

the Spiritual parents (Godparents), to the biological parents and also to other relatives, friends, etc.

The eggs are cracked after the midnight service and during the next days. One egg is cracked on the wall of the church (and this is the first egg eaten after the long Great Fast). The ritual of cracking the eggs takes place before the Easter lunch. Each person selects his/her egg. Greetings are exchanged three times before the tapping of the eggs. The traditional Orthodox Paschal greeting is: 'Christ is risen!'. The answer is 'Indeed He is risen!' (This is the greeting during 40 days after Pascha). The people then take turns tapping their egg against the eggs of others, and the person who ends up with the last unbroken egg is believed to have a year of good luck."

John Cleaver

The Children's Society

The collection boxes will be presented in Church on Sunday 24th February. If you have a box and were not in church that day or would like to have a collection box at home for spare change to help the Children's Society please telephone Anthea on 8977 3055.

Anthea Bryan

Electoral Roll Revision

The Roll is being updated during the next six weeks.

Those who have recently changed their address and/or name on marriage should – please – check that these details are recorded on the old Roll, a copy of which is on the Church notice board. New members of the congregation and those who have reached the age of 16 since the Roll was prepared last March/April will, we hope, wish to express their commitment to our Church by being included on the roll.

Enrolment forms are on the table at the back of the Church where I will be available to deal with any queries. Alternatively, please contact me – the Electoral Roll Officer – on 8977 3990.

June Hill

Parish Registers

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

16 December: Charlotte Victoria Chudleigh (adult); Marcus Chudleigh.

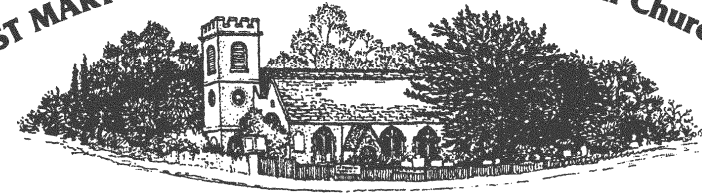
27 January: Nawtej Dosanjh (adult prior to Confirmation); Thomas James Millard.

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

23 January: George Westcott.

5 February: Edna Fidgett.

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

The Festival of resurrection

I am writing these notes in the week following the Confirmation in early February and with the memory of Christmas still quite recent. But the earliest Easter since 1913 means that the great Resurrection festival will be upon us before the end of this month. We ended our Confirmation service, as we will end our Family Communion service on Easter morning, with the hymn:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son.

This to me sums up better than anything else what Easter means, and it has always seemed to me so right at a Confirmation service when people have just committed themselves to Christ and the life of his Church. For this life is bound up with the events of that first Easter Day, when God raised Jesus from the dead.

John Stott wrote of Easter and the Resurrection:

“CHRISTIANITY IS IN ITS VERY ESSENCE A RESURRECTION RELIGION. THE CONCEPT OF RESURRECTION LIES AT ITS HEART. IF YOU REMOVE IT, CHRISTIANITY IS DESTROYED.”

And the author Geza Vermes in his book *Jesus the Jew* wrote:

“When every argument has been considered and weighed, the only conclusion acceptable to the historian must be that the women who set out to pay their last

respects to Jesus found to their consternation not a body, but an empty tomb”.

And finally some words about resurrection and new life that I often use at funerals:

“The life that I have is all that I have
And the life that I have is yours.
The love that I have of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.
A sleep I shall have
A rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause;
For the peace of my years in the long green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours”.

Leo Marks

So a very Happy and Blessed Easter to you all.

From my Scrapbook

With Mothering Sunday at the beginning of this month I was delighted by these comments about grandmothers by a schoolboy of 8:

“A grandmother is a woman who has not got children of her own so she loves the boys and girls of other people.

If they take you for a walk they go slowly past beautiful leaves and caterpillars. They never say ‘Come along quickly’ or ‘Hurry up for goodness sake.’

They are usually fat but not too fat to do up our shoelaces. They wear spectacles and sometimes take out their teeth They can answer questions, for instance why dogs

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

hate cats and why God is not married.

When they read to us they do not leave out anything. They do not mind if it is always the same story. Grandmothers are the only grown ups who always have time. Everyone should have a grandmother.”

With best wishes to you all.

John Cleaver

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a contribution towards the Easter flowers, please give your donations to Jennifer Shaw or the Vicar.

Confirmation

On 3rd February we and eight other people were confirmed by Michael, the outgoing Bishop of Kensington, at the morning service at St Mary with St Alban church.

Early last summer we had begun attending confirmation classes on a Wednesday evening run by John Cleaver and Hilary Adamson. We didn't really know what to expect when we came to the first class but we quickly found them interesting and thought-provoking. We not only learnt about Christianity but also discussed its relevance to everyday issues.

