

Vicar's 60-second Interview

Who inspired you most to go into the church?

My parents (my dad is a vicar).

What is your favourite book of the Old Testament?

Genesis – so many epic stories.

What is your favourite book of the New Testament?

The Gospel of Matthew.

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

Take a year off after school (and university!).

What is the best advice you've given?

Discover www.homeexchange.com.

Who is your favourite saint?

Saint Francis of Assisi.

What is your favourite hymn?

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

What is your favourite carol?

See, amid the winter's snow.

What is your favourite service in the Christian calendar?

The Good Friday Liturgy.

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

Let's eat!

What is your favourite book?

The Poisonwood Bible – Barbara Kingsolver.

What is your favourite film?

Schindler's List.

What is your favourite piece of music?

Dream of Gerontius – Elgar; Matthew Passion – Bach; Resurrection Symphony – Mahler.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Play cricket and watch cricket (or any other sport!).

What's the worst job you've ever had?

I've only had two jobs and they've both been brilliant.

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

To create vibrant church communities that people of all ages want to be a part of.

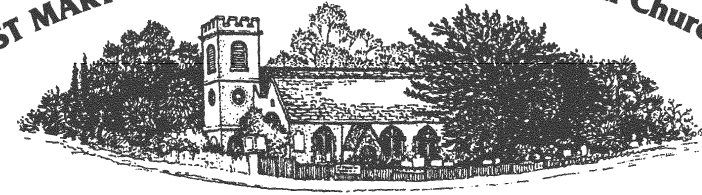
as told to Carol Morey

Parish Registers

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

26 July: George William Rainbow, son of Robert and Laura Marsh.

ST MARY with ST ALBAN Teddington Parish Church



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

Vicar's Viewpoint

On September 2nd I finally become your Vicar. It is both a privilege and a challenge that I've been looking forward to for many months. I'm eager to meet as many people as possible. You are all welcome to the Induction Service on September 2nd at 7.30pm or any Sunday thereafter at either 8am or 9.45am. Alternatively, do take the opportunity of stopping me in the street and introducing yourself. I generally get about on my bicycle if not on foot, so just hail me!

As a family we are delighted to have moved into the Vicarage on Twickenham Road. We are very grateful to the Diocese and the Parish for all the work that has been done to it. Evie and Daniel are looking forward to starting Year 2 and Reception Class respectively at St Mary's and St Peter's Primary School. Jo, my wife, is transferring to her company's head office in Epsom where she will continue her work as a civil engineer three days a week. (Yes, that's right, we're Joe and Jo!)

I have ministered in two very different parishes before coming to Teddington, firstly in Wolverhampton and latterly in Chelsea. Both were hugely enjoyable. But neither has given me a blueprint which would be right for this parish. That's something to be worked out on the job with local people who know Teddington best.

What I do come with, however, are a few convictions about faith and the church. The first is that **faith must mix**. In other words, the church must continually seek to engage with all individuals and organisations in society, not just those who congregate on a Sunday. As William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury, once said: 'The church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members.' As a parish priest I am given a licence to roam and mix with a wonderful array of humankind. This is what I love about my job. My conviction, however, is that mixing isn't just a priestly role but is something fundamental for all who seek to follow Christ.

My second conviction is that **faith must be fun**. This is not to say that we shouldn't be solemn or serious. There is nothing more solemn or serious than our faith. But it should also have the essential quality of joy which more often than not is expressed in having fun with people. Jesus himself seems to have been very good company, being accused by his detractors of being something of a glutton and a partygoer. And just as people were attracted to him, so they are attracted to churches where there is a palpable sense of fun about their fellowship, where they clearly enjoy each other's company. This was underlined for me during my recent trip to Mozambique where any kind of church gathering was

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: **VICAR:** The Rev Joe Moffatt.
Contact details: Parish Office, Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 1HF (8943 2262), e-mail: vicar@stmarywithstalban.org

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)

accompanied by spontaneous singing and dancing to everyone's great enjoyment. I look forward to the many social occasions that parish life in Teddington offers.

My final conviction is that **faith must be nurtured**. I'm increasingly aware that if I stop praying, reading and reflecting, my faith dwindles. And I imagine that's true for many of us. So enabling people, young and old alike, to pray and read and reflect, should always be high on the church's agenda. I look forward to learning alongside people in the parish as we develop opportunities to reflect together. I'm not ashamed to be labelled a liberal when it comes to theology. Approaching scripture, doctrine and ethics with an open, enquiring mind seems to me to be the best way of encountering the God who revealed himself in Christ. God is surely big enough not to need our dogmatic defensiveness. But people, in my experience, do want to be inspired and informed about faith and enabled to deepen their relationship with God. The challenge, therefore, is to come up with new ways to nurture faith that complement what we already do.

