

## St Mary's and St Peter's School – Opening & Blessing by the Bishop of London

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres accompanied by a number of church members, local dignitaries, councillors, architects, and builders came together at the school for the official opening and blessing of the rebuild and refurbishment. Amongst the guests were Margaret Iles former Head Teacher, Reverend John Cleaver who served St Mary's with St Alban's and the school for over 16 years, Richard Weeks Head of Teddington and Philippa Nunn Head of Waldegrave, two of our local Senior Schools.



The Bishop was welcomed by two young pupils bearing the school cross who then led him into the wonderful new foyer where he was greeted by the choir who delivered a delightful rendition of *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*.

As well as blessing the school the Bishop



the life of the school and he was delighted that Bishop Richard was able to join them on such a special occasion.

*Please see website for full article and pictures*

## **Advent Workshop**

*led by Mary Hawes, Assistant Priest*

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

**10am – 12noon**

For all members of the parish, young and old. Activities, stories and crafts to help families use the Advent season to prepare for Christmas.

Book via Emily D'Silva,  
emily@stmarywithstalban.org or via the  
parish office, tel: 0208 943 2262

blessed the two new recently created Icons which hang in the school reception and mark the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school's founding.

Mr Logan, Head Teacher, commented that it was an exciting day in

## **NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012**



## **StMARYwithStALBAN PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON**

### **'Las Posadas' – Celebrating Christmas**

Around the world, many traditions have developed to help communities prepare for and celebrate Christmas.

In Mexico, one tradition is Las Posadas – The Lodgings (or Inns). For the nine days before Christmas, people dress up and re-enact Mary and Joseph's attempts to find lodging on their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Each day they process to two or three houses (with attendant donkey, angels, pilgrims, shepherds, musicians) and in song they ask for lodging. The 'inn keepers' fail to recognise Mary and Joseph and (again in song) refuse the weary travellers entry, and they make their way to the next Posada.

At the final 'inn' of the evening, Mary and Joseph are recognised and welcomed. Then it's party time with food, singing, prayers and carols – and the next day they do it all over again.

A few years ago, a version of Las Posadas was introduced to England. Instead of people, the crib figures of Mary and Joseph are hosted by households and families throughout Advent. Setting out from church on Advent Sunday, Mary and Joseph stay in a different home every night until they return to church for the Christmas celebrations.

This Advent Las Posadas is coming to St Mary with St Alban! We have special crib figures of Mary and Joseph who will be looking for lodging during Advent – and they would love to stay with you for a night! So we are looking for 23 households who would each become a Posada for a night.

Each host household will need to:

- ◆ prepare a place for Mary and Joseph to stay overnight – they don't take up much room and make very few demands
- ◆ maybe invite some friends to share a meal and tell Christmas stories while Mary and Joseph are with you
- ◆ arrange to take Mary and Joseph to their next Posada

It's a great way to prepare for Christmas – and a chance to share the Christmas story with family, friends and neighbours. If you would like to become a Posada for a night in December, please add your name to the Posada sheet in church. Join us in journeying with Mary and Joseph through Advent to Bethlehem.

*Mary Hawes, Assistant Priest*

## **Christmas Bazaar**

**Saturday 24th November  
from 11am – 2.30pm**

*Come & meet Santa in his grotto!*

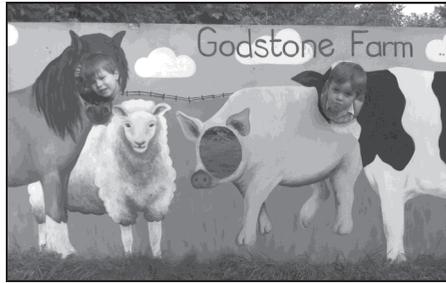
Browse around our stalls and stay for a spot of lunch.

Hand crafted Christmas gifts by Plain & Pearl, hand knitted jumpers, cakes and home produce, bric-a-brac, nearly new baby items, china & glass, books & DVDs, games and biscuit decorating and much more!

***Fun for all the family!***

<b>Parish Office:</b>	St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington TW11 9HF. Tel: 020 8943 2262
<b>Vicar:</b>	The Rev Joe Moffatt (8977 2767), e-mail: vicar@stmarywithstalban.org
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## Sunday School Outing to Godstone Farm



We had a wonderful trip to Godstone Farm on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. The weather was seasonally kind and there was a great attendance with plenty of families and children of all ages. The trip started well with Hugo's 'traditional' quiz kicking off proceedings. The recent Olympics had clearly generated a healthy competitive spark and Evie was in Gold Medal position for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running!



At the farm there was fun for all ages; plenty of animals to admire and even handle in the petting section. There was also no shortage of play areas: sand pits, soft play, adventure playgrounds, sledging and even water zorbing!! With everyone well and truly worn out from all the fun, the journey home was a quieter affair and I think there were as many grown-ups having a doze as there were children.

