

culminates at the Sunday morning outdoor Eucharist when everyone gathers together to share bread and wine (this year in the sunshine!) This was a real highlight for me.

Greenbelt has a complete programme of activities for children and families, and, crucially, a separate one for young people, including a place – *the shed* – which is strictly for 11-17 year olds only. Kate is 14 and loved the range of activities and talks on offer for youth. She also enjoyed simply hanging out with her friends and meeting new people, especially when it involved staying up later than me and going to the all night YMCA café after watching a late film! We will definitely be going next year, and this time we'll take the whole family! For more information see: www.greenbelt.org.uk (for full report see website)
Cathy Randall

The Sunday School Banner

At last the children of the Sunday School has a banner of its own! It has been eighteen months since Hugo Studholme, then Sunday School leader, first suggested his plan to Penny Munkenbeck that she and some other church ladies might like to make one.

John and Penny Munkenbeck made preliminary sketches based on Hugo's definite

ideas as to what the banner should show, including a large cross and the river. Jennifer Shaw was also involved in the first discussions when the size, design and colours were debated. As the project began to appear more daunting, Penny asked Janet Hunter, a friend from Wives Fellowship and an accomplished embroiderer, if she might help get the ball rolling. Janet did some further sketches of fish which Hugo liked and they became a major part of the scheme.

After months of stitching it was rewarding to see the finished banner: something worked on together as a team for our church. (for full report see website)
Ann Brown

Parish Pub Lunch

The Parish Pub Lunch will be on the second Thursday of the month at 12.30pm at The Anglers in Broom Rd (next date **Thursday 13th October**). Everyone is welcome, whether a member of the church or not. If you are not on my reminder mailing list and would like to be contacted, please let me know. There may occasionally be a change in arrangements, or another event that you might like to know about.

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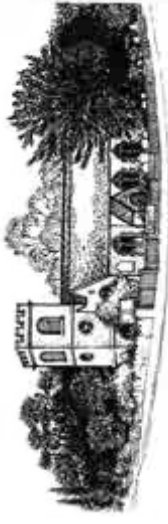
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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011



StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

Winter. David attended the conference on Traherne that we hosted in March and I was keen to invite him back. He writes:

'After five years teaching (English and Religious Studies), ten years in magazine journalism and twenty years as a BBC producer, ending up as Head of Religious Broadcasting, I got a proper job - I was ordained in the Church of England. Over the last forty years I've published 40 books - one novel, two biographies, an autobiography, an anthology of poetry about Jesus (*The Poet's Christ*) and endless books on religious topics. My main interest now is unpacking the Bible for modern readers and applying its message to modern life. I review books and write a regular diary column for the Church Times. This year I was elected a member of the *Society of Authors*. As well as writing, I broadcast regularly on *Thought for the Day* on Radio Four, and lead retreats and study days. Finally, I've been very heartened by lots of encouraging comments about keeping the church open. Almost every day there are entries in our visitors' book. Some come from overseas (even one from Paraguay!), but many are local people who say they've lived in the area for a long time but have never seen inside the church. They invariably comment on the peace they find within.

May the peace of God be with you all,

Joe

Choral Evensong

Commemorating Thomas Traherne

Sunday October 9th

6.30pm

Preacher: Canon David Winter

Wine served after the service

Vicar's Viewpoint

It's not often that we attract a coach load of pilgrims. But at the end of August a party of 56 from the *Friends of Hereford Cathedral* visited our humble church as part of their tour of London churches with Hereford connections. Their itinerary included Westminster Abbey, Lambeth Palace, St George's Windsor and Hampton Court, so we were flattered to be on the same list!

The connection with us was Thomas Traherne, the 17th century poet and spiritual writer who is buried our vaults but who lived in and around Hereford for most of his life. Hereford Cathedral has some splendid new windows depicting Traherne and his work. We're the only other church to have something similar in our window above the High Altar. And the merry band of Hereford pilgrims was delighted to worship with us in the evocative quietness of our small parish church.

A number of parishioners were on hand to welcome them and give them coffee after the service. Enthusiasm was quickly generated for a return visit next year. So watch this space for details of our parish weekend to Hereford. This may include not just the cathedral and other sights of Hereford, but also a visit to some of my favourite country churches in the nearby Black Mountains where I regularly take my holidays.

In the meantime, we have our annual commemoration of Traherne on the anniversary of his death in October. This will take the form of a special **Choral Evensong on Sunday October 9th at 6.30pm**. When we last had Choral Evensong in July we were amazed to have over 100 in the congregation with many saying we must do it again. So it's back by popular demand!

The guest preacher this time is Canon David

Pause for Thought

Our days are like suitcases – all the same size – but some can pack more into them than others.

What is your daily packing like?

It is good to take a few minutes regularly each day to reflect and ask God for direction.

How?

One way is to use some daily Bible readings with notes attached such as 'New Daylight' or 'Guidelines'. Those few minutes will reap a rich harvest.

