

Diary for September

Wednesday 3rd	Holy Communion at 9.30am. First Wednesday Club will meet on 10th.
Sunday 7th	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion with Baptism at 9.45am. Sunday School resumes. Holy Baptisms at 2.45 and 3.45pm.
Wednesday 10th	Holy Communion at 10.00am (please note time). 'First' Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan room at 12.30pm. Topic: 'Post Lambeth Conference...'
Thursday 11th	Church School Governors' Meeting at 7.45pm.
Saturday 13th	Wedding at 1.00pm.
Sunday 14th	Holy Cross Day. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am. Preacher: The Archdeacon of Middlesex.
Tuesday 16th	Churches Together in Teddington at Baptist Church at 8.00pm.
Wednesday 17th	Holy Communion at 9.30am. PCC meeting at 7.30pm.
Sunday 21st	Feast of St Matthew. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am. Holy Baptism at 12.30pm. We are responsible for the Hospital Service at 4.00pm.
Wednesday 24th	Holy Communion at 9.30am.
Sunday 28th	Michaelmas. Vicar's Final Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.

And looking ahead

Sunday 5th October – Parade Service and Harvest Festival 9.45am. Harvest Supper at 6.30pm.

Parish Registers will return in October.

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:

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)

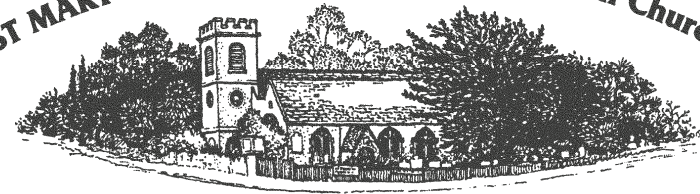
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PARISH WEBSITE:

www.stmarywithstalban.org

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

My retirement

As most of you know by now I am retiring from full-time ministry in the Autumn and my last Sunday here as Vicar will be on September 28. Diane and I will be moving to Eastbourne. It will be a great wrench to leave Teddington after 16 years, as we have been very happy here. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over that time. I am conscious that Teddington has a real community feel to it, and I am glad that the parish church plays such an important role in this.

So now there will be an interregnum and, I hope not before too long, a new Vicar of Teddington. I know that you will all support the Churchwardens, Sheila Cooper and Jeremy Bryan, in every way.

As I prepare to leave I am reminded of some words of St Paul that he wrote to the young Christians at Philippi and which express my own feelings at this time:

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." (1:3)

And too some words of the much-loved David Say, one time Bishop of Rochester, who died at the age of 91 in 2006, and who ordained me in his Cathedral on Trinity Sunday 1965:

"Alleluia! On we go!"

From my Scrapbook

I have kept a scrapbook for over 50 years (in fact I have two) and over the past 16 years I have shared something from it with you each month in this newsletter.

For my last newsletter I want to quote three things from a book called *Favourite Wisdom*, which collects together scrapbook items from a variety of people.

The first was chosen by the author, Maeve Binchey:

"So far today,
I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped,
lost my temper,
been greedy
or grumpy,
been nasty,
selfish or overindulgent.
I'm very thankful for that...."

But in a few minutes, God,
I'm going to get out of bed.
And from then on,
I'm probably
Going to need a lot more help."

Chosen by inventor James Dyson, are some words by Thomas Edison:

"Restlessness is discontent and discontent is the first necessity of progress. Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure."

And finally, some words attributed to Bertrand Russell, chosen by the writer, Helen Cresswell:

“It is a dangerous error to confound truth with matter-of-fact. Our life is governed not only by facts, but by hopes; the kind of truthfulness which sees nothing but fact is a prison for the human spirit. To kill fancy in childhood is to make a slave to what exists, a creature tethered to earth and therefore unable to create heaven.”

May God bless you all, now and in the days that lie ahead.

John Cleaver

Dear John

How very blessed we have been at St Mary with St Alban to have had sixteen years of your deeply caring ministry. You have been a part of so many different lives and groups in your Teddington parish.



When our PCC drew up a ‘Parish Profile’ seventeen years ago listing the qualities we were seeking in a new Vicar, the Archdeacon, Tim Raphael, considered that only the Archangel Gabriel would fit the bill and that sadly, he was not available. However, the Bishop sent us John, who came as close as we could have wished to the person we were looking for. Mel Barker, my fellow churchwarden, and I were very conscious of our responsibility in presenting the Parish with a Vicar they could take to their hearts, and pride prevents me from saying that we felt we got it exactly right!

