

St Swithun's Day – 15 July

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days after that.

It all began when he was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, St Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 962, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

CN Service

Sunday School

The last Sunday School for this year will be on 12th July, and it will resume on 13th September. The Sunday School Outing to Godstone Farm will take place on 20th September.

Parish Registers

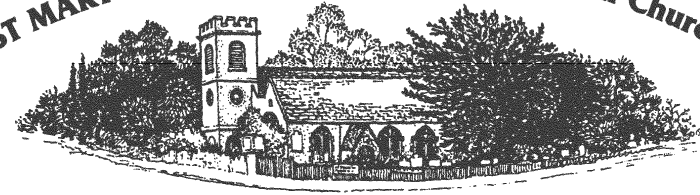
Holy Baptisms – *We welcome into Christ's Church:*

17 May: Henry Louis Alexander, son of Russell and Josephine Grieve.

24 May: Erin Kate, daughter of David and Geraldine Hobday.

31 May: Ellis Charles, son of Paul and Charlotte Bowman.

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

From the Churchwardens

All our young people will be looking forward to the summer break and time to 'chill out' before the new academic year. Some will be changing schools or moving on to college or university and there will be some anxiety before the results of important examinations are due in August. It is easy for those of us who have, perhaps, long passed this stage in life to realise how very traumatic this time of waiting can be, so much depends on decisions and results at this time. In the church year this is a time of comparative calm – after the important festivals of Easter, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, the church goes 'into the green' that is, the priest wears green vestments on ordinary Sundays until we reach the season of Advent once more and the preparation for Christmas. Our Sunday school will be taking a break during the school holidays and when the children return in September we will have our new vicar in post. We are busy preparing for the service at which he will be formally instituted as vicar and the work on the refurbishment of the vicarage nears completion.

We have had such a long and cold winter and both world and home news has not always been very cheering, but we can, perhaps, look forward to at least a few days rest and relaxation to recharge our physical and spiritual batteries before September when life begins to pick up speed once more. If you are taking a walk towards Teddington Lock you may like to take the path just inside the church gate and take a

stroll through our lovely peaceful churchyard with its fine trees and shrubs. The gate at the far end will bring you out by the traffic lights and Ferry Road itself. So much of Teddington's history can be found there and although some of the memorials have weathered and become illegible it is interesting to read some of the family names and those of the children that are at rest there.

Church services continue as usual during the summer break and we often have holiday makers joining us; if you are holidaying 'at home' why not come and join us one Sunday – you will be very welcome

May God bless you all.

Sheila Cooper & Jeremy Bryan

Sabbatical Report, March-May 2009

Our new Vicar, Revd Joe Moffatt, writes: "After ten years of non-stop parish ministry I was beginning to find myself going through the motions of a busy priest but increasingly out of touch with God. This three month sabbatical has been a wonderful experience of rediscovery. It has come in three parts: a retreat in North Wales, a family trip to New Zealand and an individual visit to our link parish in Mozambique. Each has helped to put me back in touch with the ever-present reality of God in my life and in the world."

A full account of Revd Moffatt's sabbatical

SERVICES: **SUNDAYS:** Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am
Family Communion (Common Worship) and Sunday School (most Sundays during term time) 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)

SUNDAY SCHOOL: sundayschool@stmarywithstalban.org

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

can be found on the Parish Website:
www.stmarywithstalbans.org

Churches Together in Teddington

Churches Together in Teddington is a group which for many years has aimed to bring together worshippers from the various churches in Teddington at a “host” church to enjoy the fellowship of a joint Service and to meet their neighbours in our Christian community.

Our next celebration will be a United Service of Holy Communion at St Mark’s Church, Teddington, on Sunday, 12th July at 4.00pm.

St Mark’s is a very welcoming and hospitable church, so do come along. You will be spiritually and bodily refreshed.

Penny Thompson

Christian Aid Week, 2009

The house-to-house collection for Christian Aid resulted in £8280 for the whole of Teddington. This is 25% less than last year, due no doubt to the recession. However, our intrepid band of collectors from St Mary’s collected £2600, which is actually MORE than last year. Our thanks go to all the collectors, and to all the people who gave generously, in spite of the credit crunch.

*Mary Green, parish co-ordinator for
St Mary with St Alban*

Zimbabwe Appeal

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York say they have been humbled by the response to the appeal launched at the beginning of Lent. It highlights the support needed by churches who are struggling to feed the hungry and provide health care.

In a joint statement, the Archbishops said: “The support of the general public has been overwhelming. We know that rebuilding Zimbabwe is a long-term aim, and this

short intervention is still only reaching a small number of the many millions in need. Thank you for enabling us to do this.

“Our brother Bishops in Zimbabwe have highlighted the need for immediate relief activities to address the cholera epidemic and starvation, but also asked that we support programmes that provide long term solutions to poverty. So at their request we will be providing seed-corn for crops in time for the planting season which normally starts at the end of October.

“More of the dioceses of Zimbabwe are expected to send in their specific requirements in the next few weeks, and they have told us that their focus will be on the most vulnerable in their communities; those living with HIV, the elderly as well as children.”

Three dioceses, those of Central Zimbabwe, Masvingo and Matabeleland, are the first ones to roll out the supplementary feeding programme in schools, and Easter week saw the first food distributed through the Church schools.

The Rt Revd Michael Doe, General Secretary of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission said: “We’ve been astounded by the response of the general public, and we thank all those that have supported the Archbishops’ appeal so far.”

The Archbishops’ appeal (which is being administered on their behalf by USPG: Anglicans in World Mission) will be accepting donations for the rest of 2009.

CN Service

Fundraising Calendar 2010

We are designing a 2010 A3 calendar to sell to raise money for the Church.

We wondered if any budding photographers would like to donate a picture of Teddington, whether it be the Thames, Bushy Park, or something else that you think is of interest in Teddington.

Please email your image to Amanda@rymel.com, or it may be left at

the church.

We hope to start taking orders for the calendar very soon.

Amanda Rymel

St Mary Teddington Bells at Teddington in Flower

St Mary Teddington Bells played in Church as part of the Church’s opening for Teddington in Flower.

We played two half hour ‘slots’ and chose music that we hoped would appeal to visitors coming to look round the Church. We started with ‘*Mine eyes have seen the*

glory of the coming of the Lord’ and wound our way through half a dozen other pieces (religious and non-religious) to finish with the quieter ‘*Fairest Lord Jesus*’.

We were very pleased that so many people came to sit and listen to us and ask questions about the bells after we had played. We haven’t played in Church for quite a while and it was lovely to be back where we belong.

We are always interested in attracting new members for the team. We practice in the Parish Hall in Langham Road on Wednesday evenings, starting at 7.45pm, so please come along if you are interested.

Anne Johnson (8943 0405)

July



2009

Diary for July

Wednesdays – there will be no mid week communion here this month. We have a very warm invitation to attend 10.30am Holy Communion at St Peter and St Paul Church.

Wednesday 1st	First Wednesday Club in Balcony Room, St Mary’s Parish Hall, 12.30–2.00pm. Topic: Managing Change
Thursday 2nd	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 3rd	St Thomas the Apostle
Sunday 5th	Trinity 4 Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am
Sunday 12th	Trinity 5 Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am Preacher: the Ven Stephan Welch, Archdeacon of Middlesex Churches Together in Teddington – United Service of Holy Communion, St Mark’s Church at 4.00pm
Wednesday 15th	St Swithun
Sunday 19th	Trinity 6 Holy Communion (reserved sacrament) at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am
Wednesday 22nd	Mary Magdalene
Saturday 25th	St James the Apostle
Sunday 26th	Trinity 7 Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am