

### And finally.....

....on their way to get married, a young Catholic couple were involved in a fatal car crash. They found themselves outside the Pearly Gates. While waiting, they begin to wonder: Could they possibly get married in Heaven? When St Peter showed up, they asked him. St Peter said, "Let me go and find out", and he left.

The couple sat and waited. Two months passed. As they waited, they discussed that IF they were allowed to get married in Heaven, SHOULD they? "What if it doesn't work?" they wondered. "Are we stuck FOREVER?"

Finally, St Peter returned, looking somewhat ragged. "Yes", he informed the couple, "you CAN get married in Heaven." "Great!" said the couple, "But we were just wondering, what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

St Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard onto the ground. "OH, COME ON!" he shouted. "It took me three months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea how long it'll take me to find a solicitor?!"

*Church News Service*

### Parish Registers

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

15 July: Matthew Christopher Mansel, son of Philip and Barbara Barnes.

29 July: Evie May, daughter of Lee and Justine Dorman; Phoebe Yi, daughter of Mark and Sophie Tan.

5 August: Annabel Grace, daughter of Kenneth and Rachael Macpherson.

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

4 August: Mark Watson and Laura Duffey; Bradley James and Melanie Adams.

8 August: Andrew Powell and Sonia Gould.

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

3 August: Rose Nixon; Keira Brown.

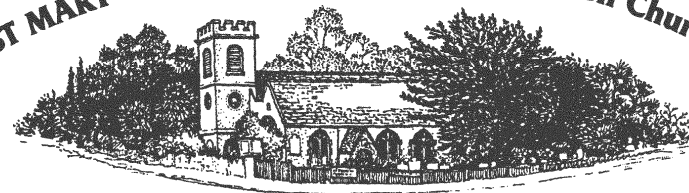
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*The red-breast whistles from a garden croft,  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

*John Keats*



## ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2007

### VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

#### Christian Aid Tea

We associate Christian Aid with the week of the house-to-house collection that takes place every May sponsored by Churches Together in Teddington. But of course the work of Christian Aid goes on throughout the year; our newspapers and television screens remind us almost daily of the urgency of both Christian Aid's emergency relief work and the long-term planning and help they give to impoverished communities in the world.

On Friday 21st September the whole country has been asked to take tea for Christian Aid at 4.00pm – the traditional English tea time. As the Director of Christian Aid, Daleep Mukarji, writes:

"On 21st September 2007 people all over the country will be coming together to have a cup of tea and raise money for Christian Aid. It will help Christian Aid's vital work. Christian Aid works with some of the world's poorest communities in almost 50 countries, helping people to tackle the problems they face to build the life they deserve. We help give people a better future irrespective of religion, by enabling local organisations to provide clean water, food, healthcare, education and ways to earn a living. We believe in life before death for everyone, especially for the world's poorest communities. So this tea party in September is more than just a get together with your friends. It is an event that will help us in our goal to end poverty around

the world."

So we shall be having a tea party here on that day in the Mina Hogan room in the parish hall from 3.30 until 6.00pm. More details will be available later but please keep the afternoon free and come along and join us for a cup of tea to end poverty.

#### More members needed – and quickly!

You will have noticed that numbers in our church choir are going down. Some people have moved away and sadly some have died. We can always find people to sing on special occasions like the carol service, but we need people who will sing regularly at Family Communion. It is obvious that we do have some excellent voices in the congregation! If you are willing to help have a word with me or our Director of Music, Harold. If you are put off by the fact that choir practice at the moment is on Friday evenings at 6.30, well this day and time are not cast in stone. Other days and times can be found I am sure. So please come forward if you are interested.

#### 175 Years old

Last month John Logan, the head of our Church school, wrote about the visit of the Earl of Wessex to mark this anniversary. The week of Monday 8th to Friday 12th October is the actual anniversary week. Lots of activities are planned that you will hear about in due course which culminate in an Open Day at the school on Friday 12th. The concluding service of thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 14th October at Teddington School, by kind

<b>SERVICES:</b>	<b>SUNDAYS:</b> Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am. No Sunday School during August. <b>WEDNESDAYS &amp; SAINTS DAYS :</b> Holy Communion at 9.30am
<b>VICAR:</b>	The Revd. John Cleaver, The Vicarage, 11 Twickenham Road, Teddington TW11 8AQ (8977 2767)
<b>CHURCH WARDENS:</b>	David Power, 76 Field Lane, Teddington TW11 9AS (8943 5194) Sheila Cooper, 3 Thelma Grove, Teddington TW11 9AQ (8977 7206)
<b>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:</b>	Harold Lester (8878 0021)
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR &amp; HALL BOOKINGS:</b>	Gillian Burgess (8943 2262)
<b>CHURCH SCHOOL:</b>	St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476)
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITORS:</b>	Susan Jacobs (8943 0503), Sheila Groom (8977 9399) and Veronica Baker
<b>PARISH WEBSITE:</b>	<a href="http://www.stmarywithstalban.org">www.stmarywithstalban.org</a>

permission of Richard Weeks, the headmaster.

