

Teddington in Flower

The following gardens will be open on Sunday 7th June 2009 – 2.00-6.00pm. Entrance 50p per person per garden.

19 Kings Road
Alma Cottage, 5 Albert Road
The Powder Rooms, 69-71 Broad Street
(former public toilet on railway bridge)
18 Teddington Park
20 Teddington Park
29 Elmfield Avenue
40 Udney Park Road
Collis School Nature Trail, Fairfax Road
58 Munster Road
123 Munster Road
20 Cloister Close, Langham Road (through archway next to St Mary's Church Hall)
St Mary with St Alban Church, Ferry Road

St Mary Teddington Bells will be playing two 30 minute handbell recitals in Church at 2.30pm and 4.00pm. Teas in the churchyard.

Recycling

In addition to the unwanted spectacles, mobile telephones and spent ink cartridges which parishioners are kind enough to continue to recycle, either using the free

post envelopes at the back of church or, in the case of the spectacles, leaving them in the porch of 15 St Alban's Gardens, here is a further recycling facility:

Tools With A Mission, based in Ipswich, use donated tools to make up, for example carpentry kits, mechanics kits, farming/gardening kits and send them to developing countries round the world to give young men and women a chance to build a life. They also like to receive unwanted sewing machines which are refurbished before being sent away – a tool that can change the earning capacity of whole communities. Further details can be obtained from website www.twam.co.uk. 01473 210220. For a local contact who might be able to help with transport: call Peter Perrin 8894 2801.

Parish Registers

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

19 April: Annie Beatrix Bates, daughter of Robert and Jane Bates.

26 April: Isabella Grace Herrick, daughter of Simon and Kathryn Herrick.

Thanksgiving for 25 years of marriage

4 April: Julia and Malcolm Craig.

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)

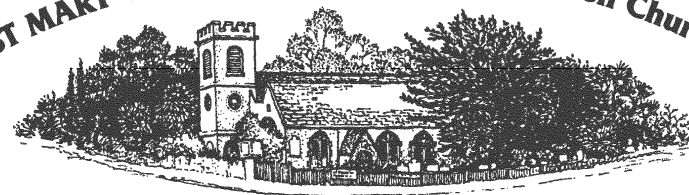
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & HALL BOOKINGS: Gillian Burgess (8943 2262)

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

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

From the Churchwardens

Jerry and I were re-elected as churchwardens at the parish meeting on April 21st and we will be formally 'admitted' by the registrar this month. This will be my final year as churchwarden and Jerry will continue for another three years. It is a privilege to serve the parish and church family as churchwardens (albeit quite hard work without a vicar) – but soon with the arrival of Joe Moffatt we shall be working to ensure that he is supported in his new post.

June is a special month with its long, light evenings and the feeling that holidays are on the horizon; not necessarily to go abroad or, indeed, leave home at all, but to enjoy some time outside the normal routine. One of Teddington's most enjoyable weekends is taking place on the 7th when local people open their gardens to visitors and one can enjoy the different styles and designs and enjoy the roses and other summer flowers. We will open the church on Sunday afternoon for visitors to come in to rest awhile and enjoy looking at some of the historical memorials and monuments that we have. A highlight during this time will be the chance to listen to the St Mary Teddington Bells – a talented handbell group – who will be performing during the afternoon. Then, after your visit, come and enjoy tea and home made cake in our beautiful churchyard.

St Alban, our patron saint, is

commemorated on Sunday 21st and the Archdeacon of Middlesex will come and preach on that day. We have a fine modern statue of St Alban in church and on this special day a red rose is placed in his hand to remind us that he was the first English martyr. The church became known as St Mary with St Alban after the closure of St Alban's church, now the Landmark Arts Centre, originally our dedication was to St Mary only. It is interesting to note that many riverside churches are dedicated to St Mary who offered her protection to seafarers.

We are very proud of our church with its historic links and its ongoing work and witness in the community around us. Each week we pray for those who are sick or are experiencing difficulties in their lives and, as always, we have a short pause in the prayers to reflect on those who are not known to us by name but are known to God. Perhaps you would like to come and join us at our family service one Sunday morning; you will be made very welcome. In these difficult times each and every one of us needs help and support of one kind or another and while you are in church you may care to light a candle – the light of that small candle will go on for several hours after you have left the building and be a visible token of your prayers.

May God bless you all.

Sheila Cooper & Jeremy Bryan

Easter 2009

The Parish was most fortunate to have Bishop Paul here to take our Easter services this year. On **Maundy Thursday** evening he welcomed us all, having introduced himself as the newest member of the congregation, and asked us to think about 'stand out meals' which we had enjoyed. He then related this to the most important 'stand out meal' of all time – the Last Supper – and talked about how we learn in John's gospel that Jesus was teaching the disciples during the meal. He washed their feet, which was not just an act of humility or good manners, but he was setting an example to them, fully knowing that his time had come and he would soon be betrayed. The service concluded with the stripping of the altars.