On Confirmation day the church was packed with our families, Godparents and friends. We, the candidates, sat at the front dressed smartly for the occasion. After the sermon the Bishop asked us questions about our beliefs then we had to kneel before the Bishop in turn to be confirmed. Following this we took Communion for the first time.

After the service everyone went over to the church hall for a piece of cake. We also had an enjoyable lunch party at our house for our family and friends.

It was a very special day for us and we will never forget it.

Sarah and Joseph Cassidy

Marling Court concert

On Saturday 15 December 2007, eight members of St Mary Teddington Bells (SMTB) visited Marling Court, which is a residential care home in the Hampton area. They played to over 35 residents and staff who enjoyed listening to a selection of well-known carols and popular songs. At the end of the forty minute concert, everyone enjoyed a glass of sherry and some light snacks, during which they were shown samples of bells and the different ringing techniques. SMBT ended with a short encore which was made up of requests from the audience. Frank Jaffe, who was a PCC member and regular server at the family communion services, now lives at Marling Court. He was delighted to see close friends who he had previously played alongside.

David Power

Easter in Bulgaria

My son Andrew has done some filming in Bulgaria and brought me back this article about Easter traditions in that country. I thought you might find it interesting.

“Easter traditions in Bulgaria. The bright red coloured egg is the symbol of Easter for the Orthodox Christians all over the world. Nowadays other colours are used as well. The eggs are coloured on Holy Thursday after the Divine Liturgy. The large, small and decorated Easter breads are a worldwide Orthodox tradition as well. The bread is called ‘kalache’ or ‘kazunak’. One of these Easter breads is specially decorated with one or more (but always an odd number) of red eggs which are set into it. The bread is taken to church on Saturday evening when a special sequence of services takes place: Midnight Office, Rush Procession, Matins and Divine Liturgy. These are actually the services of Great and Holy Pascha (Velikden). After the service the clergy blesses the bread and eggs brought by the people and they take them home. Such bread and eggs are presented to

Diary for March

Saturday 1st	St David's Day. Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Sunday 2nd	Mothering Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am.
Tuesday 4th	Family and Parade service with presentation of flowers at 9.45am. Hampton Deanery Clergy Chapter meets at All Saints' Hampton Hall at 7.30pm.
Wednesday 5th	Holy Communion at 9.30am. Lent Study Course in the Mina Hogan Room at 10.30am. Church School Governors' Meeting at the school at 7.45pm <i>No meeting of the First Wednesday Club.</i>
Thursday 6th Friday 7th	Lent Study Course at Hilary Adamson's house at 8.00pm. Women's World Day of Prayer. Local services at St Mark's Teddington at 7.30pm.
Sunday 9th	Passion Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family communion with Sunday School at 9.45am. Church Council meeting at 11.00am to approve annual accounts. Holy Baptism at 2.45pm.
Wednesday 12th	Holy Communion at 9.30am. Lent Study Course in the Mina Hogan Room at 10.30am. Lent Study Course at Hilary Adamson's house at 8.00pm.
Thursday 13th Sunday 16th	Palm Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family communion with Sunday School at 9.45am. Holy Baptism at 2.45pm. Evensong for the start of Holy Week at 6.30pm. Palm Crosses will be distributed at all services.

Holy Week:

Monday 17th Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Tuesday 18th Holy Communion at noon.

Wednesday 19th Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Maundy Thursday 20th Sung Eucharist at 8.00pm.

Good Friday 21st Churches Together in Teddington Processions of Witness

1a. At 10.05am from the junction of Langham Road and High Street to walk along the High Street to meet a second group moving off.

1b. At 10.15am from outside Harlequin House (junction of Elmfield Avenue and High Street) to walk over the bridge and along Broad Street.

2. At 10.10am from the junction of Wilcox Road and Stanley Road along Stanley Road. The two processions will join up on 'the green triangle' opposite the Hospital.

The United Service will start at 10.30am.

11.30am-2.30pm St Mary with St Alban. THE THREE HOURS.

This will start with a Family service at 11.30am followed by the Sunday School Good Friday 'Happening' in the Hall. Please note that this is the only part of this service suitable for children. The Devotion will begin at 12.30am and will focus on Peter, Judas and Pilate. The service will end with Evensong at 2.00pm.

Easter Day Sunday 23rd Holy Communion at 8.00am.

Festival Family Communion at 9.45am.

Wednesday 26th Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Thursday 27th Church School Easter Service at St Peter and St Paul Church.

Sunday 30th The Season of Easter.

Holy Communion at 8.00am.

Family Communion at 9.45am.

And looking ahead

Tuesday April 2nd Annual Parochial Meeting at 8.00pm.

Sunday April 27th Education Sunday.