

throughout the year. Host is a registered charity backed by the Foreign Office and many universities. It is not necessary for hosts to live near a university, as students are prepared to travel far for this unique experience! See [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser for London, Paul Allan, on 020 7193 6506. Thank you!

*Margaret Stevens, Publicity Officer, HOST*

### **Parish Registers**

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

19 September: Simon Molden and Catriona Arbour

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

13 September: Henry, son of Matthew and Eva Watson; Oliver, son of James and Joanna Roberts; Tate, daughter of Robert and Shelly Pawley-Nita

20 September: Lucy and Isabel, daughters of Nicholas and Julia Jarvis

7 September: Thomas, son of Nick and Sam King

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

23 September: Alan Paton

9 October: Peter Lovegrove

### **Harvest Supper**

Very many thanks to June Demont and her team for a wonderful evening with fun, great companionship and a delicious meal. £250 was raised for Christian Aid.

### **Haydn at St Mary's**

On Saturday 26th September, the church was host to a celebration of the bicentenary of Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). The Vicar welcomed the 70 strong audience and players and guest speaker Simon Rowland-Jones, an eminent viola player, composer and editor of a new edition of the Haydn string quartets.

Simon gave a fascinating talk telling us how he travelled around the globe and examined 30 of Haydn's autograph manuscripts and from those and other sources corrected mistakes of subsequent editions e.g. dynamics, bowings and even the notes themselves!

After the talk four quartets played and Simon offered advice and suggestions how they could be improved.

The day was much enjoyed by both performers and audience and at the end, Simon commented that the proceedings seemed to be very much 'with the spirit of Haydn present'. Thanks to all who made it such a success.

*Janet Smith*

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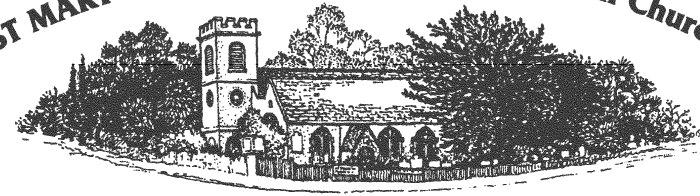
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ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

### **Vicar's Viewpoint**

It was wonderful to see the church full to bursting for our Harvest Festival last month. A good number of guides/brownies/rainbows and scouts/cubs/beavers helped to swell the ranks, along with the very impressive choir from our primary school, St Mary's and St Peter's. But there were also lots of regular families and folk who just wanted to be in church to give thanks to God for the many blessings in their lives. And it felt like there was a real buzz to the service as a result.

This is a good reminder that as a parish church we are here for all local residents and not just for the committed core of regular attendees (which is why this newsletter gets delivered to every door in the parish). The Church of England has always sought to serve the parish as a whole and not just the congregation. And there is a very noble tradition of this in Teddington, as I've been discovering in the archives.

One figure in particular stands out, the Reverend Dr Stephen Hales, parish priest of Teddington from 1709 to 1761. He was responsible for many improvements to the church building, including the tower and the installation of a new bell. I rather like his description of the fact that this new bell was 'to be heard at a much greater distance, not only for the benefit of the serious and well disposed but also as a constant memento to the Careless, the Negligent and the Profane'! Just as significant, however,

were his scientific enterprises which benefited the bodily needs of his parishioners as much as the spiritual. Dr Hales is credited with devising a system of ventilation which greatly improved conditions in hospitals and on ships. He was also well-known for his work relating to blood pressure. But what must have made a real difference to local people was his installation of a drainage system whereby springs on the common were intercepted so that they could drain into a pond which then supplied and flushed the open drain that ran the length of the High Street.

Taking an interest in drains and sewers is a good image of the Church of England at its best. It reminds me of a recent description I've come across in a book entitled *Praying for England* by Sarah Coakley:

Like the main drainage system, the Church of England can still be taken for granted in modern Britain. Like the main drainage system, its efficacy is as deep as it is also invisible. Like the main drainage system, it continues to attend to what often cannot be mentioned. And like the main drainage system, when it goes wrong there is a horrible smell that affects everyone.

A sobering thought for those of us with responsibility in the church! But I hope that as and when you need to turn to us, we are as dependable as the drains, only a little more fragrant.

Best wishes.

*Joe Moffatt*

### All Souls' Service

Traditionally the church remembers all who have departed this world on November 2nd, All Souls' Day. But this year our **All Souls' Service will be on Sunday 1st November at 3pm** so that as many people as possible can attend. This will be a short service during which the names of loved ones departed will be read out. All are welcome to this service and we would like to extend a special invitation to those who have had a funeral of a loved one in St Mary's in recent years. If you would like to add any names please drop Reverend Joe Moffatt a line before the day.

