

## Remembrance

We're outside Westminster Abbey, spines tingling to the unmistakable sound of a flypast by a Spitfire and Hurricane; a fitting postscript to this year's Battle of Britain memorial service where we remembered, with gratitude, the sacrifice of "the few" in the dark days of 1940.

The spectacle is impressive but what is the continuing relevance for those, like me, born after the war? I turn to dad. Now 84, in 1940 he was a 14 year old boy and tells of the thrills of seeing Spitfires in dogfights over his London docklands home. He also conveys something of the dread of the unrelenting destruction of the Blitz, including the bombing of his own home.

But there are other family ties to the sacrifice of airmen. Four years ago we travelled with dad to Sicily and amid the ranks of gravestones in the immaculate Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in Catania we found five memorials that told of those strong links. Those stones commemorated the crew of an RAF Wellington, shot down in 1943. The crew are still together as they were in life, the oldest 26, the average age barely more than 20. The wireless operator was 'Mossy' Bryan, dad's big brother and the uncle I never knew.

Mossy, his colleagues and countless others, sacrificed their lives that we might be free, and today's airmen, soldiers and sailors continue that service and sacrifice. We have a duty to tell our children and grandchildren of that sacrifice. We will remember them.

Jeremy Bryan

## Harvest Festival Week 2010

Newland House schoolchildren produced a wonderful collection of decorated boxes full of exciting harvest gifts and charming messages at their service in church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October. The following evening 85 parishioners sat down in the Hall to a memorable harvest supper. A packed service in church the next morning gave hearty thanks "for all good gifts around us sent from heaven above", and finally on the Friday afternoon the children at St Mary's & St Peter's invited the "over 50s" into School for tea, cakes and entertainments. All the donated produce was most gratefully received by SPEAR, Welcare, Salvation Army and Elleray Hall with £250 cash donations going to both SPEAR and the Pakistan Flood Appeal.

Susan Jacobs

For more, including photos, see website

## Parish Registers

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

September 26: James Paynter, son of Jennifer Paynter and Richard Muraszko; William and Edward Boyle, sons of Samantha and Jeremy Boyle

October 10: Catrin Marshall, daughter of Jo and Andrew Marshall

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

September 25: Melissa Heightman and Stephen Cone

### **Vicar:**

The Rev Joe Moffatt, Parish Office, St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington. TW11 9HF (8977 2767), e-mail: vicar@stmarywithstalban.org

### **Parish Administrator**

Debbie Taylor-Osborne, Parish Office (8943 2262)

### **& Hall Bookings:**

e-mail: parishhall@stmarywithstalban.org

### **Church Wardens:**

Jeremy Bryan, 71 Clarence Road, Teddington TW11 0BN (8977 3055)  
Terry Brown, 11 Grove Terrace, Teddington TW11 8AU. (07905 495 130)

### **Sunday School:**

sundayschool@stmarywithstalban.org

### **Director of Music:**

Harold Lester (8878 0021)

### **Church School:**

St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington  
Headteacher John Logan (8943 0476)

### **Newsletter Editors:**

Susan Jacobs (8943 0503) and Melanie Woodcock (07810 800 561)

### **Parish Website:**

www.stmarywithstalban.org

# NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2010



## StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

### **Vicar's Viewpoint**

A few years ago my father tried to trace our family history back to the town of Moffat in Scotland, assuming that there must be some connection despite having a double 't' at the end of our name. Alas, the search got no further than some undistinguished yeomanry in the East Midlands. He was amused, however, to discover the Moffat Clan motto: *Spero meliora – I hope for better things.*

To say, 'I hope for better things', rather implies that things can't get much worse. Perhaps this slightly morose motto reflected the experience of a small clan in the dangerous border country of Scotland. Perhaps it reflects your experience of times when things haven't gone your way. All you hope for is for things to get a little bit better.

I want to suggest that the Christian understanding of hope is a lot more positive and optimistic than this. Based on the way that Jesus healed and transformed the lives of those he encountered; based on the way that his disciples and saints have continued to transform lives ever since; based on the remarkable way in which the local church, when it is working at its best, can bring healing and wholeness to the grieving, the broken, the confused, the marginalized; based on all these things, the hope of the Christian faith is for much more than a slight improvement in circumstances. It is for nothing less than a transformed world in which all people can flourish in relationship with one another, in which God's rule of love, peace and justice is enjoyed by everyone, and in which we all live

**St Mary's with St Alban's Church  
Calendars for 2011, with lovely pictures  
of our church and locality, are on sale at  
£9 each (3 for £24, 5 for £36) from the  
Parish Office, after church on Sundays,  
and at the Bazaar.**

in harmony with creation. This should mean that churches have bold agendas. It is said that church development plans should scare and excite its members in equal measure.

Christians also hope for a transformed life beyond death as well as before death. Based on the accounts of Jesus' resurrection; based on the profound sense of peace that many followers of Christ over the centuries have experienced; and based on a common conviction that love is enduring; based on all these things, the hope of the Christian faith is that death will not be able to separate us from the love of God and from the company of the saints and all those whom we love. This is reflected in the remarkable sense of hope and peace that I often encounter when visiting our local hospices. And it should be reflected in our services this month, especially when remembering our loved ones departed (All Souls' Service on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>) and those who have died in war (Remembrance Sunday on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>).

So never mind just hoping for better things when it looks like things can't get much worse. Those of us who profess the Christian faith should be able to say, 'I hope for better things', even when things are going well. For Jesus taught that life in all its fullness was of unimaginable beauty. Those who hope and yearn for such beauty can really make a difference in our world. I think of the recently-retired Desmond Tutu. And then I think: what about you and me?

