of Simon and Sarah Davey; Hannah Elizabeth, daughter of David and Louise Young; Faye Emily, daughter of Robert and Denise Flower.

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

21 March: Joan Pugh.

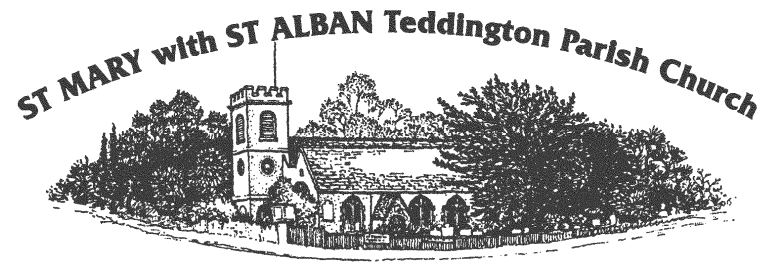
26 March: Ernest Harold.

Can you help the Sunday School?

St Mary's Sunday School is looking for an administrator. Responsibilities would involve co-ordinating the teaching team and helpers, planning lessons, organising special events such as a summer outing and maintaining the School's register.

If you are interested in joining the Sunday School team in this important role, please contact Hugo Studholme on 8943 3214 for details

Hugo Studholme



NEWSLETTER MAY 2007

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

A Good Read

Recently there was a newspaper article that reversed what happens on Desert Island Discs on Radio 4. We were invited to choose eight books and one record. These had to be books that we couldn't do without. This set me thinking and going once again to my bookshelves. On the desert island the Bible and Shakespeare are given, and I would do the same hoping that a copy of the Book of Common Prayer could be bound with the Authorised Version of the Bible to make one book. I would also include a World Atlas and a good English dictionary.

So that leaves four. What would I pick? At first sight it wasn't easy but then it became so as I realised what was important for me. And this I knew.

I would begin with Morris West's novel about the Roman Catholic Church, *The Shoes of the Fisherman*. It is the story of the first cardinal from a communist country to be elected Pope. History has of course overtaken fiction with Pope John Paul from Poland; but it is an excellent novel and one that never fails to give me pleasure.

The same is true of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. It is his finest work, and one of the best detective stories ever written. It is set on Dartmoor which I know. This can be a very beautiful place or seem very dark and threatening. It is almost possible to experience all four seasons in one morning as you drive across it. Doyle sets the scene

well and draws his characters very effectively.

Now, as they say, for something completely different. This is William Cobbett's *Rural Rides*, that was first published in 1830 and is set in and around the Home Counties. Indeed it starts with him crossing Richmond Bridge into Middlesex. On the back of the Penguin Classics edition of the book it says:

"Recording a number of fact-finding tours made on horseback through the south of England, it seesaws between evocative and accurate descriptions of the beauties of the countryside, and indignant outbursts at the mushroom growth of cities and the suffering of the exploited poor. For Cobbett saw the old rural England in its death struggle, and his book stands as a memorial to it. It is also the self-portrait of a remarkable Englishman – manly, blunt, pragmatic, sometimes choleric – whose closest counterpart in our time as writer and man, was probably George Orwell."

Finally poetry. And here I have a problem. There are two and that would make nine which is not allowed. So perhaps an enterprising publisher could bind them together for me: T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* and the *Collected Poems of John Betjeman*.

In his new book Eliot contemplated time and experience from the perspective of his newly found Anglo-Catholic faith. So the last poem, *Little Gidding*, ends:

"We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the

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

first time.... and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well. When the tongues of flame are in-folded into the crowned knot of fire, and the fire and the rose are one.”

So there is my choice. It is inevitably subjective and you will each have your own. And of course we mustn't forget the music. Just one piece. Now that is hard. Elgar, Mozart, *et al.*.... In the end there is one work that I return to time and time again and that I could not be without. It is Beethoven's final Symphony, *The Choral*. That has to be my choice.

So much fine literature. So much fine music. How fortunate we are that we can enjoy it. We really should give thanks to God more than we do for words and music. For how barren our lives would be without them!

