

**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting
With Supper**

St Mary's Parish Hall
Tuesday April 5th at 7.30pm
Two-course supper with wine
Suggested £8 donation
(pay at the supper)
Book places via parish office 8943 2262

3837. There is a small charge of £5.00 and you will need to bring a packed lunch.

Susan Jacobs



A Parish trip to
St Paul's Cathedral
Saturday 14th May 2011

Meet on the steps at 2pm
Guided tour includes climbing the
Dome to the Whispering Gallery
Visit to new multimedia
*'Oculus' exhibition
4pm – tea in the 'Crypt'

For those who may wish to stay:
The Royal School of Church Music
London Area Choirs Festival at 5pm

For further information and to book,
please contact:
julia@stmarywithstalban.org
Tel: 07425 137 988

**Oculus; an eye into St Paul's, brings 1400 years of history to life. Oculus takes you on a journey through the history and daily life of St Paul's Cathedral. Virtual access films take visitors up to the dome and galleries without leaving the ground*

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2011



**Bishop of London Launches
'Training God's People' Appeal**

The Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, launched the Diocese of London's 2011 Lent Appeal here at St Mary with St Alban on March 12th. This year's appeal seeks to raise £64,000 for training priests in Angola and Mozambique.

The money raised will support organisations like St Christopher's Seminary in Maputo, Mozambique where 10 people are currently training for the Priesthood. In Maputo the money will go towards their training in theological, health and community development.

Meanwhile, the Diocese of Niassa in Northern Mozambique, where the number of priests has more than doubled in the past 5 years, already has an idea of how it hopes to spend the donations. The Diocese plans to provide a bike, a Bible and a Prayer Book to each of the priests in training.

The appeal was launched during the highly successful Thomas Traherne Conference.

During the event, entitled *Thomas Traherne: A Spirituality for our Times* the Bishop of London gave the keynote address and was followed by Dr Denise Inge, who has published a number of books on the theology of Traherne.

A poet and spiritual writer, Traherne is buried in the vaults of St Mary's. The event saw readings from his work and a special concert



StMARYwithStALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

featuring Gerald Finzi's *Dies Natalis*, a masterful setting of Traherne's most evocative verses for solo tenor and string orchestra.

The Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres said:

"Our partner churches in Angola, Lebombo and Niassa (in Mozambique) are experiencing remarkable organic growth. In 2010, the first 3 Angolan women were ordained and a further 15 students graduated from the Mission and Ministry Programmes. Niassa too has seen considerable growth over the last 5 years with the number of priests up to 45 from 18."

"As we carry out our own training and education in London, like today's fascinating conference on the work of Thomas Traherne, we should take the opportunity to support the education and training of our partners in Angola and Mozambique through the donations of our Lenten sacrifices and gifts."

The Revd Joe Moffatt, Vicar of Teddington, said:

"Traherne is coming into his own as a great classic of Christian thought and imagination. So we're thrilled to be associated with him and to be hosting this high-profile conference which has attracted over 150 participants from both the local area and from as far afield as Germany. This event is a wonderful example of regular churchgoers learning alongside very experienced theologians. As such it is very fitting that we're also hosting the launch of the Diocesan Lent Appeal for *Training God's People* in Angola and Mozambique. As a parish we're committed to supporting this appeal and we hope that it will enable others to participate in the kind of learning we've been doing today."

Lenten Quiet Day

As last year, the penultimate session of the Wednesday Lent course will take place during a Quiet Day at St Michael's Retreat House on Ham Common – **Wednesday April 6th from 10am-4pm**. The day will include time for prayer and silent meditation, time for learning, time for listening and time for just enjoying the peace and beauty of God's creation in the Convent's beautiful garden. Joe will lead a session on one of Jesus' parables and there will be a short service to conclude the day. This day is open to everyone. Several people who attended last year, with some trepidation, were agreeably surprised at how rewarding a day of near silence in the company of others can be. If you would like to come, or would like to find out a bit more, contact Christabel Davies on 8255

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
& Hall Bookings:**

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Sunday School:

sundayschool@stmarywithstalban.org

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St Mary's and St Peter's, Somerset Road, Teddington
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Newsletter Editors:

Susan Jacobs (8943 0503), Melanie Woodcock (07810 800 561) and Julia Hornsby (07904 966 777)

Parish Website:

www.stmarywithstalban.org

To make a donation, please pick up an envelope from the church, or send a cheque to 'Church of St Mary with St Alban (Lent Appeal)' to the parish office.

Thomas Traherne Conference

◆ 17th Century Mystic:

Vicar of Credenhill, Hertfordshire he wrote a huge quantity of brilliant spiritual guidance and beautiful poetry. Briefly in Teddington as Chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman he died aged 38 and is buried under St Mary's church.