A selection of *Bible Reading Fellowship* (BRF) notes are available for you to look at – and borrow if you wish – on the display in the church. If you would like to know more or are considering subscribing, they are delivered to us free by post three times a year. If you are interested, please contact Sheila Cooper, in church or on 8977 7206, or visit the BRF website www.brf.org.uk

Sheila Cooper

Treasures of Heaven at the British Museum

On September 5th a group went to the *Treasures of Heaven: saints, relics and devotion in medieval Europe* exhibition at the British Museum. The visit had been facilitated by parishioner, Dr Jonathan Williams.

We joined with two other parish groups to hear an introductory talk from one of the exhibition's curators. This gave an insight into the planning process to bring together 196 objects, many extremely fragile and of priceless value. One such was a 12th century reliquary from St. Baudime in France, which had never left its French monastery before.

The exhibition focussed on medieval times, when relics and saints were venerated here as much as in the rest of Europe. English saints, St. Cuthbert and St. Thomas a Becket, also featured, as did the deleterious effect of Henry VIII, relics of Christ and the veneration of Charles I.

The political influence of these items was also highlighted. However the exhibits could just be appreciated for their artistic merit, and skill.

But it was stressed that these are not just historical artefacts, as their influence is still potent, evidenced by such events as the Hajj pilgrimage, and people laying roses at the statue of Charles I, regarded as a saint by some.

This event was much enjoyed, and will be long remembered. (*for full report see website*)

Sue Stevens

A Young Person's Guide to the Church

On Saturday 3rd September lots of children with parents met Joe and Mary to get a guide to the church.

Mary initially told them a story about why people come to church to think about God – church is a special place for people to look at special things and sing about Jesus. Joe directed all of us to the font, and one child very generously let Joe 'baptise' her dolly by having water poured over her head when he was telling us about people becoming members of the family of the church by being baptised. Once dolly was returned to her owner, Mary showed the children the lectern where the Bible is read.

We were then all told about the special meal that the family of the church share – Holy Communion. Children and adults kneel at the front of the church and children are blessed and adults are given bread and wine which represent the body and blood of Christ.

The reason that we are members of Teddington Parish Church is due to the fact that it is family friendly – the fact that this event was organised highlights how valued young children are to this church. (*see full report on website*)

Nicola Williams

Parish Registers

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

11th September: Leo Michael Peter, son of Natalie Fletcher & Michael Bamber

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

2nd September: Bridget Gibbs & Simon Johnson

10th September: Chloe Lindsay & Thomas Hopwood

Blessing of Marriage

17th September: Lynn Gibbs & Iain Bowman

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

15th August: Mervyn Rice-Oxley, aged 90

7th September: Doris Barker, aged 93

19th September: June Doe, aged 74

Greenbelt 2011

My daughter Kate and I spent the Bank Holiday weekend camping at Greenbelt – an annual Christian Arts Festival held on Cheltenham Racecourse. The emphasis at Greenbelt is on bringing together art, faith and justice, so you can listen to bands, make necklaces, and/or hear challenging talks by theologians, thinkers and activists from the whole range of Christian traditions. Everything

Diary for October

SERVICES – **Sundays:** *Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am*
Family Communion and Sunday School at 9.45am

Weekdays (except Mondays): *Holy Communion at 9.30am*
Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm

Saturday 1st Harvest Supper in Hall, 6.30pm (**note new time**)
Churchyard clear-up 10am-3pm

Sunday 2nd Harvest Festival Family Parade Service, 9.45am

Wednesday 5th First Wednesday Club, Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2pm
Topic: The Riots – how should we respond?

Thursday 6th Time for Prayer & Compline in church, 8.30pm

Friday 7th Wedding at 1.30pm

Saturday 8th Diocesan Conference about the Olympic Games, St Stephen's Twickenham, 9am-1pm

Sunday 9th 16th after Trinity

Choral Evensong at 6.30pm

Youth Group in Hall, 6.30pm

Monday 10th Sunday School Training Session in Mina Hogan Room, 8pm

Tuesday 11th Plain & Pearl Knitting in Mina Hogan Room, 7.30pm

Thursday 13th Parish Pub Lunch at The Anglers, 12.30pm

PCC at 7.45pm

Saturday 15th Sunday School Trip to The British Museum

Wedding at 2pm

Sunday 16th 17th after Trinity

Feast of St Luke

Tuesday 18th Holy Communion at 7pm

Sunday 23rd 18th after Trinity

Baptisms at 12pm

One World Week Ecumenical Service at St Francis de Sales RC Church 4pm

Tuesday 25th Plain & Pearl Craft in Mina Hogan Room, 7.30pm

Tea Club in Mina Hogan Room, 3-5pm

Sunday 30th All Saints Sunday

Family Communion with Baptism, 9.45am

And looking ahead

Wednesday November 2nd All Souls Service, 7pm

Wednesday November 2nd First Wednesday Club in Mina Hogan Room, 12.30-2pm