

Parish Registers

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

29 June: Alexander Thomas Sean, son of Philip and Barbara Barnes.

6 July: Oliver Michael, son of Michael and Nathalie White.

3 August: Lucy Grace, daughter of Tom and Julie Mackay; Sophie Annabel and Gemma Olivia, daughters of Sarah and Adam Wright.

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

2 August: John Schelabarger and Katherine Jubb.

8 August: Mark Perry and Lisa Smeaton.

16 August: Robert Snelling and Julie Bradburn.

30 August: John Williams and Kate Vickers.

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

17 July: Eric Henderson.

7 August: Edward Kimpton.



Join the People Map

Campaigners from all corners of the UK will be converging on London in October for a spectacular Christian Aid photo-stunt to highlight the campaign over climate change.

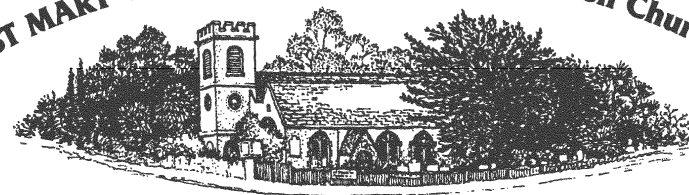
On Wednesday 15 October we will be creating a 'people map' in central London – an event designed to maintain pressure on the government to take robust action on climate change.

Two representatives from every county and metropolitan area in England and Wales, plus a contingent from Scotland and Northern Ireland, will participate in a photocall, taking their place in a map of the UK to symbolise our united stand in putting pressure on MPs over the climate change bill. A delegation of campaigners will go on from the photo call to lobby MPs in Westminster.

This London 'people map' supersedes the Coventry event that had originally been planned for 15 October, and which was announced in the summer edition of *Christian Aid News*. The Coventry event has been rescheduled for March 2009 and will continue our call for a fair deal for the world's poor at next year's Copenhagen talks.

For more information about how you could represent your county in the 'people map', email campaigns@christian-aid.org

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008

What Happens Now?

With some sadness we have bid 'Adieu' to John, our Vicar, and his wife Diane. We have already been asked how long it could be before we have a new Vicar. The answer is that at present we do not know. During the interregnum – the official name for this period of vacancy – the Churchwardens, Sheila Cooper and Jerry Bryan, together with the Area Dean are appointed Sequestrators: an ecclesiastical legal term that gives us authorisation to exercise both the financial control and administration of the parish until a new Vicar is appointed. An important part of our duties is to be responsible for the organisation of services and to ensure that life runs as smoothly as possible during this period. One of our first tasks will be to invite the Archdeacon of Middlesex to a meeting of the Parish Council specifically to discuss the qualities we would look for in any applicant and also to draw up a 'Parish profile' outlining the work of the church, its community links, number of population etc. We will also appoint two lay representatives to be available to assist in the process of selection. This statement is then submitted to our Patron, the Bishop of London, and to the Archdeacon who is currently acting as Bishop of Kensington during the vacancy created by Bishop Michael's appointment to St Paul's cathedral. Applications for a new Vicar will be invited either by advertisement or as the Bishop of London,

our patron, sees and feels is fitting.

Jeremy Bryan and I are aware of the family feeling which exists both in the church and the wider community and we will work hard to foster this and keep in touch with those we know who are sick, housebound or who would appreciate someone to visit them. We are in the process of forming a small pastoral team of people from the congregation who are willing to do this valuable work.

The Sunday and weekday services will be taken by visiting clergy, but we will have valuable and regular support from the Revd. Alex Walter, who is known to many of us both from his time as Vicar of Holy Trinity, Twickenham, and, since retirement, as a visiting priest covering John Cleaver's holiday dates. We are very fortunate to have this regular commitment and we are extremely grateful to Revd. Alex.

The parish website will be regularly updated and the Churchwardens can be contacted either via the website or by telephone; the numbers are listed on the back page. We have a very supportive congregation and the Parish council includes some ex-churchwardens with a wealth of expertise who, we know, will be of invaluable help to us both at this time.

With best wishes to you all,

*Sheila Cooper, Senior Churchwarden
Jerry Bryan, Churchwarden*

SERVICES: **SUNDAYS:** Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am
Family Communion (Common Worship) and Sunday School at 9.45am
WEDNESDAYS & SAINTS DAYS: Holy Communion (Common Worship) at 9.30am
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

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week raised over £11,000 in Teddington, of which the house to house collection by the St Mary's team of collectors raised over £2,500. We are grateful to all who took part, both the dedicated collectors and the generous givers.

Editor

All Hallows Eve – 31 October

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun, for there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers. Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts, and the two festivals slowly merged. When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'. For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches rode about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween

is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night. Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



CN Service

Letter to The Times

"A word of encouragement to all parents trying to cope without their teenage children who have gone to university. I have discovered how to record and play on the DVD/video player. I have managed to reset the clocks on the cooker and the music centre for the first time in years. I have retuned the digibox to ITV, although I lost some channels for a while. I have managed to download the photos from our digital camera on to the computer and to "burn" a disc. And, my final triumph, I have learnt to text on the mobile phone.

Meanwhile, my technical wizard of a son is trying to work out how to wash his clothes in a launderette."

John Royal, Inverness-shire

Variety Concert 2008

There will be another Variety Concert organised by the handbell ringers, St Mary Teddington Bells, on Saturday 1st November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, we are hoping to find new talent to include in the programme, but also to have performances by returning artistes.

If you would like to be considered for inclusion in the programme, please contact Sheila Insley (01932 247079, insley6@hotmail.co.uk) before 21 September. Thank you.

Sheila Insley

Diary for October

We are hoping to maintain our normal services on Sundays at 8.00am and 9.45am. Any weekday services will be listed in the weekly pew sheets.

Wednesday 1st First Wednesday Club at 12.30pm in the Mina Hogan Room
Topic: "How to Follow John".

Sunday 5th Parade Service and Harvest Festival at 9.45am.

There will be no Harvest Supper this year.

And looking ahead

Saturday 1st November – Variety Concert, Parish Hall, 7.30pm.

Church Weddings

Thousands of couples dreaming of a church wedding will find more churches to choose from as of 1st October 2008 – the day when the new Church of England Marriage Measure comes into effect.

It means that the Church of England's network of 16,000 churches – ancient or modern, intimate or grand, simple or spectacular – can offer a wider wedding welcome than at any other time in the Church's history.

The Marriage Measure completed its parliamentary process this summer. Up until now, the law established the right for a couple of marry in the parish church where one or both of them live, whether they are baptised or not, and whether they are churchgoers or not. To marry in any other parish required a special licence or six months of regular attendance followed by entry on the local church electoral roll.

But the new laws, initiated by the Church of England and now approved by Parliament, have added to this right of residency, making it just as easy for couples to marry in a church where they have a family or other special connection, even if they don't live there.

The General Synod decided that the existing laws were too restrictive in a mobile society and took the initiative to change them last July. Synod wanted

churches all over England to be free to celebrate more weddings and support more marriages.

The changes will mean an engaged couple are welcome to be married in church in a parish if just one of these applies:

one of them was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish;

one of them has ever lived in the parish for six months or more;

one of them has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more;

one of their parents has lived in the parish for six months or more in their child's lifetime;

one of their parents has regularly attended public worship there for six months or more in their child's lifetime;

their parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

CN Service

Why You are Like a Pumpkin

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the nasty stuff – including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside you to shine for the world to see.

