

Strawberry Tea

The early birds at this year's Strawberry Tea – held on Midsummer's Day note – stayed dry under Margaret Squire's sturdy gazebo, the later comers retreated indoors regretfully leaving the flower filled garden as the heavens opened. But the strawberries and the tea were their usual delicious selves – scones, sandwiches, cookies, tarts, brownies and, with a nod to the recent Diamond Jubilee, even patriotically red, white and blue cake. As usual there was a small produce stall. This annual social event is also a fundraiser for Welcare and Margaret was delighted to welcome Jill and Carolyn who had come along from Welcare offices to meet us and share in a lovely afternoon. The event raised £ 210.50, including a very generous donation, which is a record for this event. Thanks are due to all who helped and all who braved the weather to come.



Susan Jacobs

'Best Recipes' Church Cookbook

Do you have a wealth of favourite recipes, your own or borrowed, that you'd love to share?

A group of church mums are putting together a cookbook to share culinary knowledge and inspire creativity in the kitchen while at the same time hoping to raise funds for the church.

If you have a 'Best Recipe' that you'd like to contribute, please email with the below information to

BestRecipes@stmarywithstalban.org or place them in the blue file at the back of church marked 'Best Recipes':

- ◆ Name and age
- ◆ Background of your chosen recipe(s)
- ◆ Preparation, cooking time, ingredients & method

Closing date for recipes: 1st September

Queries or questions, please contact Sam Jones on 07977 494059

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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012



StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

Vicar's Viewpoint

As I write it's a case of rain, rain and more rain. The clergy cricket season, after a promising start with a victory over our archrivals in Southwark Diocese, has been a complete wash-out. As have many of our outdoor events. It's all been a bit depressing. And I can't help wondering about climate change.

The likelihood of runaway global warming, which will diminish food security, accelerate the extinction of a huge number of species and make human life itself impossible in some parts of the world, raises big questions that are hard to face up to. And so I tend to ignore them. But I'm not sure that's good enough. I think we have a moral obligation to both the poor of this world and to future generations to do something about it.

It's difficult to know where to begin, beyond being conscientious about recycling and using public transport. But I'm inclined to start with seeking to live more simply with fewer things.

A more simple life may not only reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, but may also be a better life. I've noticed, for instance, a revival of enthusiasm for camping holidays (despite the rain!). There seems to be a common yearning for a simple way of life. The challenge, I guess, is not only to make changes to the way we take our holidays, but also to the way we live at home. Can we manage with fewer power-hungry gadgets? Can we slow down a bit so that we consume less?

None of this is easy, but it's surely a challenge we should all be facing. And it may also help us see the world as a gift from God, shot

through with his presence. On which note, I offer a poem by an anonymous writer:

*The man whispered, 'God speak to me,' and
a meadowlark sang.
But the man did not hear.*

*So the man yelled, 'God speak to me,' and
the thunder rolled across the sky.
But the man did not listen.*

*The man looked around and said, 'God
show me a miracle!' and new life was born.
But the man did not know.*

*So the man cried out in despair, 'Touch me,
God, and let me know you are here!'
whereupon God reached down and touched
the man.
But the man brushed the butterfly away and
walked on.*

May we slow down enough to notice.

Best wishes

Joe

Teddington Village Fair



The Village Fair held in June was blessed with sunshine and everyone enjoyed a super afternoon. Thank you to all in Plain & Pearl for their wonderful knitted contributions to the stall.

The Story of St Alban – Sunday School Play, 1st July 2012

It was billed as the most exciting event of the summer, and so it was, packed full of star performances and a blood thirsty script that kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

The Story of St Alban told the legend of a man called Alban who gave shelter to a Christian priest, Amphilabus, in a time of Roman persecution. When soldiers came to arrest the priest, Alban bravely swapped clothes with him and as a result was arrested in his place. Standing trial, Alban rebuked the Roman gods, and declared his faith in 'the true and living God who created all things'. As a consequence he was sentenced to death.



David Rae, Poppy Tasker, Emily Harrison & Evie Moffatt

The Sunday School children all performed brilliantly. The Roman soldiers took their roles particularly seriously, especially when arresting Alban, who was surely more than double their size! The plot was full of twists and turns; by curtain close, the townsfolk of Verulamium were falling over themselves to become Christians and even



The Execution!

the executioner was executed for declaring his faith in God. Fortunately we were spared too much goriness, thanks to some very clever art direction!

The audience enjoyed lots of eerie and exciting sound effects: the ominous clip clop of the Roman soldiers' horses and the creaky door openings. The cast made excellent use of the church space, highlighting the statue of St Alban at the front of church, and even baptising Alban at the font.



The full cast take a bow

When the play finished, Father Joe commended the team for a great performance. Extra loud applause went to the cast, and of course to Cathy Randall, Sam Tasker and Adam Woods who together produced and directed the show. Next stop, The West End! *Marilyn Alexander*

Parish Registers

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

24th June: Gabriel Henry Dempsey son of Mike and Hannah Dempsey; Zoe Elizabeth Fishwick, daughter of Paul and Carrie Fishwick

15th July: Charlie John Davenport son of Matthew Davenport and Elizabeth Bridge; Samuel Christopher Buckler, son of Jeremy and Lucy Buckler; Aidan Lucas Roger Doherty, son of David and Mary Doherty

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

21st July: Catherine Hopkinson & Wayne Martin

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

19th June: Beryl Osborne, aged 85

4th July: Mina White, aged 95

20th July: Joyce Jones, aged 99

Youth Group Outing

Question: What do you do with a dozen young people on a wet and rainy day during Wimbledon? Answer: hire a minibus and take them off on a mystery mini-outing, which was exactly what we did on St Mary's youth group Smalbans first outing this year.



Sam & Olly Jackson, Ewan Atkinson, William & Tommy Hayes, Peter & David Rae

William Hayes (age 13) takes over: "When we got there we walked in the forest until we came to a big sandy area with a big pond in the middle, where we found what looked like two giant rabbit holes. While we were there, we made a massive track in the sand which we pushed a football down to try and get it into the pond." Tommy Hayes (11) adds: "We had a massive pine cone fight". Peter and David Rae thought the extreme Frisbee was awesome, and enjoyed being taught how to skim stones. Olly Jackson (11) said "It was great fun. I loved playing frisbee and building dens, can we do it again?!"

Many thanks to Alex for the driving, Emily for keeping order in the bus & we look forward to the next adventure. The mystery location? With a lake, sandy beach and rabbit holes only 30 minutes away? Answer: Horsell Common, Woking.

Adam Woods

Diary for August

SERVICES – *Sundays:* Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am
Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9.00am
Parish Communion (with Sunday School) at 10.00am
Wednesdays: Holy Communion at 9.30am
Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm

Monday 13th – Friday 24th August – please note there will be no midweek services

Wednesday 1st Churchyard Teas during Cycle Race 1-5pm
Thursday 2nd Silent Prayer in Church, 8.30pm, Compline 9pm
Sunday 5th 9th Sunday after Trinity
Holy Baptisms 12 noon
Thursday 9th Parish Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30pm
Sunday 12th 10th Sunday after Trinity
Holy Baptisms 12 noon
Tuesday 14th Plain & Pearl Knitting, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Sunday 19th 11th Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 26th 12th Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday 28th Baptism Preparation Evening, Parish Hall 8pm

And looking ahead

Saturday 1st September Wedding, 1pm
Tuesday 18th September Dedication of new SMSP School Buildings by Bishop of London 10am
Sunday 30th September Confirmation Service with Bishop of Kensington 10am