

one of the local charities supported by our church. Many thanks must go to all the hard-working helpers, together with a special thank you to our hostess, Margaret, for arranging such a lovely afternoon. We are all looking forward to next year's Strawberry Tea.

Diane Cleaver

Parish Registers

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

25 May: Gabrielle and Sian, daughters of Christopher & Georgina Roberts.

1 June: Ethan Robert Manaia, son of Michael & Leonie Lewis.

8 June: Alexander, son of Jeremy & Jayne Lord.

22 June: Jasmine Valentina, daughter of David & Catherine Browning-Ley.

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

14 June: David England and Fiona Gillard.

21 June: John Miller and Rosemary Moss.

6 July: Brian McBride and Hannah Thompson.

19 July: Nigel Griffin and Joanna Hill.

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

11 July: Mary Matthews of Gomer Gardens.

St Mary's & St Peter's School

News

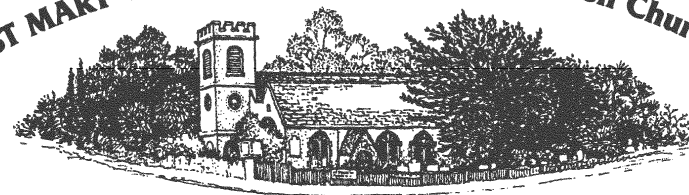
After a fascinating arts week on the theme "Fables, myths and legends" during which all the children took part in drama, music, dance and mosaic workshops, an **arts open evening** was held on 26th June to showcase both dance and recorder presentations and the stunning artwork displays. The following week ended with a bright and breezy Friday evening for the **summer fair**. Each class ran a stall; the raffle, bar, barbecue, Teddington School Jazz band and trampoline kept everyone entertained and the Vicar was totally sponged in the stocks. The £6,000 raised will fund a new PA system. Both events were really well supported by staff, pupils, parents and friends, for which we extend a huge thank you.

*Sarah Steer and Jane Tosetti
Arts and Summer Fair coordinators*

Answers to last month's Cathedral Saints quiz

Edinburgh Cathedral is dedicated to St Giles; Glasgow to St Mungo; Lichfield to St Chad; Ely to St Etheldreda; Durham to St Cuthbert and Winchester to St Swithin.

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2008

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

The Lambeth Conference

By the time most of you read this the Lambeth Conference will be over – and never has one been preceded by so much friction and, yes, sheer unpleasantness. Neither has done the Church any credit. One section threatens to leave the Anglican Communion over the issue of homosexuality, and another over women bishops. I do not wish to comment on either issue now, except to say that consecrating women bishops is a natural follow-on to the ordination of women to the priesthood, and I am in favour of having women in all parts of the three-fold order of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

On the day I am writing these notes the following letter appeared in the *Times* from Canon Michael Jackson of Hexham:

"The Church of England has two qualities that are uniquely valuable. These are its commitment to being present and active in every community of our land and its tolerance of a wide range of opinion. These two qualities have served our nation well, led to a greater understanding of God, and brought hope to many by welcoming them to a journey of discovery on which we are all embarked." This sums up my position perfectly.

I have always been against religious fundamentalism. The dictionary defines fundamentalism in this way: "unswerving belief in a set of basic and unalterable principles of a religious or philosophical

nature". That seems fair enough in itself – except that the result is that people who do not share these certainties are condemned by those who do as faithless and unchristian. At times the intolerance is appalling. We have seen evidence of this intolerance in these pre-Lambeth disputes.

The Christian faith is not a religion of certainty. It is a religion of faith. The only certainty is God:

"I come from God
I belong to God
I return to God"

We are called to use our God-given minds and intelligence to work out what Christ means in our own lives. This inevitably means different opinions. This is the Anglican way of which Canon Jackson wrote.

The trouble is that I feel that the pre-Lambeth disputes are less to do with the issues involved and more to do with dislike of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Rowan Williams was a surprise choice. Sometimes he does look publicly uneasy in an age of 24-hour news coverage – of instant opinions and quotes on every issue by all and sundry at every hour of the day and night. Whether this form of opinion making is a good thing is open to dispute. A more considered response is often better. He is even criticised for being too theological in his utterances. How incredible! I want an Archbishop who is theologically literate and who is learned and a scholar. If we do not get this from Lambeth, where are we supposed to get it from? I thank God for his

<u>SERVICES:</u>	<u>SUNDAYS:</u> Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am Family Communion (Common Worship) and Sunday School at 9.45am (closed in August) <u>WEDNESDAYS & SAINTS DAYS:</u> Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 9.30am
<u>VICAR:</u>	The Revd. John Cleaver, The Vicarage, 11 Twickenham Road, Teddington TW11 8AQ (8977 2767)
<u>CHURCH WARDENS:</u>	Sheila Cooper, 3 Thelma Grove, Teddington TW11 9AQ (8977 7206) Jeremy Bryan, 71 Clarence Road, Teddington TW11 0BN (8977 3055)
<u>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:</u>	Harold Lester (8878 0021)
<u>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & HALL BOOKINGS:</u>	Gillian Burgess (8943 2262)
<u>CHURCH SCHOOL:</u>	St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476)
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITORS:</u>	Susan Jacobs (8943 0503), Veronica Baker (8255 7178) and Minnie Harris (8943 2025)
<u>PARISH WEBSITE:</u>	www.stmarywithstalban.org

learning.

