

Advent Group 2008

On four Wednesday mornings leading up to last Christmas, about fifteen people met up to discuss the Advent Collects. The group consisted of members of both St Mary's and St Mark's parishes. Each week followed a similar format and was presented by four different leaders: Susan Jacobs, Susan Saunders, Christabel Davies and Diana Simons. There was time for learning, time for listening, time for discussion and time for silent contemplation. We learnt about the history of the week's Collect, we heard beautiful Advent related music, we shared our insights, concerns and joys in relation to this season of preparation and penitence and we found peace and companionship in the shared period of meditation. After the final meeting there was an opportunity to have delicious bring-and-share lunch together with some mulled wine. It was lovely to make such positive and interesting contact with our neighbouring parishioners, in the comfort of the Mina Hogan room and it is something we shall certainly try to repeat.

Susan Jacobs

Lent Discussion Group

A new group will reconvene on Wednesday 4th March. The meeting will take place in the Mina Hogan room from 10.30am–12 noon. Please contact Susan Jacobs on 020 8943 0503.

If enough demand, a parallel evening course can be arranged. Please contact Hilary Adamson on 020 8943 9316.

Street Child Africa

We would like to thank everybody at the Parish of St Mary with St Alban for their wonderful donation of £327.60. Thank you for your support and friendship and for helping us to help *Street Child Africa*.

Parish Registers

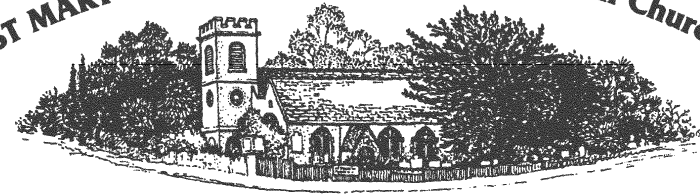
Funerals – *We remember with thanksgiving the life of:*

17 December: Philip James Brown.



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

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009

February 2009

After the busy time of Christmas and the rather low key weeks of January, this is 'Wake Up' time.

In the garden life is slowly gathering pace with snowdrops and other heralds of spring appearing, even the trees look a little different as twigs thicken and prepare for the weeks ahead.

Many churches celebrate 'Candlemas' on the 2nd February, 40 days after Christmas. The festival marks the official end of the Christmas season and commemorates the presentation of the baby Jesus at the Temple by his parents.

Later in the month we approach the season of Lent, the forty days proceeding Easter, when we take stock of our lives and try to make time to read, reflect and draw a little closer to God. This year, Shrove Tuesday, popularly known as Pancake Day, is on February 23rd and the following day, Ash Wednesday, is the first day of Lent. On that day we will have a service in church at 9.30am during which, if we wish, a symbolic cross of ashes is marked on our foreheads by the Priest to remind us of our mortality.

February with its lengthening days, brighter and stronger light and its promise of good things to come, helps us to shake off our winter lethargy and tempts us to move out into the changing world.

The news is not always good, employment and financial issues are making life hard for many, but the unchanging cycle of seasons

and deep truths remain. Our church has served the people of Teddington for over 500 years and it is here for you in 2009.

May you experience every blessing during the coming month.

Sheila Cooper, Senior Churchwarden
Jeremy Bryan, Churchwarden

The New Bishop of Kensington...

...will be the Revd Canon Paul Gavin Williams. He will be consecrated as Bishop at St Paul's Cathedral on 25th March 2009.

Canon Williams, 40, joins from the Oxford Diocese, where he has led one of its largest churches, St James Gerrards Cross with Fulmer in Buckinghamshire, since 1999. He has built a ministry team that has been creative and highly effective. The variety of services, from the traditional to the contemporary, have enabled this innovative church to draw people from a wide range of ages and backgrounds.

The Bishop of London welcomed the announcement, saying: "Canon Williams' background in successfully leading and growing a thriving parish, and his broader experience in leadership and children's ministry, will prove invaluable as he takes up the challenge in Kensington. His skills and expertise match directly the needs of the Area and the Diocese as a whole as identified by the Advisory Group".

Canon Paul Williams said: "West London is full of churches, large and small, doing outstanding work and I am looking forward enormously to serving in partnership with