We wanted to see a family in the Vicarage and how nice it was to welcome Diane and to watch Andrew and Matthew growing up there. The last sixteen years have been happy and fruitful ones under John’s guiding hand and have seen St Mary’s grow and flourish. I know we all wish John and Diane many happy years of retirement in Eastbourne (plans for a parish picnic on Beachy Head are already in mind!). You will be missed by not only our own congregation but by the many people in Teddington whose lives you have touched.

June Demont, former Churchwarden

There are references in the school log books to visits to the school from the Rev. Cleaver in the mid 1980s. He was then the school’s advisor for the Board of Schools. I am pleased to say that he found the school to be ‘most satisfactory’! I wonder if at that time he had any thoughts that he would one day be our very own incumbent? To the staff and the children it is hard to imagine the school without ‘Father John’. His assemblies have always been lively and full of fun. His storytelling skills are second to none, and always told with great enthusiasm. His role as a Governor, and indeed Chair of Governors for a period of time, was outstanding. As a pastor, he has cared for staff and nothing has been too much effort for him. I will miss John; he has been a great support to me and a fantastic ‘listening ear’. The school will be sad to see John retire, but all the better for his having been among us. We wish John and Diane every happiness for their retirement.

*John Logan, Headteacher,
St Mary’s and St Peter’s Church of
England Primary School*



It is a privilege to record a debt of thanks to John Cleaver for his valued involvement and support for Teddington Memorial Hospital and the work of its League of Friends throughout his Ministry in Teddington.

John has led the yearly Service of Remembrance at the Memorial, supported the Sunday afternoon Service in the Chapel for patients and staff, visited members of his Church in the wards, and has been fiercely protective of the hospital in many ways.

He is a man of distinction with strong leadership qualities and will be missed. John we wish you and your family happiness and peace in your well deserved retirement.

*Pamela Bryant, MBE, Chairman of the
League of Friends of
Teddington Memorial Hospital*

The RNLI has held close ties with the Anglican Church since its foundation in 1824. Teddington lifeboat station is one of four established by the RNLI on the Thames in response to the Marchioness pleasure boat disaster. So when RNLI Teddington began service in January 2002, it was only natural that we should seek a local chaplain to the station. Rev John Cleaver has filled that role admirably and been a great asset to us. He has offered God’s blessing at the launch of both of our current lifeboats, and dedicated an annual service at St Albans to the work of the RNLI at Teddington and around our coasts. On behalf of all of us, thank you, John.

Angus Prentice, RNLI Teddington



All the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at St Mary with St Alban would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to John for all his support over the years. We have always been made to feel a part of the church and have enjoyed his relaxed family and parade services.

The scouts are very happy that John encouraged them to join the church several years ago when they became homeless, and have felt welcomed right from the start. Without John’s encouragement it is probable that as a group they would no longer be functioning, but instead have gone from strength to strength.

Thank you, John, for sitting through numerous pantomimes, Christmas shows, coffee evenings and for eating all manner of cakes and biscuits that have been made by little hands and for always finding the right thing to say at the end of the evening. We shall miss him but wish him well in retirement.

Kathy Gold, Uniformed Groups



John has always been a staunch supporter of the Teddington Society. As Vicar of the Parish Church he held a pivotal place in our town and that was reflected in his

membership of the Society. He supported us, when he could, at our AGM, the New Year Party, the Village Fair or “Teddington in Flower”. For the Society’s thirtieth anniversary in 2003 he immediately suggested a service of thanksgiving to mark the occasion, which was held in September in the presence of the Mayor and Adam Joseph, the Society’s founder, with a reception afterwards in the Church Hall. As the Society is non-religious, members could choose to go to either or both – a lovely thought and a great evening.

A jovial, larger than life character, John will be sorely missed in Teddington and hard to replace!

Sheena Harold, Teddington Society



Soon after taking up his incumbency at St Mary with St Alban, the Rev John Cleaver became our Padre.

John has been a tower of strength, serving on our Branch committee, leading our annual Armistice Remembrance Day service at the Teddington War Memorial and organising our Carol Concert at Christmas.

He supported and comforted our members in their hour of need.

John has served us well over his sixteen years with us and we will miss our Padre and his relaxed but considered opinion and counsel. He was liked by all and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

*John Burton, Royal British Legion,
Teddington Branch*



John, may God bless you and your family and very many best wishes for a very happy retirement. You are much loved and will be sorely missed.

Veronica Baker, Editor