Thank you to everyone for their support and for making this a really enjoyable trip. Until next year!

*Vicky, Russ and Toby*

## Children's Guide to the Church

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September, the Church was filled with an excited gaggle of babies, toddlers and children for the bi-annual 'Children's

Introduction to the Church', hosted by Father Joe.

The morning was full of fun education for everyone. Joe began by explaining that the reason we come to Church is to pray and love God. The children were soon invited to look around the Church and to climb up into the pulpit (or as my three year-old called it, "The Ball Pit"). Joe even allowed the children to try on his finest vestments, causing much anxiety amongst the parents as toddlers dragged beautiful gold stoles along the floor!

The highlight of the morning was Father Joe's pretend Baptism of a toy butterfly which belonged to one of the children. The cuddly creature had holy water ceremonially poured over his head and was baptised simply 'Butterfly'.

The session ended with some well-known Sunday School songs, and then it was off to the hall for juice and biscuits!

Many thanks to Father Joe, Cyril, Sheila and Emily for organising such a perfectly pitched, informative and engaging event for our children.

*Marilyn Alexander*

## Confirmation Service

On Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, I was one of fourteen candidates confirmed in a special service, along with three baptisms, attended by the Bishop of Kensington. I was the oldest of the young candidates, as I'm sixteen. Bishop Paul was incredibly nice, which was a relief, as we were all really nervous – for me it was a really big event. I found the ceremony enlightening and fascinating.

We had taken weekly classes, eight of them, to learn about God and Jesus prior to the ceremony. They were fun, comfortable and really interesting, I enjoyed them a lot and I learned a great deal. After the service we had tea and cookies at the church hall – the food was delicious! Before this experience, back when I was still worrying over my exams in June, I thought perhaps being confirmed might turn out to be a mistake. I really am glad that I was totally wrong!

*Jennie Brett, Junior Confirmation Candidate*

## Parish Registers

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

30<sup>th</sup> September: Thomas James, son of

Philippe & Liese Brandt

14<sup>th</sup> October: Eira Elizabeth, daughter of Gareth & Catrin Thomas; Daisy Anne, daughter of Chris & Susan Lewis; Florence Sophia, daughter of Giles & Daisy Mason; Eliza Annabelle, Benjamin David and Gabriel Noah, daughter and sons of Gareth & Sarah Williams.

14<sup>th</sup> October *adult baptisms:* Daisy Mason, Daniel Hudson and Sarah Williams

21<sup>st</sup> October: Luke William, son of Michael Thwaite & Jo Gerloch; Sebastian James son of Benjamin Poate & Penny Bugden and Ralph William Hywel, son of David & Caroline Jones

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

20<sup>th</sup> October: Alexia Demetriou & Steven Rowley

## Diary for November

<i>SERVICES</i> –	<i>Sundays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8.00am Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9.00am Parish Communion (with Sunday School) at 10.00am</i>
	<i>Wednesdays:</i>	<i>Holy Communion at 9.30am</i>
	<i>Monday-Friday:</i>	<i>Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Evening Prayer at 5pm</i>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>		Silent Prayer in Church, 8.30pm, followed by Compline, 9pm
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>		All Saints Sunday Guest Preacher at 10am service: Rev Jonathan Osborne, Senior Chaplain to the Metropolitan Police Baptisms, 12 noon Pastoral Messiah, Landmark Arts Centre, 4pm
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Deanery Chapter Meeting, Parish Hall, 12 noon
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>		First Wednesday Club, 'The Role of the Archbishop of Canterbury', Mina Hogan Room, 12.30pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Pub Lunch, The Anglers, 12.30pm
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>		Remembrance Sunday Parish Communion Service in Church, 9am (approx 40 minutes). <b>No 10am service</b> Procession; Royal British Legion to Teddington Memorial Hospital, 10.20am Service of Remembrance at Cenotaph outside Memorial Hospital, 10.50am All Souls' Service (Choral Evensong) with commemoration of the faithful departed, 6.30pm Youth Group, Parish Hall, 6.30pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Baptism Preparation, Parish Office, 8pm Plain & Pearl Knitting, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>		Advent Craft Workshop, 10am – 12 noon, led by Rev Mary Hawes
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>		Tea Club, Mina Hogan Room, 3-5pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>		PCC Meeting, Mina Hogan Room, 7.45pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall, 11am-2.30pm
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>		Christ the King Baptisms, 12 noon
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>		Plain & Pearl Craft, Mina Hogan Room, 7.30-9.30pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>		Teddington Lights Up Churches Together in Teddington sing carols from 5.30pm outside Elmfield House

## Looking ahead

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Advent Carol Service in Church, 6.30pm