

nineteen of our church family explored five different Spiritual Essentials for our journey of faith. These topics were Compass: Finding direction; Nourishment: Keeping going; Light: Gaining wisdom; Shelter: Finding security; Water: Enjoying refreshment.

Each session began by lighting a candle and the opening prayer followed by a time of reflection on the previous week's meeting. The theme for the current week was introduced by reading a passage from John's Gospel, John 14:1-7; 6:25-35; 1:4-10, 5:35-36; 10:7-17; 4:5-18 respectively. The group then explored this before reflecting on how the message of the passage might be applied to them both individually and corporately as members of the church. This was accompanied by people bringing items related to the theme, for example when we studied the topic of nourishment we all shared from two loaves of bread. Each session concluded by stilling ourselves in the presence of God. We did this by listening to a piece of music before moving into a time of silent prayer. The session closed with the responsorial prayer for that week.

Once again our time of Lenten reflection helped each of us to grow in our own spiritual awareness, and prepare for the next stage of our journey with Jesus.

Hilary Adamson

Mothering Sunday 22nd March

A packed and lively church was the setting for our celebration of Mothering Sunday with representatives from the Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. Some great marching music and the procession of the flags got the service underway with Reverend Geoffrey Clarkson in control.

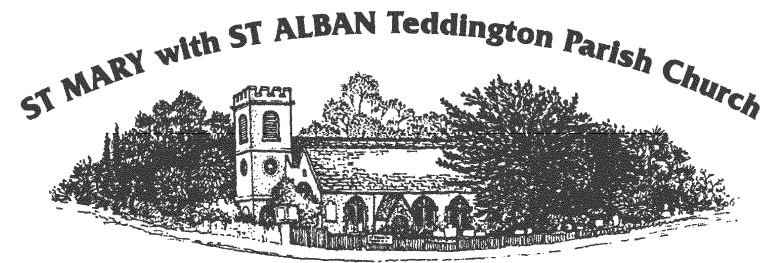
The sermon, aimed at the younger audience, told a story of a nosy fairy godmother, some messy pigs, princes and princesses; something for everyone. The message being the importance in life above and beyond just the material things and the role of parenting and mothers in the job of teaching essential values.

The Rainbow group gave us a first class performance of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*, followed by the Brownies with a very musical composition of *My Mum is Kind*.

This was followed by the highlight of the service, the giving of the flower bouquets to all the mothers in the congregation. A big thank you to the team of workers who had tirelessly created the works of art on the previous evening.

The retiring collection was in aid of Marie Curie Cancer care and raised £107. Recent fund raising from the after service coffee has reached £150 for Street Child Africa.

Nick Harris



NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

From the Churchwardens

In this month of May we can begin to enjoy longer days with lighter evenings and the promise of summer to come. Two Bank Holidays in one month combine to create a sense of space in our busy lives and the chance, perhaps, to escape the everyday and enjoy a walk in the park or by the river, and, dare we say it, tackle those jobs in the garden!

In the church's year following the contrasts of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday we have a celebration of Sea Sunday on May 3rd. Members of our local lifeboat station will come to church, take part in the service and we will all join together to give thanks for their dedication in saving lives and rescuing those in trouble on the river. The following Sunday we mark the beginning of Christian Aid week. During the service those who will be collecting money during the week will receive a special blessing to strengthen them in their work. Special prayers will encourage us to think of those who have little or no access to medical care, adequate food or access to fresh, clean water and inspire us to give as generously as we can.

We have begun the 'countdown' to August when our new Vicar elect and his family will move to Teddington in readiness for his induction on September 2nd. Work is now in progress to refurbish and freshen up the vicarage inside and out. We are very fortunate to have an ideal family home for our Vicar and the Moffatt family are looking forward to the move.

We all continue to have fears and concerns

about employment, pensions and finances and, as we write this in late March, there seems little to relieve the gloom. At St Mary's we pray each week for our friends, family and the wider community. Teddington is a friendly and welcoming place and retains a sense of village life with its busy small shops in the High Street. The parish church is very much part of that and we hope that you will come and join us one Sunday – you will be very welcome. The times of services and special celebrations are listed in the Diary inside this newsletter or can be found on the website.

May God bless you all.

