

Mothering Sunday – 2nd March

Mothering Sunday is always a wonderful service at St Mary with St Alban and this year was no exception. On arrival we were greeted by the sound of beautiful music from the orchestra. After the Parade Service procession, the vicar announced that the service was in fact two celebrations: Mothering Sunday and Fairtrade Fortnight, a theme continued in the vicar's excellent sermon reminding us how fortunate we are and of our duty as Christians to help others. On a lighter note, laughter filled the church when the vicar confessed to having watched the previous evening's Eurovision Song Contest, and that he and his wife Diane had probably cast the winning two votes.

The gift of flowers was the highlight of the service. While the first movement of the *Sonata for Flute and Piano* by Poulenc was superbly performed by Joshua Powell, people young and old were invited to choose a daffodil posy as a gift for their mothers. Delighted smiles soon swept through the congregation.

To accompany us out, the orchestra performed the Bach *Double Violin Concerto*, a fitting conclusion to a wonderful celebration. The Fairtrade theme continued in the Hall over coffee where there was a Traidcraft Stall which was quite

well supported. For the flowers, the music and the time given, a special thank you to everyone concerned for making this such a memorable occasion.

Diane Hindley

Later on Mothering Sunday an audience of about eighty heard a wonderful recital in church given by the recently formed Vardanyan String Quartet. Works by Schubert, Haydn, Mozart, Rowland-Jones and Beethoven ('Razumovsky') were thrillingly played by these four highly talented, professional young players – the cellist, Steffan Rees, is from Teddington and went to school locally. We wish them all well for the future. They have certainly made an impressive start.

Susan Jacobs

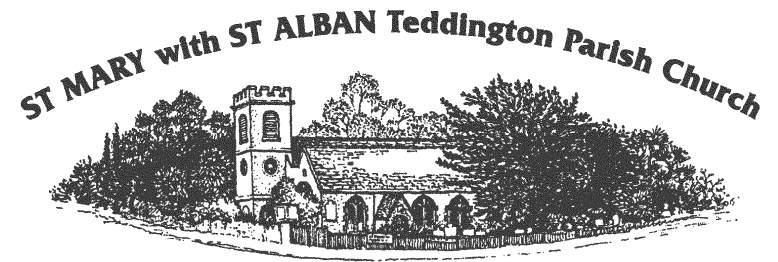
Parish Registers

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

10 February: Hamish John Michael, son of Christopher and Anne Greany.

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

28 February: Henrietta Griffin.



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

The Ascension

This is an acted parable by Jesus. He had to convince his followers that he was returning to his Father after the Resurrection. At that time everyone believed that Heaven was above the clouds, so the only way Jesus could convince them that his bodily presence was gone for good was to go up – to ascend. This feast (which the Church celebrates this year on May 1st) is often regarded as the coronation of Christ. As we shall sing on the Sunday:

“Hail the Day that sees him rise
To his throne above the skies”

Karl Rahner wrote of the Ascension:

“The Ascension is a festival of the future of the world. The flesh is redeemed and glorified, for the Lord has risen for ever. We Christians are, therefore, the most sublime materialists.”

And the great Baptist theologian Sangster said:

“I believe God gives a glory to every period of life. I believe that the people who are wise – the people who live with him – learn how to take the glory from each succeeding age. If you ask those people – those who have really learned the secret – at any stage of their life ‘What is the most glorious period of their life?’ they will always say ‘Now! Now!’”

This month....

sees our Annual Parochial Meeting. This is when churchwardens are elected, Parochial

Church Council members appointed, and this year too we have to elect members for the next three years to the Hampton Deanery Synod. It is also the occasion when we receive the audited annual accounts and can ask the Treasurer questions about our finances. We shall learn as well about much else that has gone on in the past year in our Church life. So please put the date and time in your diary: Tuesday April 22 at 8.00pm in the hall – and come and join us.

And finally

Newspapers often provide nuggets of gold that no amount of 24 hour TV can match. I was much amused by the story of a man convicted of bigamy. He was found out because he had invited the same guests to both weddings. The worrying thing is that that man also has a vote!!

The press too recently has been full of campaigns – against the expansion of Heathrow, the potential outlawing of bottled water, and the abolition of plastic bags in supermarkets. This is done to save the environment. I am tempted at times to think that this is little more than gesture politics. Far better to face up to the fact that China, where the Olympics are to be held in the summer, has the worst record in the world in destroying the environment let alone its appalling record on human rights. But it is not deemed politically expedient to upset the Chinese at the moment so we keep quiet and concentrate on our bottled water and plastic bags. What hypocrites we all are sometimes!