With best wishes,

Joe Moffatt

### **Reclaiming the Churchyard**

BTCV are helping to reclaim the overgrown areas of our churchyard in an eco-friendly way. Extra volunteers are needed on Thursday November 18th from 10am-4pm. If you are interested please contact Stella Smith (8977 9532) stellasmith@btinternet.com



*Bishop Paul, with crozier, surrounded by Joe and all the newly confirmed*

## Confirmation

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September the Bishop of Kensington, Right Reverend Paul Williams, conducted an evening Service of Baptism and Confirmation. Eight adults and eight youngsters were confirmed by the Bishop and two of the younger ones were also baptised.

### **Stella Smith writes:**

Preparation classes given by our Vicar, Joe Moffatt, took place over several weeks during which we explored many Christian topics including : how to read the Bible, the Gospels, prayer, Christian beliefs, Church Services and Sacraments.

On the Sunday evening before Confirmation we gathered in the candle-lit church for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. Joe started us off in prayer then encouraged us to pray, reflect and be still. It was a very moving experience appreciated by all.

The main ceremony was lovely. The church was full of families and friends. Before the Service, we met Bishop Paul and he reassured us so we weren't too nervous. During his Sermon he urged us to confirm our faith, to make it strong and to go out and realise our potential in Christ. Angus and Alex were baptised and the rest of us were sprinkled with water to remind us of our own baptisms. Then the Confirmation followed with the Bishop laying hands on each of us and anointing us. Then we went up to receive our first Communion.

Afterwards we received a lighted candle and

processed over to the Hall - with the memorable sight of the Bishop, in full regalia, holding up the traffic for us – and we joined our families and friends for refreshments - a lovely end to a special evening.

### **Katherine Sayer writes**

On the evening of Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September seven teenagers and I were confirmed by Paul, the Bishop of Kensington. When we arrived many of us felt nervous, but we all felt excited; it was clear this was going to be a special evening for all of us. The Bishop arrived and spoke to each of us individually, which helped calm my nerves, and then we reflected on what was about to happen. After we met the Bishop and had a photo taken, we joined our friends and family in church. All the candidates sat at the front. I particularly enjoyed the Bishop's sermon because he told some amusing stories. Before I knew it I was being confirmed and then back in my seat. Following the confirmation I took communion for the first time.

I would like to say thank you to Joe and Hilary for making the confirmation classes so thought-provoking as well as good fun. I really enjoyed looking at the Bible and having group discussions on some deeper issues. I have known some of the other people in the class almost all my life, and it was lovely getting confirmed with them.

I chose to be confirmed because I was ready to make my own personal commitment to God; this was a really special evening for me and I will never forget it.

## Sunday School Outing

The Sunday School visited Godstone Farm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September, joined for the first time by the Mini Sunday Schoolers, so places on the coach (kindly provided by the church) were snapped up quickly.

On the way we enjoyed Hugo's ever-popular quiz, which was challenging but fun. Once at the farm we saw all sorts of animals in a variety of shapes and colours: from stately llamas and inquisitive goats, to shaggy ponies and muddy pigs. Our favourite was definitely Woody, the retired racehorse. We ate our packed lunches together in the horse barn, just next to a large indoor play area, which meant there was fun to

be had even in the wet weather.

It wasn't just a farm of animals though. The children played on the many swings, slides, climbing frames, climb-on tractors and also explored the nature trail. Some of us even found time to slip into the tearoom to sample their legendary cakes, before heading back to the coach for the quiz results, a share of the prize - jelly babies - and a much quieter journey home. As newcomers to the church, we want to say a big thank you to Mel and Matt Woodstock for organising such a fun and friendly family day out.

*Anna, Rob & Joseph Ganley*

*For photos, see the website*

## Diary for November

<i>SERVICES –</i>	<i>Sundays: Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am Family Communion and Sunday School at 9.45am</i>
	<i>Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.30am</i>
<i>Weekdays (except Mondays):</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm</i>
Tuesday 2nd	All Souls' Service 7.30pm
Wednesday 3rd	First Wednesday Club, Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2pm, Topic: Ways to pray – what works for you
Sunday 7th	3rd Sunday before Advent Family Communion with Baptisms at 9.45am Baptisms 12 noon
Thursday 11th	Remembrance Prayers in church 11am Pub Lunch at Anglers 12.30pm. Sign up sheet at back of church.
Sunday 14th	Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion at 8am <b>NO 9.45am Family Communion in church but</b> Service of Remembrance outside Memorial Hospital at 10.50am Youth Group in the Hall 6.30pm
Tuesday 16th	Supper Talk with Rev. Tim Bryant, Chaplain of Wandsworth Prison 7.30pm in Hall. Tickets and further info. from Parish Office
Thursday 18th	Eco-friendly Churchyard Reclaim Project, all day 10am-4pm
Sunday 21st	Christ the King Baptisms 12 noon
Tuesday 23rd	Playwam Christmas shopping evening, Parish Hall, 8-10pm. Info. Genevieve Harper 07951 270 728
Thursday 25th	Christmas Lighting-up ceremony outside Elmfield House 5.30pm
Saturday 27th	<b>Christmas Bazaar 11am-2.30pm in the Hall</b>
Sunday 28th	Advent Sunday Guest preacher: Rev Ruth Bushyager, Kensington Area Missioner Baptisms 12 noon
Tuesday 30th	PCC Meeting 7.45pm
Wed. Dec 1st	First Advent Course meeting, Mina Hogan Room 10.30-12noon. Info. Susan Jacobs. St Mary's Singers sing at Squires Garden Centre, 7pm. Info. Margaret Squire 8977 3362.