Sheila Cooper & Jeremy Bryan

Consecration of the Bishop of Kensington

I travelled to St Paul's Cathedral on a bright sunny morning to join a large congregation of friends and members of churches in the Kensington Area for Canon Paul Williams' consecration. The Archbishop of Canterbury and other Bishops were in procession from the west end of the cathedral to the altar set under the dome and it was of great interest to hear the promises made of allegiance to the Queen, as head of the church, and also the agreement to abide by the 'catholic creeds and formularies' of the church. The majestic words echoed the language of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and seemed very fitting in such a setting. For our part, we stood and responded to the Archbishop asking 'Is it now your will that he should be ordained?' and later 'Will you continually

SERVICES: **SUNDAYS:** Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am
Family Communion (Common Worship) and Sunday School (most Sundays during term time) at 9.45am

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Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476)

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PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarywithstalban.org

pray for him?’ as well as ‘Will you uphold and encourage him in his ministry?’ to which, in each case, we firmly said ‘**We will**’. For me, one of the most moving parts of the ceremony was to see the Ordinand, as he was still titled, kneel before the Archbishop, directly under the dome, and the College of Bishops moving to stand around him to lay their hands on his head whilst the Archbishop prayed that the Holy Spirit be sent down upon him for the office and work of a bishop in the church. As the sunlight filtered down upon the bishops all clothed in scarlet and white it was a memorable image.

After presenting the newly ordained bishop with a Bible the Archbishop anointed him with holy oil before presenting him to all the assembled people for us to welcome him with these words ‘We welcome you as a shepherd of Christ’s flock. Build up the church in unity and love, that the world may believe’. A round of applause followed this affirmation and Bishop Paul stood before us.

The service then took the familiar shape of Holy Communion. After all had received, the Archbishop blessed the congregation. The whole assembly processed down the nave towards the great west doors which were wide open for the new bishop to go out and stand on the steps whilst the guild of ringers pealed out the bells in welcome and passers-by and tourists gazed in wonder and a degree of curiosity.

Sheila Cooper

60-second interview with the new Bishop of Kensington, The Right Reverend Paul Williams

Who inspired you most to go into the church?

Many different people have contributed, but especially my parents.

What is your favourite book of the Old Testament?

The Book of Psalms touches every human situation and emotion.

What is your favourite book of the New Testament?

Paul’s letter to the Ephesians provides a truly

inspiring panorama of the whole gospel.

What is the best advice you’ve ever been given?

The Joy of the Lord is your strength!

What is the best advice you’ve given?

Take a closer look at Jesus – and talk to him.

Who is your favourite saint?

Saint Barnabas.

What is your favourite hymn?

Right now it would be ‘Rejoice the Lord is King!’.

What is your favourite service in the Christian calendar?

They all have their own beauty and create wonder – Good Friday and Easter Sunday always draw me back to a place of surrender and celebration.

If you could have met Jesus, what would you have said to him?

Thank you for loving me.

What is your favourite film?

A film that inspired me many years ago was ‘Chariots of Fire’.

What is your favourite piece of music?

I enjoy mainly English Choral music and the best contemporary worship.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spending time with my family, trying to have as much fun as possible.

What do you believe is the Church’s main challenge for the next 5 years?

The Church’s main challenge has not changed in 2000 years and that is to bring the hope and presence of Christ alive for modern people.

www.stmarywithstalban.org

Lenten Appeal – Water Aid – Jars of Change for Jars of Water

We are delighted that a total of £308.68 was raised for our Lenten Appeal.

Garden Gang

Attendance: Very good. *Effort:* Outstanding.

Result: Brilliant.

Very many thanks from Cyril Shaw

Christian Aid Week–10th-16th May

Christian Aid Week is approaching, and the commissioning service will be held on Sunday 10th May at 9.45am. Our collectors will be delivering to and collecting envelopes from every house in the parish. Last year this parish raised £2,500. Christian Aid works with communities in the developing world to improve healthcare, education and agricultural

conditions for everyone, not Christians alone. Teddington people are generous in their support and we are grateful. Please support us again this year.

Mary Green

Lent Group 2009

This year our Lent Group, ably led by Susan Jacobs, studied a Lentwise course ‘Spiritual Essentials for Real Life’. Each week up to

Diary for May

Friday 1st	St Philip and St James.
Sunday 3rd	4th Sunday of Easter. Sea Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Parade Service at 9.45am.
Wednesday 6th	Holy Communion (reserved sacrament) at 9.30am. First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan room 12.30 – 2.00pm. Topic: Darwin’s Dilemma?
Sunday 10th	5th Sunday of Easter. Christian Aid Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.
Wednesday 13th	Holy Communion (reserved sacrament) at 9.30am.
Saturday 16th	Wedding at 2.00pm.
Sunday 17th	6th Sunday of Easter. Rogation Sunday. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am. Baptism at 2.00pm.
Wednesday 20th	No service. Holy Communion at St Peter and St Paul at 10.30am. All are welcome.
Thursday 21st	Ascension Day Holy Communion at 9.30am. Evening celebration of Holy Communion at St Peter and St Paul at 8.00pm. All are welcome.
Sunday 24th	1st Sunday after Ascension. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am. Baptism at 2.30pm.
Wednesday 27th	Holy Communion (reserved sacrament) at 9.30am.
Sunday 31st	Whit Sunday. Day of Pentecost. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am.

And looking ahead

June 7th Teddington in Flower.

June 21st Patronal Festival.

Wednesday September 2nd Induction of our new vicar, the Reverend Joe Moffatt at 7.30pm.