SERVICES: SUNDAYS: Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am
Family Communion (Common Worship) and Sunday School at 9.45am
WEDNESDAYS & SAINTS DAYS: Holy Communion (Prayer Book) 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) and Veronica Baker (8255 7178)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarywithstalban.org

And talking of campaigns, I am glad that there is a campaign locally to try to save the post office in Broad Street. I can't imagine why it is to be shut. It is always very busy and provides a real social need.

It is said that this decision comes after a period of public consultation. This usually is a sham, for decisions have probably already been made – witness Heathrow and the expansion of the Congestion Charge Zone, to name but two. It would seem that Sir Humphrey Appleby and *Yes Prime Minister* still live on!

From my Scrapbook

A poem by George Herbert that we considered in Church recently. A number of people have asked for a copy. This is set to music by Vaughan Williams as one of his Five Mystical Songs:

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death:

[Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest:

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.”

With best wishes to you all

John Cleaver

All change, all change

It has often been rumoured that churchwardens change light bulbs and clear out guttering. After 4 years in post, I can confirm that it is true. At the Annual Parochial Meeting (APM) this month, I shall be standing down as the senior churchwarden and handing over the reins to Sheila Cooper.

It seems no time since I was writing an article in 2004 about the churchwardens' induction at St Paul's cathedral. However, looking through my records I see there have

been many changes to the church during this time; a new roof, redecoration, new internal and external lights, upgraded organ and new notice boards to name a few.

I am particularly pleased that the church now has a website, which enlarges its outreach well beyond the parish boundaries. Interestingly, there have been several weddings and a baptism as a result of people visiting the website. In June it will be the first anniversary of its launch, and I look forward to seeing further developments over the coming years.

The duties associated with being a churchwarden are considerably varied, from personal meetings with the Bishop of Kensington to auctioning *Barbie* dolls as a fund-raising activity for the Sunday school. However, for me the greatest honour is the laying of a wreath for the parish on Remembrance Sunday; it is vital never to forget the servicemen and women who gave their lives in previous wars and also those who continue to serve their country today.

Each year at the APM, I have reminded the gathering that everything which goes on in the church is ultimately the responsibility of the Vicar and churchwardens. This could not happen without the tremendous effort from laity throughout the year, which is carried out with such enthusiasm and professionalism. A huge thank you to everyone who has given support over the past few years; I know that you will continue to do the same in the future.

Whilst I am standing down as churchwarden, I shall still be involved with the church and its many activities. I look forward to worshipping and celebrating with you all and not having to worry during the Sunday services about any light bulbs that need changing.

David Power, Churchwarden

The collection made recently in church on World Leprosy Day raised £314.08 for the **Leprosy Mission**, an organisation dedicated to providing effective medication, support and education for the thousands of leprosy sufferers worldwide.

Picture

One Sunday morning recently, a framed picture of St Mary's Church was handed to a member of the congregation as she arrived at the gate to the churchyard, with the words "perhaps the Church would like this". The picture and frame were rather dusty, but the image looked interesting, so it was decided that we would have it cleaned and remounted. This was done, and the result looks splendid. It appears to be a

print, probably taken from a publication such as the *Illustrated London News*, or a similar journal of the late 19th or early 20th century, of a painting of our church in romantic moonlight. It makes a very attractive picture, which we are pleased to have received, and we would like to thank the donor for this generous gift. We would like him or her to come forward, so that we can express our thanks and show off the newly restored picture.

Mary Green

Diary for April

Wednesday 2nd	Observance of Feast of the Annunciation. Holy Communion at 9.30am. First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan room at 12.30pm. Topic: the Holy Spirit.
Sunday 6th	The season of Easter. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.
Wednesday 9th	No service.
Sunday 13th	The season of Easter. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.
Tuesday 15th	Teddington Society AGM in the hall at 7.30pm.
Wednesday 16th	Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Friday 18th	Vicar on duty at St Paul's Cathedral from noon.
Sunday 20th	The season of Easter. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am. Installation of the Rt Rev Michael Colclough as a Canon Residentiary of St Paul's Cathedral at 3.00pm.
Monday 21st	School Summer Term begins. Thanksgiving service for the life of Monica Joan Morrison at 11.30am.
Tuesday 22nd	Annual Parochial Meeting in the hall at 8.00pm.
Wednesday 23rd	St George's Day – Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Thursday 24th	Hampton Deanery Clergy Chapter meeting, Holy Trinity Twickenham at 11.30am.
Sunday 27th	Education Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family & Parade service at 9.45am.
Wednesday 30th	No service.
Thursday 1st May	Ascension Day. Sung Eucharist at 8.00pm.

And looking ahead

Family Communion on Sunday 4th May will be a service for the RNLI at the start of London Lifeboat Week.