Good Friday began with a children's service and Bishop Paul explained to the congregation (including his own family) why we call it 'Good' Friday. He also talked about how God loves us so much that he sent us Jesus and how we can show love to people who are precious to us. He ended his sermon by taking the children on a jolly procession around the church to *Lord of the Dance*. Then, for the children, it was over to the Hall for the **Happening** – a picnic lunch and the chance to enjoy all sorts of crafts and activities, including Easter card-making, egg-decorating, sunflower seed planting, cookery, making Easter bonnets and cotton wool lambs and many other exciting things. A selection of the children's work was displayed in church on Easter Day, along with the Prayer Tree to which they had all contributed.

The Happening was organised by Lesley Alexander, with the help of Sunday School teachers and pupils past and present and we are very grateful for all their hard work and for putting together such a happy afternoon.

After the children had left church Bishop Paul opened the **devotional** part of the **Good Friday** service, which was divided

into four blocks, each following a similar format – a hymn, followed by prayer, a reading, a short address and finally some music for reflection and for silent prayer.

The church was full to bursting on **Easter Sunday** morning with 230 people in the congregation to celebrate the festival of the resurrection. Bishop Paul entertained the children (and adults) by blowing bubbles, noting that they all burst eventually, whether big or small and linking this with our own mortality rate which still stands at 100%. However, unlike the Looney Tunes catchphrase 'That's all folks', that is **not** all – Jesus Christ is risen today.

We would like to thank the new Bishop of Kensington for taking our Easter services. We are sure that it was a memorable occasion for all who experienced his ministry at St Mary with St Alban.

Carol Morey & Minnie Harris

Annual Parochial Meeting

This year's meeting on 21st April was well attended and after the election and re-election of officers, including new PCC member Melanie Woodcock, the reports from all the parish organisations and activities – over twenty of them – were received. These had been displayed on the notice-boards in church for several weeks so were not all read out but their main messages were of positive progress, enthusiastic participation and optimism for the future. The Hon. Secretary's Report of the Proceedings of the PCC recorded in particular: the parish's appreciation of the help with services during the interregnum given by the Revs. Alex Walter, Geoffrey Clarkson and Jack Knill-Jones; the Archdeacon's deep satisfaction with the good order of the church in his triennial audit; the "outstanding" result of the church school's recent Ofsted inspection and the steadily increasing number of visitors to the church website.

Susan Jacobs

Labyrinth

On a recent visit to South Island, New Zealand, I discovered a modern example of an ancient Christian aid to worship – a maze, or more correctly, a labyrinth. A maze has a choice of paths, like Hampton Court; a labyrinth has just one. This one is set in the floor of Nelson Cathedral and is modelled on the earliest surviving example of a floor labyrinth (1235) in Chartres Cathedral in France. It is made of coloured wood blocks.

People generally walk a labyrinth slowly, or sometimes even shuffle on their knees, as an aid to contemplative prayer and reflection, as a spiritual exercise, as a form of repentance or even pilgrimage. There are no dead ends, the path is circuitous and

winds into the centre. You follow the same path back to return, so the entrance becomes the exit. There are three stages to the walk; releasing on the way in; receiving in the centre; and returning, taking back out into the world that which has been received.

In medieval times, when pilgrimages were more common but difficult to undertake, the labyrinth could be a substitute for actual travel and so acquired the name *chemin de Jerusalem* or Road to Jerusalem. Labyrinths have recently experienced something of a revival. Partly, perhaps, because they engage so profoundly with people's overt expression of spiritual exploration and life-journey, a characteristic feature of 'post-modernity'.

Susan Jacobs

Diary for June

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 3rd	First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan room, 12.30–2.00pm Topic: The Power of the Media
Sunday 7th	Trinity Sunday Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am Teddington in Flower Church open 2.00-6.00pm; StMTB recitals 2.30pm and 4.00pm; Teas in churchyard
Thursday 11th	Corpus Christi Holy Communion at 9.30am
Sunday 14th	Trinity I Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am Memorial Service for the late Mr Bibby at 2.30pm
Sunday 21st	Trinity II. St Alban. Patronal Festival Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am Preacher: the Ven Stephan Welch, Archdeacon of Middlesex
Wednesday 24th	St John the Baptist
Saturday 27th	Blessing of Wedding at 3.30pm
Sunday 28th	Trinity III Holy Communion at 8.00am Family Communion at 9.45am Holy Baptism at 2.30pm
Monday 29th	St Peter and St Paul