

us and a choir of Bengali children.

After our time in Kolkata, the tour continued in Kalimpong, a hill-town near Darjeeling, where we visited and did workshops in Tibetan schools and monasteries. The tour was a wonderful and fascinating experience. To read more, see the choir's website: www.ishirini.co.uk/indiablog.

Alice Jacobs

(full article on the parish website)

Parish Registers

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

8 May: Austen Hamish, son of Susan and Chris Lewis; Jack Frederick and Henry Alexander, sons of Philip and Jane Day; Charles Robert, son of Anna and Jeremy Gorshkova-Smith.

15 May: George Roberto Nathaniel Inman, son of Natasha and Conrad Fletcher; George Rhys and Eleanor Rose, son and daughter of Dawn and Ross Goodall.

Holy Matrimony – *We wish every blessing on the marriage of:*

7 May: Laura Mannion and Ian Young Miller.

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

19 April: Alison Kneller, aged 87.

5 May: Irene Hodges, aged 79.

Plain and Pearl

Plain & Pearl our new "social" knitting circle for all abilities, with our knitting experts available if you need help. Next meeting Tuesday 14 June 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Hall. For details contact josie.shantonas@stmarywithstalban.org

St Mary with St Alban Church

Flower Festival



on the theme of

BIBLE STORIES

Saturday, 11th and Sunday 12th June

Teas in the churchyard

Handbells recitals on Sunday afternoon

Further information from
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Parish Website:

www.stmarywithstalban.org

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011



StMARYwithStALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



Lent and Easter Retrospective

At first sight it might seem strange to be looking back to Lent and Easter when we are already into the month of June but Easter was late this year and there were too many good things that took place for them to go unreported.

The **Lent discussion group** looked at some of Jesus' Parables, taking one a week for five meetings. Under Joe's innovative leadership, we teased out from our memories the stories, and then, having read them aloud, discussed why we had remembered some things and not others and what we could draw from the themes, morals and messages they illustrated. There was also a Quiet Day at the Convent on Ham Common. Also during Lent there were two **musical discussion evenings**, hosted by Rev. Rosamond McDowell when first Jonathan Williams led a study of Bach's *St John Passion* and secondly Joe and Hilary Adamson talked about Henry Newman's poems which Elgar set to music in his *Dream of Gerontius*.

The **Palm Sunday service** began with the by now traditional procession of "Jesus" on a "donkey" (6- year old Luke on Trigger, a grey pony from Park Lane Stables) followed by parishioners waving palms and singing *All Glory, Laud and Honour* as we wound our way from the Hall to the Church via Udney Park, Kingston Road and the Churchyard. For the first three evenings of **Holy Week** the church

stayed open until late for silent prayer and compline. On **Maundy Thursday** there was a beautiful evening service commemorating Jesus' last supper and his last night with his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. Joe washed the feet of the congregation and the altar was stripped before a silent vigil was kept until 10.30pm. The **Good Friday** worship from 12-3 began with a family service of readings and music, followed by an hour, led by Rev. Rosamond McDowell, of contemplation, listening and meditation on four selected topics – 'The Man who is God', 'The Wounded Healer', 'Evil and The God of Love', and 'In the end is my beginning'. Then Joe and the choir sang the Good Friday Litany followed by the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (Victoria) and finally worshippers came forward to venerate the cross to the quiet accompaniment of strings and piano. The children, meanwhile, after a picnic outside the Hall, were held spellbound by Rev. Mary Hawes as she told Jesus' story in easy to understand words. After which they made (and ate) hot cross buns, made (and took home to give as presents) Easter cards, and made a prayer cross and wonderful Easter garden (both of which went on display in church throughout the Easter season). The



Dawn Service on **Easter Day** included the lighting of the Easter Fire and Paschal Candle in the silent, beautiful churchyard and concluded in church with the people renewing their Baptismal vows and being sprinkled with holy water by Joe, using freshly gathered rosemary sprigs. Afterwards the early risers were rewarded by breakfast in the hall complete with Bucks Fizz and chocolate eggs. Finally there was a packed church for the 9.45 Family Communion on Easter Day, including a game of sleeping lions, and an Easter egg hunt afterwards in the churchyard.

In their different and contrasting ways, each of the services worked together to tell the Easter story and bring us all together in thought provoking and, ultimately, joyful worship. Alleluia!

Susan Jacobs

Full reports on website: stmarywithstalban.org

Vicar's Viewpoint

If you flick through the pages of the gospels you'll notice that Jesus did a lot of eating and feasting with people. In fact, his critics accused him of enjoying these social events a bit too much. But they clearly played a very important part in building up an inclusive community of friends and followers.