In the end Rowan Williams is the Archbishop chosen by the Church under the inspiration of God. We must believe this if we believe, as we do, that the Holy Spirit will guide the Church into all truth. And looking at some of the alternatives now flexing their Episcopal muscle, I am grateful that it is Rowan Cantuar who signs letters from Lambeth Palace.

With best wishes to you all,

John Cleaver

Street Child Africa

John, Maddie and Duncan are pleased to confirm the successful completion of our cycling and camping challenge. Largely untroubled by modern day niceties such as electricity, running water and loo seats, we cycled some 425kms with an undiminished eagerness and optimism (well, mostly).

We travelled from Lake Mburo in southwest Uganda to Mount Elgon in the east via wonderful places such as the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, the source of the Nile, the Hairy Lemon island resort and the Scorpion Campsite (and brothel as we subsequently learned). We would like to thank our hosts who were universally charming and accepting of these pedalling "Mzungu" (travellers).

The core team for the Masese Community School project in Jinja were particularly gracious in greeting us and we met a community action group comprising teachers, parents, civil groups and local councillors, all of whom are committed to enhancing the lives of street children in their community.

We then visited the Karamajong village where a number of child-headed households are located and had the honour of meeting four young brothers who we (and you) are helping realise their ambitions to become, among other things, a civil engineer and a lawyer.

So, thank you everyone at St Mary's with

St Albans for your fantastic contributions which have allowed us to reach our target of £10,000 – which is the cost of supporting these ten households for a year. Simon, the youngest of the brothers, would otherwise recently have been denied access to treatment for malaria for the want of a bus fare. So, every penny helps!

Thank you again for helping us help children like these.

*John McGuinness, Maddie Ross
& Duncan Ross*

First Anniversary of the Website

The St Mary with St Alban website, www.stmarywithstalban.org was launched on 24th June 2007, which coincided with the celebration of the church's Patronal festival and 10 years since the parish hall had been refurbished.

The **home page** of the website includes an interactive calendar showing all the events that are happening in the following month at the church and four news articles. The site is updated monthly and an e-newsletter is sent out giving links to the new calendar, news articles and newsletter.

The website is divided into four key areas – church, parish hall, history and community. The **church** section includes information about the Vicar, services, registers and activities, including music, Sunday School, youth activities such as the Scouts and Guiding groups, and stewardship. The **parish hall** area provides details of events, facilities, bookings and costs for the hall. The **history** section covers the church's history, genealogy, the graveyard and past incumbents, as well as giving information about famous residents who have lived in Teddington and been associated with the church. Finally, the **community** section provides information and links to other groups within the local area which are associated with the church. The website also includes a contact us section, accessibility, privacy, site map and terms of

use information.

Since launch there has been a consistent increase of website visitors rising to a level of approximately 850 per month. There have also been several baptisms and weddings arranged as a result of enquiries via the website, as well as booking enquiries for the parish hall. Future developments include setting up an email link to the parish administrator so that email enquiries can be made with regard to booking the parish hall.

If you have any suggestions as to how the website could be improved, please email webmaster@stmarywithstalban.org using the 'contact us' section.

Carol Morey

Strawberry Tea

Tuesday 24th June – and the sun shone. Thanks to Margaret Squire, 40 parishioners enjoyed the annual Strawberry Tea in the pleasant surroundings of her garden, adorned with many shrubs and trees and with a stunning array of pink roses providing a beautiful backdrop.

As usual, the sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream were delicious, and our "waitresses" were kept busy supplying us with welcome cups of tea. It was good to have the chance to relax in the fresh air and to chat to others whilst enjoying our tea. At our table the conversation ranged from childhood, school uniforms, gardening, accidents, car parking, coal mines and weddings – to name just a few.

The afternoon raised £166.50 for Welcare,

Diary for August

Saturday 2nd	Wedding of John Schelabarger and Katherine Jubb at 3.00pm.
Sunday 3rd	Feast of the Transfiguration Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion with Baptism at 9.45am. Holy Baptism at 12.30pm.
Monday 4th	Lambeth Conference ends.
Wednesday 6th	Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Friday 8th	Wedding of Mark Perry and Lisa Smeaton at 2.00pm.
Sunday 10th	Trinity 12 Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.
Wednesday 13th	Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Saturday 16th	Wedding of Robert Snelling and Julie Bradburn at 2.00pm.
Sunday 17th	Trinity 13 Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.
Wednesday 20th	Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Sunday 24th	Feast of St Bartholomew. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.
Wednesday 27th	Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Saturday 30th	Wedding of John Williams and Kate Vickers at 3.00pm.
Sunday 31st	Trinity 15 Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.