Ten Years On

It hardly seems possible that it was in June 1997 that the Bishop of London visited us to dedicate our newly refurbished hall. In the intervening decade it has proved to be a very positive resource for the whole community and is fully booked most of the time. We shall be remembering these ten years at a special Family Communion service on Sunday June 24 at 9.45am and I hope many of our 'professional team' at the time will be able to join us. This coincides with our Patronal Festival and the launch of our parish website. I hope that you will be able to join us that morning.

Christian Aid Week

Before these celebrations we have Christian Aid Week once again this month, with our special commissioning service on Sunday May 13 at 9.45am. As usual we are called on to be as generous as possible. The need is well-known. The need is well-publicised. The need is getting worse. The world's resources are there and sufficient. They are just distributed so inequally. Christian Aid Week gives us a chance to rectify this a bit.

From my scrapbook

Words from the book that we studied in lent. They are by Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite lay brother from the 17th century:

“The whole substance of religion is faith, hope, and love.... all things are possible to him that believes, they are less difficult to him that hopes, they are more easy to him who loves, and still more easy to him who perseveres in the practice of these three virtues”.

With best wishes to you all.

John Cleaver

Lent 2007

Once again a group has met in St Mary's Parish Hall on five Wednesday mornings, thoughtfully led by Hilary Adamson and Susan Jacobs.

We have used as a focus for our deliberations this year's issue of one of the York Courses, which originated under Dr David Hope in 1997, written by Canon John Young. This year's contributors have been Dr Sentamu, Archbishop of York, Wendy Craig, the Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths and a group of nuns from the Poor Clare Convent shown on the BBC programme.

With the work of William Wilberforce running through the sessions, centred on *Can we build a better world?* we have thought about: the elimination of today's slavery, the deepening of friendship and prayer, how to learn from the struggles of the past, rely more on the Bible as a 'mainstay' and consideration of what can be the impact of recognising errors and misjudgements in both private and community life for the benefit of all.

There have been 18 members of the group and there can be little doubt that our sharing and collective thoughts have been meaningful to each and all of us.

*A personal contribution by
a member of the Group*

Flower Festival 9th & 10th June 2007

As part of *Teddington in Bloom*, St Mary with St Alban will be having a flower festival titled *A Celebration of Saints*.

We are currently looking for people who would like to sponsor a floral display. This could be as an individual, a family of a company.

We would like you to choose a Saint that you would like to see depicted and dedicate the display to someone in remembrance or in celebration e.g. a grandchild, a new baby, an organisation's work, a loved one,

an anniversary – the possibilities are endless.

This can be a small or large display or part of a bigger interpretation.

If you would like to come along and arrange your own flowers, please contact us.

For more information contact Kathy Gold on 8977 8668 or look for the leaflets in church.

Please come along on the 9th and 10th June to see the displays between 1.30 and 6.00pm.

Kathy Gold

Diary for May

*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.*

Wednesday 2nd	First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan Room 12.30-2.00pm. Topic: "Friendship".
Thursday 3rd	Church School Governors' meeting at 7.00pm.
Friday 4th	Visit to Church by classes from Newland House School at 2.15pm.
Sunday 6th	Fifth Sunday of Easter. Holy Baptism at 2.45pm.
Monday 7th	Marriage of Nawtej Dosanjh and Amanda Root at 2.00pm.
Thursday 10th	Hampton Deanery Chapter Meeting at St Stephen's at 11.30am. Parochial Church Council Meeting in Church at 7.45pm. As this is the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting the evening will begin with Holy Communion.
Sunday 13th	Christian Aid Week begins. Family and Parade service at 9.45am.
15th-18th	Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park from 10.00am-5.00pm.
Thursday 17th	Ascension Day. Sung Eucharist at 8.00pm.
Saturday 19th	Marriage of Christopher Roberts and Rachel Weston at 3.00pm.
Sunday 20th	Sunday after Ascension. We are responsible for the hospital service at 4.00pm.
Tuesday 22nd	Churches Together in Teddington at 8.00pm at the Baptist Church.
Sunday 27th	WhitSunday.
28th May-1st June	School Half Term.

And looking ahead

Saturday June 2nd Churchyard Tidy Up in preparation for *Teddington in Flower* and our Flower Festival on Sunday 10th June.
From 9.00am. Please bring tools. Coffee and biscuits provided.