◆ Hidden Centuries:

Over 200 years he was forgotten and his manuscripts lost.

◆ 20th Century Resurrection:

Beginning with a find on a bookstall, a huge collection of writing have been recovered, edited and published, creating wide interest.

◆ A Saint for the 21st Century?



The Speakers at the Traherne Conference

On 12th March a Conference was held to extend the interest in Traherne – all the events had large and enthusiastic attendances.

The Bishop of London opened in St Mary's church and with lucid style and gentle wit gave a brilliant summary of Traherne's work and its remarkable relevance to today's overcrowded world facing climate change and environmental dangers.

After a fine lunch in the hall prepared by the great cook June Demont and a band of helpers, the Conference continued at the University College at Strawberry Hill.

Dr Denise Inge, a leading authority on Traherne, gave a fine scholarly exploration of

a selection of his writings with an emphasis on the quest for happiness (Traherne had a great fondness for the word *felicity*) – not selfishly for oneself but for all people.

The talk was followed by two seminars to discuss the mysticism and the poetry.



Traherne Soloists

The day ended with a splendid concert in St Mary's church by a string ensemble formed by Janet Smith, led by Alexandra Reid and conducted by Mark Austin. After well-known works by Holst and Elgar, the climax came with *Dies Natalis*, a setting by Gerald Finzi of words by Traherne, most movingly sung by Andrew Dickinson, tenor.

A marvellous end to a great day organised by Rev Joe Moffatt and a hard-working host of helpers. *Well done.*

John Ould



Tools With a Mission (TWAM)

Tools with a Mission enables people to earn a living and to support themselves. TWAM started 25 years ago. It collects and refurbishes tools and equipment no longer required in the UK and sends them overseas. Have you any unloved items you could donate?

For example, and this list is by no means exhaustive, bicycles; garden tools; typewriters; wheelchairs; school books; knitting wool and knitting needles; hand tools for DIY (carpentry, electrical, plumbing); sewing machines (last year 62 were sent from this area), fabric, haberdashery of all kinds including lace,

ribbon, buttons and zips). Tools such as these can give men and women life-changing earning capacity, children a future, and communities hope. Computers and lawn mowers seem to be the only items TWAM are unable to accept.

All goods will be collected and stored locally and then taken to TWAM's headquarters in Ipswich to be repaired and put in packs to be shipped abroad. Our area contact is Janet Nunn 8979 6325, janunn@btinternet.com (or Susan Jacobs for help with transport).

Susan Jacobs

Parish Registers

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

6 Mar: Isabella Maia & Samuel Tyler Burton, daughter and son of Sally-Ann and Nicholas Lock

13 Mar: Joshua, son of Zoe and Edward Millington-Jones

An AGM with a Difference

It is easy to assume that AGM's will not be a thrill a minute, unless something highly contentious is brewing. This not being the case, there may seem little incentive to come to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 5th. But this is a meeting with a difference, the difference being that it will be conducted with a very light touch over a delicious two-course meal served by our much loved catering team. The style will be much more social than business-like.

Elections of wardens and PCC will be held as people sit down at tables with wine and nibbles. Succinct reports will be served after a hearty main course. And the Vicar's thoughts for the coming year will be whisked up after a dainty dessert, all to be digested over coffee.

So we very much encourage all parishioners and members of the congregation to attend. It promises to be both fun and informative.

Diary for April

<i>SERVICES</i> –	<i>Sundays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am</i> <i>Family Communion and Sunday School at 9.45am</i>
	<i>Wednesdays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion at 9.30am</i>
	<i>Weekdays (except Mondays):</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm</i>
Friday 1st		Church Mice, Parish Hall, 1-3pm
Sunday 3rd		Mothering Sunday 9.45am Family Parade Service (with presentation of daffodils)
Tuesday 5th		Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Supper in Parish Hall at 7.30pm
Wednesday 6th		Lenten Quiet Day at Ham Convent, 10am-4pm (no 9.30am Holy Communion)
Friday 8th		Church Mice in Parish Hall, 1-3pm (last of term)
Saturday 9th		Churchyard Working Party 10am-4pm
Sunday 10th		Passion Sunday Youth Group in Parish Hall, 6.30-8pm
Tuesday 12th		Tea Club in Mina Hogan Room 3-5pm (note new time) Marriage Preparation Evening in Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 13th		Lent Group in Mina Hogan Room, 10.30am-12 noon
Saturday 16th		Wedding 1.30pm
Sundays 17 th - 24th		See 'Holy Week and Easter' leaflet

And looking ahead

Weds 4th May	First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2pm Topic: <i>The 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible</i>
Sat 14th May	Parish Visit to St Paul's Cathedral at 2pm