

## The Conversion of St Paul

On 25 January, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul. He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him, literally, in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed. Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded – and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament. For his belief, Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in AD 64, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now

stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many millions of people down the centuries.

*CN Service*

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## Parish Registers

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

26 November: Luke Jasper Carr, son of Mikey Carr and Rachel Beckett.

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

22 November: Stephen Michael Andrew Hayes and Gemma Kate Ward.

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

12 November: Peter Matthews.

4 December: Peggy Green.

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## From the poem: New Year's Days

The New Year's days are white with snow,  
The winds are laughing as they blow.  
Across the ponds and lakes we glide,  
And o'er the drifting snow we ride,  
And down the hills we gaily slide,  
For it is winter weather...

*Celia Standish*

**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)

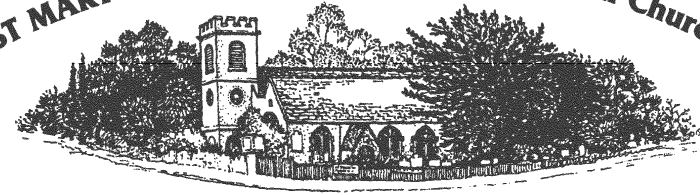
**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & HALL BOOKINGS:** Gillian Burgess (8943 2262)

**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 JANUARY 2009

### Churchwardens' Letter

2009 will bring changes and challenges to many of us, and in the Parish, as we prepare to go through the process of selection and interviewing a prospective new Vicar. We ask for your prayers as we come – in due time – to making this important decision.

Our 'Statement of need' has been set out and is, now, going forward to our Patron, the Bishop of London, who will be working with the Archdeacon of Middlesex and our newly appointed Area Dean to identify possible candidates for us.

We have been greatly encouraged by the response and support of our own church family and the help so generously given by local retired clergy, Rev. Alex Walter and Rev. Geoffrey Clarkson in particular. The Archdeacon of Middlesex and the Reverends Peter Vanzozi and Vernon Fray have also agreed to take some services for us in the period from January until the end of March 2009.

Please contact us if you would like to be remembered in prayer or would like one of our Pastoral Team to get in touch. St Mary with St Alban is YOUR church and we are here to help as much as we can.

As we move forward into a new year let us pray for peace in the troubled areas of the world, and at home that there may be an improvement in the economic situation.

With all good wishes for the New Year,  
God bless you all.

*Sheila Cooper, Senior Churchwarden  
Jerry Bryan, Churchwarden*

### The Marvellous Bazaar

The *Marvellous Bazaar* took place on Saturday, 29 November, and saw a good turn out by all age groups. There was a great deal of activity in the Parish Hall on the Friday as stalls were erected and Santa's grotto was decorated ready for his arrival.

As normal, people started gathering outside the hall well before the official opening time. Shortly after eleven o'clock, the atmosphere was buzzing with festive music and lively chatter as people moved around the various stalls including books, bric-a-brac, crafts and gifts. Santa's grotto was a popular attraction and was visited by over 60 children. The Mina Hogan room was used for selling cakes and preserves, and the lure of homemade cooking in the main hall meant that lunches were enjoyed by all.

By the end of the day the bazaar had raised £2,029. Whilst this was slightly down on last year's takings, it was still a successful event. Thank you to all who made it happen and also to those who came along and supported the *Marvellous Bazaar*.

*David Power*



# LONDON FAIRTRADE DIOCESE CAMPAIGN

## Fairtrade Church – Make it Happen

You are invited to a half day conference to inspire, inform and equip our churches.

**Saturday 10th January 2009**

**St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside**

**10.00am to 1.00pm**

*Registration and coffee from 9.30am*

with Barbara Crowther

Head of Communications, Fairtrade  
Foundation

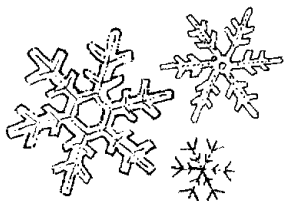
Do you have questions for the Fairtrade Foundation? Share your successes, bring your problems, and seek advice on making progress with Fairtrade in your church. Ideas for Fairtrade Fortnight activities, getting started, going deeper, worship, prayer and a chance to meet others in your area. Come to give and receive practical help and inspiration. Resources on sale too (*cash/cheque only*).

RSVP: Rachel Lindley

St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside,  
London EC2V 6AU

justshare@stmarylebow.org.uk

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## The Christingle

As always, the Sunday School children started the Christmas season for us on Sunday 7th December with their Christingle play in aid of the Children's Society.

This year, the play was *The Angel's Nativity*. The children put on a great show. The narrators gave a very polished performance as they guided Mary and Joseph through the Christmas story with a full cast of angels, shepherds, animals, kings and stars as well as a grumpy innkeeper and his wife. The children sang beautifully and ended the show with the now traditional take on a cheesy pop song (courtesy of Hugo).

For me, no nativity is complete without the unscripted moments and the children didn't let us down: Jesus needed frequent nappy changes, an angel fell off the stage and a star was injured during over-enthusiastic dancing.

We were pleased that an old friend of our parish, the Revd Alex Walter, agreed to introduce the service, distribute the Christingles and say the blessing.

It was a real team effort, with lots of parents helping for the first time this year. Particular thanks go to Sam and Iain for directing the play, Faith and Sean for the music, Lesley and Matt for the scenery, Jonathan for the sound and lights, Melanie for the Christingles and fundraising, Susan and Sarah for stage management, Carol and Amanda for the programmes and Elizabeth, Sarah, Helen and Jackie for the costumes.

Thanks too to the Teddington Bells, who entertained the audience before the start of the show with some lovely carols.

£267.23 was raised for the Children's Society, so many thanks again to all who contributed.

*Charlotte Studholme*

## CONCERT BY THE PRIMROSE PIANO TRIO

Suzanne Stanzeleit (violin), Andrew Fuller (cello), John Thwaites (piano)

**St Mary with St Alban Church, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 – 9.00pm**

Come and enjoy a concert of trios and duos by these fine professionals, on your doorstep.  
Admission: Programmes £5.00 at the door.



## Diary for January

*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.*



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| Sunday 4th    | Epiphany<br>Holy Communion at 8.00am<br>Family Communion at 9.45am  |
| Wednesday 7th | First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2.00pm<br>Topic: Gifts   |
| Sunday 11th   | Epiphany 1, Baptism of Christ<br>Holy Communion at 8.00am<br>Family Communion at 9.45am   |
| Sunday 18th   | Epiphany 2<br>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity<br>Holy Communion at 8.00am<br>Family Communion at 9.45am<br>Concert by The Primrose Piano Trio at 7.30 -9.00pm:<br>Susan Stanzeleit (violin), Andrew Fuller (cello) John Thwaites (piano)<br>Admission: Programmes £5.00 at the door. |
| Sunday 25th   | Conversion of Paul<br>Holy Communion at 8.00am<br>Family Communion at 9.45am  |