### Sunday School Outing

Due to the outbreak of E-Coli at Godstone Farm, the Sunday School outing was switched to Bockett's Farm at short notice. Once again Mel did a fantastic job of organising the trip, including a coach journey and a tractor & trailer ride. In between washing their hands, the children also had a chance to feed sheep and goats, pet rabbits and ride ponies. Hugo was unable to attend but nevertheless kept everyone entertained on the coach by providing his annual bible quiz. He provided an additional challenge for the judges by not including the answers! The Tasker family won first prize, while Hannah Cooper and Kate Winterton jointly won the junior division. At lunchtime, everyone enjoyed a picnic together in the sunshine followed by an afternoon of play in the brilliant farm grounds. One or two parents were spotted having a go on the large slides! We were glad that some new families were able to join us for this trip. More are always welcome - for details of future events, including the 'Christingle', please see the church website, [www.stmarywithstalban.org](http://www.stmarywithstalban.org)

*James and Susan Winterton*

### Newland House Pre-preparatory Harvest Festival

On a beautiful sunny October morning the young children from Newland House School pre-preparatory department held their annual Harvest Festival service in the parish church. Reverend Joe Moffatt welcomed the children along with their teachers and parents for the thanksgiving celebration. At the beginning of the service the children processed up to the altar carrying brightly decorated boxes and bags containing items of food. These gifts of food will be distributed to the needy of the parish and the homeless. The celebration continued with a selection of harvest hymns and songs especially adapted for the service. All the children joined in and sang their own songs including HARVEST, to the tune of 'Doe-a deer'. They also gave thanks to God by reading out prayers and poems which had been selected for the service.

Reverend Moffatt's address reminded us all of the meaning of Harvest and of the many ways in which we can show our thanks, not just through songs and poems, but through behaving in a kind and caring manner towards other people. He had a lively question and answer session when using a can of chicken soup as the starting point, he involved the children in an exploration of how the food got to our tables and the people whom we needed to thank, ranging from the farmers to shopkeepers to mums and dads, and many others in between. The children enjoyed thinking about this and responded enthusiastically.

The final blessing was given and the children headed back to school in the autumn sunshine. A retiring collection was held for the Macmillan Cancer Charity and this raised £544.

*Catherine Elvidge*

### Welfare Coffee Morning

Margaret Squire thanks everyone who supported her Welfare Coffee Morning. £135 was raised to go towards the Christmas Party.

### St Mary with St Alban 2010 Calendar

St Mary with St Alban's calendar for 2010 which includes views of the church, the Landmark Centre, the lock, Bushy Park and surrounding Teddington area are on sale at £9 each, 3 for £24 or 5 for £36 from the Parish Office, after church on Sundays and at the Church Bazaar. For more information please contact [calendar@stmarywithstalban.org](mailto:calendar@stmarywithstalban.org).

*Amanda Rymel*

### Christmas Host

Are you thinking about who might come for Christmas this year? Perhaps you would like to make it a bit different. Some of the adults from overseas who are currently studying at UK universities would love to spend a couple of days in a real home, rather than on a deserted campus. It is interesting to share Christmas with people for whom it is all quite new (many international students are from China, for example) HOST has been linking students with hospitable volunteers for 22 years at Christmas and also one-off weekends

### Diary for November

*SERVICES – Sundays: Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am  
Family Communion and Sunday School at 9.45am  
Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.30am  
Weekdays (except Mondays): Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm*

Sunday 1st	All Saints' Sunday All Souls' Service 3pm
Wednesday 4th	1st Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2pm Topic: Should Christians be Pacifists?
Sunday 8th	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> Holy Communion at 8am. No service here at 9.45am <b>Service of Remembrance at War Memorial 10.50am</b> Christmas FAIRTRADE Day at All Hallows Church Hall, Twickenham with Tearfund. 11am-4pm
Tuesday 10th	Baptism Preparation Evening 8pm
Sunday 15th	Second Sunday before Advent Baptism 12 noon
Sunday 22nd	Christ the King Baptism 12noon
Tuesday 24th	PCC meeting 7.45pm
Thursday 26th	Christmas Tree lights switch on and carols 5.30pm Elmfield House
Saturday 28th	<b>INCREDIBLE BAZAAR 11am-3pm St Mary's Parish Hall</b>
Sunday 29th	Advent Sunday Baptism 12noon

### Forthcoming events

Sunday Dec 6th	3pm Christingle Service Parish Hall
Tuesday Dec 15th	6pm St Mary with St Peter School Carol Service
Wednesday Dec 16th	7.30pm British Legion Carol Service
Sunday Dec 20th	6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday Dec 24th	3.30pm & 5pm Crib Services
Friday Dec 25th	9.45am Family Communion