

a bull, sheep and cows.

For the children, the adventure playground was fantastic and even some of the adults were found to be enjoying riding on the swings (you know who you are!). We all met up for lunch, eating ham sandwiches near to the pigs who were pig racing; I'm sure that made them run faster! After lunch we enjoyed walking around the farm again, seeing farm animals and pets, lavender and vegetable gardens, a field of bright orange pumpkins, and recently-harvested barley until it was time to head home. The quiz winners were the Bells family who won by half a point in a strong contest; we thank them for sharing their prize of sweets around the coach.

Thank you to all who attended and made it such an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

*Matt Woodcock*

### Parish Registers

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

30 August: Erin Mary Grace, daughter of Simon and Sarah Davey.

7 September: Ruaraidh Angus Hamilton, son of Angus and Lucia Prentice; Adam Joseph Benjamin, son of Martin and Kathy Gold; Theodore, son of Michael and Carla Marcossias; Matteo Hugo, son of Fernando and Natalie de Oliveira.

13 September: William Harrison and Olivia Isabella, children of Matthew and Kellie Arbour.

21 September: Isla Harriet, daughter of Holly and Hugo Reoch.

**Wedding** – *We wish every blessing on the marriage of:*

13 September: Jamie Higgs and Tamsin Wenham.

**Funeral** – *We remember with thanks-giving the life of:*

22 August: Russell William King.

## **MARVELLOUS BAZAAR**

**SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER**

**11am – 3pm**

**St Mary's Parish Hall,  
Langham Road, Teddington**

Please come along and enjoy the warm, festive atmosphere.  
Admission is only 50p and children under 5 have free entry.

***Come – Buy – Have Lunch***  
All Welcome

**SERVICES:** **SUNDAYS:** Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am  
Family Communion (Common Worship) and Sunday School at 9.45am

**VICAR:**

**CHURCH WARDENS:** Sheila Cooper, 3 Thelma Grove, Teddington TW11 9AQ (8977 7206)  
Jeremy Bryan, 71 Clarence Road, Teddington TW11 0BN (8977 3055)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Harold Lester (8878 0021)

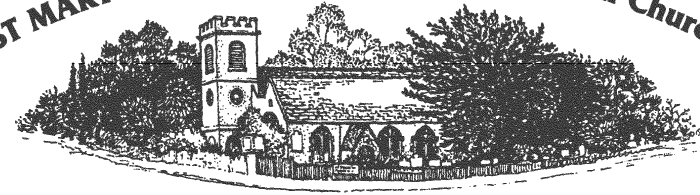
**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & HALL BOOKINGS:** Gillian Burgess (8943 2262)

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington  
Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476)

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** Susan Jacobs (8943 0503), Veronica Baker (8255 7178) and Minnie Harris (8943 2025)

**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.stmarywithstalban.org](http://www.stmarywithstalban.org)

**ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church**



## **NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2008**

### **From Diane and John Cleaver**

What a wonderful farewell you gave us all! The lovely supper with so many of you there and the kind words and generous presents. Thank you all. Teddington will always have a special place in our hearts. We have so many memories that will stay with us always.

Thank you again and may God bless you all, now and in the future.

*Diane and John Cleaver*

### **Sunday 14th September**

Around 100 of us are gathered in the parish hall. The occasion? To celebrate and show thanks for the contribution of John and Diane Cleaver to St Mary's over the last sixteen years – a fitting occasion with an evening which provided food for both the body and the mind.

Our own St Mary's master chefs led by June Demont conjured up another splendid feast, with John later confiding that June's cooking and hospitality sixteen years ago had been one of the key attractions to Teddington! Food and wine were served to us enthusiastically by four waitresses (glamorous and youthful) and three gentlemen (dapper and experienced!).

For the soul, as we enjoyed the comfort of our hall, it was hard to remember the days before John arrived when we would have had no facility to enjoy such an event, and the refurbishment (virtual rebuilding) of the hall will remain one of the physical

landmarks of John's incumbency which will survive him. All of us will have our own memories of John's time with us, whether these be christenings or marriage, or of his sincerity and guidance. Some of these were recalled by our churchwardens, Sheila Cooper and Jerry Bryan, and even in verse by our resident poet, Susan Jacobs.

This splendid evening was rounded off by the presentation to John and Diane of a small tribute to enable them to enjoy passions of cricket, music and gardening, and the best wishes of our parish as they start afresh in a new home and – hopefully – with more time to relax and enjoy these interests.

*David Matthews*



*Thou openest thine hand, and fillest all things with plenteousness (Psalm 145). The Archdeacon of Middlesex, The Venerable Stephan Welch informed the congregation that this was a prayer which he used every morning and one which is particularly poignant at harvest time in giving thanks to God. The 14th September was a glorious autumnal Sunday and the Archdeacon had been invited to preach at the family communion service. He explained that whilst he had visited St Mary with St Alban on previous occasions, for example to carry out a triennial audit, this was the first time he had preached to its congregation. During each visit, his impression of the church was that it was extremely well cared for and loved.*

He felt that autumn was a time for all of us to reflect on our achievements, not just during the past year, but also in our lives. He said it was important to give thanks for harvest and pointed out that God had planted his son Jesus Christ as a *seed* so that his love could be harvested through the Christian faith. The Archdeacon commented that some of his peers were not always in agreement with visiting a parish so close to the departure of its incumbent. However, he felt that it was important to thank Vicar John not just from the deanery, Episcopal area or diocese, but from the whole of the Church of England for his 43 years of dedicated and loyal service.