So it is surely a good thing that June is full of social occasions. The usual round of community events is augmented this year by a number of feast days in the church's calendar which are later than usual due to the date of Easter. **The Feast of the Ascension** falls on **June 2nd**, followed ten days later by **Pentecost** (Whitsunday). This coincides with **Teddington in Flower** when we shall be celebrating with our triennial **Flower Festival**. So on the **weekend of June 11-12** come and see the church full of floral displays, all based on biblical stories, and enjoy a delicious tea in the churchyard.

On **Sunday June 19th (Trinity Sunday)** we will be joining in with the Teddington Village Fair on the green next to the hall.

Then on **June 26th** we celebrate our **Patronal**

Festival on the Sunday nearest to St Alban's Day. Our guest preacher will be Rev. John Cleaver, well-known to many of you as the previous Vicar of Teddington. This will be followed by a bring-and-share picnic, again on the green next to the hall (or inside if wet).

The celebrations don't stop with June. On **Sunday July 3rd** the Archdeacon of Middlesex joins us to license the Revd Mary Hawes as our new Assistant Priest. Mary's full-time job is the National Children's Advisor to the Archbishop's Council. But as a priest she is able to offer support to a parish at weekends and we're delighted that she's keen to join us. More about Mary next month.

Finally, we will be having a special **Choral Evensong** on **July 10th** to celebrate the **400th anniversary of the King James Bible**. An augmented church choir will be on hand to help us savour the lyrical cadences of the KJB and the Book of Common Prayer, before enjoying a glass of wine in the churchyard.

We very much hope you'll join us for all or some of the above.

Best wishes

Joe Moffatt

Festival Concert



St Mary Teddington Bells are putting on a concert in Church on **Saturday 25th June** at 7.30pm.

It will also feature a performance on the church organ by Jonathan Minah. Tickets: £7, including a free glass of wine, can be purchased from Anne Johnson 8943 0405 or from any handbell team member.

Visitors to the church on **June 12th** during Teddington in Flower will be able to hear a small selection of handbell tunes. Concert tickets for 25th will be available then.

Choir Tour to India

In April choir member Alice Jacobs joined a choir tour to northern India. Here she describes a few of her highlights.

Singing a concert in St Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata (Calcutta) was a very special experience. We were performing there with children from the local Mathieson Music School, some as young as five, many of whom had never been to central Kolkata, let alone performed a concert with a Western choir to a large audience.

Our choir, Ishirini, had travelled to India with

the purpose of undertaking cultural exchange through music, using our repertoire to work with local children and aiming both to give and receive genuine musical and cultural education.

The theme for our repertoire was Kolkata-born poet, philosopher and Nobel prize-winner **Rabindranath Tagore**, a polymath who spent much time travelling in the West and was particularly interested in the links between Eastern and Western culture. We were singing music by poets who had links with Tagore in some way, and this included a new commission written to be performed jointly by

Diary for June

<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>
Wednesday 1 st		First Wednesday Club, Mina Hogan Room 12.30-2pm	Topic: Is assassination ever justifiable?
Thursday 2 nd		Ascension Day – Holy Communion (with hymns), 7.30pm	
Sunday 5 th		Sunday after Ascension	Baptisms at 12 noon
Thursday 9 th		Parish Pub Lunch at the Anglers, 12.30pm	
Saturday 11 th		Flower Festival Weekend and churchyard teas	
Sunday 12 th		Pentecost	Baptisms at 12 noon; Youth Group at 6.30pm
			Teddington in Flower gardens open* 2-6pm and churchyard teas
			Handbell ringers performing in church during afternoon.
Tuesday 14 th		Plain & Pearl knitting circle, in the hall, 7.30pm	
Sunday 19 th		Trinity Sunday	Baptisms at 12 noon
			Teddington Village Fair, Udney Park
Tuesday 21 st		Tea Club, Mina Hogan Room, 3-5pm	
Saturday 25 th		Festival Handbell Concert in church at 7.30pm	
Sunday 26 th		Patronal Festival for Feast of St Alban	Guest preacher at 9.45: The Rev. John Cleaver
			Parish Picnic and games for children, 12 noon

And looking ahead

Sunday July 3rd Playwam Summer Fair, including face painting, pony rides and bouncy castle, in the gardens of Colville Court, Park Road, 11am-1pm,

*Gardens open: 19, 21, 18, 20 Teddington Park; 65 Elmfield Ave; Royal British Legion, 135 High St; 88 Broom Rd; 30 Udney Park Rd; Collis School Nature Trail, Fairfax Rd; The White Bungalow, 23A Hampton Rd; 24 Princes Rd and St Mary with St Alban, Ferry Rd. Entry 50p per person per garden.