So there you have it, three convictions for starters: faith must mix, faith must be fun, and faith must be nurtured. But that's really just by way of letting you know a bit about where I'm coming from. I'm much more interested in your convictions and working out what we can do together for the good of others and the glory of God. I can't wait to start!

Best wishes.

Joe Moffatt

"Pegs" Celebrates 250 Years

A short way up the High Street from the church is a delightful row of old cottages. One of them, Peg Woffington's, heavily overgrown with wisteria, sports a plaque

dating it to 1759. Thanks to Susan Jacobs spotting this, the Teddington Society was able to lay on a 250th birthday party for the current occupants – Betty & Tony Mansell who've lived there over 40 years. On July 15th about 40 members of the Teddington Society crowded into the cottage and its lovely patio garden to celebrate. Jasmine Bayley had made a cake decorated with real pink roses, Betty & Tony generously supplied champagne while local historian Paddy Ching gave a short history of the property. Margaret "Peg" Woffington, born in Ireland c. 1714, was spotted at the age of 12 selling cress in the streets of Dublin. In 1740 she came to London to act, where she largely played male or 'breeches' parts at Covent Garden Theatre and then Drury Lane. She had a 3 year liaison with the famous actor/manager David Garrick. Peg came to 'a villa' in Teddington in about 1745 but in the 1750s her health failed and she died in London in March 1760. Her body was brought back to Teddington where she is buried in St Mary's churchyard. No doubt you'll have seen her memorial in the Church.

Sheena Harold

Haydn Bi-centenary

To celebrate the bi-centenary of Haydn's death a special event is being held in church on Saturday 26th September. The eminent viola player and composer Simon Rowland Jones will be giving a talk on his new edition of the Haydn String Quartets for which he has spent some years tracking down the original manuscripts and correcting over-edited parts. The talk, 10.00am-11.00am, will be followed by a masterclass, 11.00am-2.00pm, when some invited local players will be coached on Haydn quartets. This is an event for music lovers not to be missed – all welcome – donations at the door – come and go (quietly) as you please.

Further information:

Janet Smith 07881 782513

Garden Clean Up

On the last Saturday of July people in Twickenham Road were surprised to see groups descending on the Vicarage wielding various types of gardening tools and disappearing into the back garden, the front garden having been decorated by a large skip on the garage runway. About 20 church members had come to try to make the garden more child-friendly by removing the shrubs which had taken over the grass all round, and cutting down several trees

growing out of the grass. The garden seemed to grow bigger by the minute and soon looked as though it would stand up to football and other games for the Vicarage's new occupants. At lunch time Jerry Bryan lit his barbecue and treated us to an excellent lunch, which was much appreciated. By the end of the day a vast amount of clearing had been done, but a few returned on Sunday to clear even more.

Jennifer Shaw

Diary for September

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| Wednesday 2nd | First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan room, 12.30-2.00pm. Topic: The importance of communication. Induction of the Rev Joe Moffatt, 7.30pm. |
| Sunday 6th | Trinity 13. Holy Communion at 8am. Family Communion at 9.45am. |
| Wednesday 9th | Holy Communion at 9.30am. |
| Sunday 13th | Trinity 14. Holy Communion at 8.00am. Family Communion at 9.45am. Sunday school re-starts. Holy Baptism, 12.00 noon. Holy Baptism, 12.30pm. |
| Wednesday 16th | Holy Communion at 9.30am. |
| Friday 18th | Churches Together in Teddington informal seminar at Costa Coffee, Broad Street, 7.15-8.30pm. Topic: Parenting. |
| Saturday 19th | Wedding at 3.00pm. |
| Sunday 20th | Trinity 15. Holy Communion at 8am. Family communion at 9.45am. Sunday school outing. Holy Baptism, 12.00 noon. |
| Wednesday 23rd | Holy Communion at 9.30am. |
| Thursday 24th | PCC meeting, Mina Hogan room, 7.45pm. |
| Saturday 26th | Haydn Bi-centenary talk & masterclass in church, 10.00am-2.00pm. |
| Sunday 27th | Trinity 16. Holy Communion at 8am. Family Communion at 9.45am. Holy Baptism, 12.00 noon. |
| Wednesday 30th | Holy Communion at 9.30am. First Wednesday Club (a week early) in Mina Hogan room, 12.30-2.00pm Topic: Vicar's Mozambique experience. |

And looking ahead

Friday, 2nd October Newland House Pre-Prep Harvest, 9.00am.

Sunday 4th October Harvest Festival, 9.45am; Harvest Supper, 6.00pm.