The teacher will be the Chairman of the London Diocesan Board for Schools, the Ven Stephen Welch, who is Archdeacon of Middlesex. Both the Mayor of Richmond and the MP for Twickenham will be with us as well as other guests. All are welcome to join us at 3.00pm that afternoon.

### From my scrapbook

Some challenging, even controversial, words from Phyllis McGinley in her book "The province of the heart in defence of sin":

"Sin has always been an ugly word, but it has been made so in a new sense over the past half century. It has been made not only ugly but passé. People are no longer sinful; they are only immature or underprivileged or frightened or, more particularly, sick."

With best wishes to you all

*John Cleaver*

### Strawberry Tea

Sandwiched between days of torrential rain and bracing breezes, Wednesday 11th July developed by lunchtime into a lovely sunny, warm afternoon, thus giving the visitors to Margaret and Fred Squire's pretty garden a most enjoyable couple of hours. The selection of handmade sandwiches, scones and cakes was impressive enough, but when topped off by luscious strawberries and cream and washed down by copious pots of tea, the event turned into a veritable banquet. I doubt if anyone there needed any further sustenance that day. As in previous years this sociable event provided us with an opportunity to chat to old friends and to make new ones. Many thanks to the "kitchen gang", the cake makers and to our gracious hosts.

*Susan Jacobs*

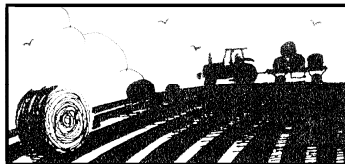


### Welcare Summer Trip

The summer trip this year is going to be to Bocketts Farm, an outing that has proved very popular in the past, especially as some of the children have never seen a farm before. A coach is hired to take the families, and the outing also includes a picnic.

Welcare would like to thank everyone for the £114 raised by the Strawberry Tea.

*Margaret Squire*



### First Wednesday Club

After our summer break the meetings resume on Wednesday 5th in the Mina Hogan Room at 12.30pm with, this month, a slightly altered format. We shall be viewing *The Walk*, a half hour film produced by the Bible Society, written by Murray Watts and performed by Andrew Harrison, in which we follow William Wilberforce on his remarkable mission to secure the abolition of the slave trade in Britain. There will be time for discussion about the film afterwards and, if anyone has visited any of the current exhibitions on the theme of the slave trade, of those too. Bring your own sandwiches as usual.

*Susan Jacobs*

### Back to Church Sunday – 30th September

More than 17,000 people are expected to return to church at the end of this month as Back to Church Sunday expands to take in 1,700 churches across England. In all, more than 1 in 10 of the Church of England's churches are taking part across 19 dioceses.

The Bishop of Manchester said: "The growth of Back to Church Sunday could prove one of the most effective aspects of the Church's witness."

CNS

### It's Tea Time and You're All Invited.....

.....for a cup of tea and a slice of delicious homemade cake on Friday 21st September in the Mina Hogan Room from 3.30pm until 6pm. No charge will be made but a suggested donation of £5 will be greatly appreciated.



*Help people in the world's poorest communities work their way out of poverty.*

### Diary for September

*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 2nd	Trinity 13. Holy Baptism at 2.45pm.
Wednesday 5th	First Wednesday Club in the Mina Hogan Room at 12.30pm.
Saturday 8th	Wedding at 2.30pm.
Sunday 9th	The Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Baptism at 2.45pm.
Tuesday 11th	Hall Committee Meeting at 7.30pm.
Sunday 16th	Holy Cross Day.
Tuesday 18th	Confirmation Class in church at 7.30pm.
Thursday 20th	Parochial Church Council meeting in the Mina Hogan Room at 7.45pm.
Friday 21st	St Matthew. Holy Communion at 9.30am. Christian Aid Tea Party in the Mina Hogan Room at 3.30pm ( <i>See Vicar's Viewpoint</i> ).
Sunday 23rd	Trinity 16.
Tuesday 25th	Hampton Deanery Chapter meeting in the hall at 11.30am. Churches Together in Teddington AGM in the Baptist Church at 8.00pm.
Wednesday 26th	Meeting of Church School Governors at the school at 7.30pm.
Friday 28th	Vicar on duty at St Paul's Cathedral from noon.
Saturday 29th	<b>Teddington Bells Concert in the hall at 8.00pm. Tickets £5 (8943 0405)</b>
Sunday 30th	Michaelmas.

### And looking ahead

Harvest Festival is on 7th October.

Commemoration Service to mark the 175th anniversary of the Church School is on Sunday 14th October at Teddington School.