Later that day, an earlier than planned harvest supper was given in the parish hall as a farewell to Vicar John and Diane. They both came to the parish in '92, and fittingly there were 92 people who attended the supper. In the gathering there were many people who had been involved with the running of the church in some capacity: churchwardens, Sunday school teachers, treasurers and newsletter editors. Several people had also been married, guided through their confirmation or given pastoral support by Vicar John, but one thing in common to all was that he had touched their lives in one way or another.

In between the courses of an excellent buffet, a short presentation was made by the churchwardens to Vicar John and Diane. Respectively they were given a year's membership of Sussex cricket club and bulbs for planting next spring as a reminder of all those in the parish who would be thinking about them in their new home near Eastbourne. There was also a very generous cheque for £2,000 for the purchase of a high-fidelity music system. Those of you who have read this newsletter regularly over the last 16 years will be well aware of Vicar John's passion for both cricket and music (but not gardening!), so these gifts were very appropriate.

Vicar John thanked everyone for their extreme generosity and also the love and affection which had been shown during his

time at Teddington. He said that he had always been blessed with excellent churchwardens and supporting laity which had allowed him to perform the most important part of his ministry: that of being a parish priest. Diane also gave thanks and commented in particular how impressed she had been on her first tour of the church; she thought it was very touching of the parishioners who had given Anna, the church cat, a place of burial in the gardens.

Back in 1992, people commented that Ray Carter, who was the previous incumbent, would be a hard act to follow. 16 years later there are echoes of this same comment for Vicar John who, as a legacy, has left the church buildings, finances and relationships within the parish in an excellent state. Vicar John will always have a special part in my life as he married Joy and me, and gave spiritual guidance through my confirmation. Several years later, I became his churchwarden and we often joked that somewhere in the small-print there must have been a condition that we had both overlooked! As a Dublin-boy, I felt it was only fitting that I should send Vicar John and Diane on their way with a traditional Irish blessing:

'May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.'

*David Power*

### **Music for the Vicar's final service** **28th September**

It wasn't long after John and family arrived next door to us that my husband and I discovered that not only would John be serving up wonderful sermons every Sunday, but he was also an accomplished singer, pianist, collector of LPs and CDs and shared with us a great passion for music.

John's knowledge of the merits of thousands of performances was amazing

and he'd regularly pass a favourite CD our way, indeed when I was to play the *Spring Sonata* in church he lent me his Heifitz recording hoping it would help me!

For his Final Service, Harold and I chose music we knew was special to John. First Harold played the JS Bach *Concerto in D minor for organ and orchestra*, then it was *Morning* from Peer Gynt. After John's final sermon there was time for reflection as Charlotte Shipley sang Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* with magical purity. As a final 'goodbye' present, Harold, our organist, had written and dedicated an Anthem to John on words he had chosen *The life that I have is all that I have*, a poem by Leo Marks. It was performed by Charlotte with choir and organ.

We sent John down the aisle for the last

time as our Vicar to Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* rousingly played by the orchestra while the congregation gave him a huge standing ovation.

*Janet Smith*

### **Sunday School Trip to Bockett's Farm**

A coach of 14 families from the Sunday School went to visit Bockett's Farm near Leatherhead. Luckily, summer decided to return and we were blessed with glorious sunshine. Every family participated in Hugo's quiz which was not easy. On arrival we went about the farm seeing the various attractions, including alpacas, goat milking, pony riding and tractor rides around the farm to see the pigs in the woods, red deer,

### **Diary for November**

Wednesdays – there will be no Holy Communion at St Mary with St Alban; we have a very warm welcome to attend St Peter and St Paul's Holy Communion at 10.30am.

Saturday 1st St Mary Teddington Bells Variety Concert in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Sunday 2nd Celebration of All Saints.  
Holy Communion at 8.00am.  
Family Communion at 9.45am.

Monday 3rd All Souls' Day (transferred). Morning Prayer at 9.30am, when the names of the departed will be read.

Wednesday 5th First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan room at 12.30pm. Topic: Greed.

Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday.  
Holy Communion at 8.00am. No service here at 9.45am.  
**Remembrance service at War Memorial at 10.50am.**

Sunday 16th Second Sunday before Advent.  
Holy Communion at 8.00am.  
Family Communion at 9.45am.

Saturday 22nd Wedding at 2.30pm.

Sunday 23rd Feast of Christ the King.  
Holy Communion at 8.00am.  
Family Communion at 9.45am.

Wednesday 26th **First Advent Study Group** meeting, jointly with St Marks, in the Mina Hogan Room 11.30am–1.00pm. Subject: The Advent Collects. Details from Susan Jacobs (020 8943 0503).

**Saturday 29th Marvellous Bazaar in Parish Hall, 11.00am–3.00pm.**

Sunday 30th Advent Sunday. Feast of St Andrew.  
Holy Communion at 8.00am.  
Family Communion at 9.45am.