

What is it about time which makes it such a slippery commodity? Watching the clock for an appointment or waiting for a bus to arrive can make even a few minutes seem to stretch out for ever. On the other hand a couple of hours spent with friends, or even a week's holiday, can whizz past so quickly. Time certainly cannot easily be brought under our control. It is worth thinking about how we spend our time. How many hours per week, or days per year are we asleep, do we spend eating, cutting the grass or doing the washing up?

Times of year are also associated with particular markers. There is a distinctive smell in autumn and when the snowdrops appear in the churchyard I know it is time to wish Margery Orton Happy Birthday. When Lent arrives on **Ash Wednesday, 8th March**, this year, it is time to take stock again. During this Lent we shall be thinking a lot about time. We have called our common celebration at Parish Communion each Sunday in Lent '**A Time for God**'. Week by week we shall explore different aspects of finding time for God - Time to give, time to pray, time to learn, time to love and time to endure.

We also hope that you might be able to find time to attend a Lent House group with Christians from other members of Churches Together around Hampton. Please look at the notices in church about dates and times of these meetings.

At St. James' we shall be having some different types of services and events during Lent and Passiontide, hoping that you may want to share in some of the church's rich variety of worship for which we don't usually have time. Why not think about coming to a mid-week Communion Service, or to Morning Prayer on the same day each week during Lent. Or again, try ending Sunday with us for Night Prayer (Compline) at 9p.m.?

There is time to take time, but it does mean, for all of us, re-arranging our priorities - which is no bad thing for any time of the year, but especially in Lent. Take time for God; after all God has all the time in the world for you.

Brian Leathard

**A SERVICE FOR PASSIONTIDE
IN MUSIC AND WORDS**

On Passion Sunday - 9th April 2000
at 7p.m.

The debut of a new chamber choir
The Apocalypse Singers
conducted by
Christopher Hodges

A Letter from Botswana

Last year, as part of our charitable giving, we sent £250 to St. Paul's Day Centre in the Diocese of Botswana for their work with orphans whose parents have died of AIDS. The following is an extract from a letter which Lesley Mortimer received from the Rector last December.

Dear Mrs Mortimer,

Greetings to you and St. James's Church, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, from me, my family, and I am sure, the orphans at St. Paul's Day Care Centre.

We thank you very much for your great love for those orphans, some find very hard to love. Angela Mullens brought the gift from you. We had put the shade netting above to keep much of the sun out so that the vegetables would not lose the much needed water. Then, as soon as we planted the vegetables, we found that the birds rejoiced in finding something green in the middle of the almost desert village. No doubt, the birds thanked us for providing the greens, but the orphans needed them more. We had to be cruel to the birds in order to care for the orphans and provide them with vegetables. With the money you sent us we were able to secure the whole garden. The vegetables are doing extremely well, to the delight of everybody.

We started the orphan programme at our Church on 9th November. That day none of the orphans turned up because it rained heavily. The volunteers were disappointed. I had to remind them of what had actually happened. The local word for rain is 'pula'. The same word means 'blessings'. I said to them that the Lord had blessed our work by bringing the rain and that the children would come later. The following day we had 14 orphans and by Friday we had 23. By the time schools closed on 26th November we had 37 orphans.

The number of orphans in the village continues to rise as young mothers are dying of AIDS almost every day. The village has a population of 36,000 and almost 1000 are orphans. Our programme caters for the 14 year olds and under. The village has a radius of 10 kilometres and some of the orphans live at the outskirts. We badly need transport to be able to bring them in and take them back at the end of each day.

I hope that one day you may see pictures of the work we are doing. Please pray for us and the work that we are called to do, especially to love these children.

Again thank you for the very generous donation.

Andrew Shudgereri, Rector

Meeting Jesus at his Millennium



A Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage
in St. Paul's Cathedral

on

Ash Wednesday
8th March 2000

Hourly meditations with the Bishops of the Diocese
from 10.30a.m. to 3.30p.m.
concluding with a Sung Eucharist at 5p.m. with
The Bishop of London

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN - MARCH 30TH, 31ST, APRIL 1ST

Together with the other disciplines of Lent, the annual cleaning of our church building is a preparation for Easter.

We aim to start on Thursday, March 30th, dusting down the high-level areas, roof trusses, window ledges, column caps and chandeliers, continuing into the evening if necessary.

We will continue immediately after morning prayer on Friday - morning prayer might be a good start for our day's work. The chairs need to be dusted, the pews polished and all floors and carpets hoovered. This dusting and sweeping will include the vestry, all the porches, the belfry and the clock chamber. The tiled floors need to be washed and sealed.

Once again we plan to continue into the evening. If we have a good team of helpers we should be nearly finished on Friday evening.

We will stop work at 12 noon on Saturday.

It is a big task, but we hope that as in past years we have many willing helpers to share the load, for however short or long a time they can spend. We will put up a notice in church very shortly specifying times and jobs, with some idea of the number of helpers required for each job. If you can join in the work please put your name on the list.

The Properties Committee



Lent 2000

You are very welcome at any of our services

Ash Wednesday 8p.m.
Parish Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Sundays in Lent at 9.30a.m.

March 12th Lent 1
A Time to Give:
Sue Richardson, Christian Aid

March 19th Lent 2
Time to Learn:
The Revd. Betty Stewart

March 26th Lent 3
A Time to Pray:
Val Traylen

April 2nd Lent 4
A Time to Love:
The Revd. Freda Evans
Mothering Sunday

April 9th Passion Sunday
A Time to endure:
The Vicar

April 16th Palm Sunday
Procession of Palms & Reading of The Passion

Each Sunday in Lent **Night Prayer** (Compline) is said at **9p.m.**

On Passion Sunday, April 16th there will be **Music for Passiontide** at 7p.m.

A Request from Feltham Young Offenders Institute

Here at the Visitor's Centre outside Feltham Young Offenders' Institute, we have families and friends coming to visit the 750 plus inmates. Visiting can be extremely traumatic for families, particularly if this is the first contact they have had with their son in months.

Visiting often gets no easier as time goes on. Families serve the sentence in a different way, and when they visit us they are often in need of support.

We currently have a staff of four who look after the centre, which opens seven days a week. Because of their shift pattern there are seldom more than two members of staff available. This means that on occasions we are unable to respond to the problems that families have.

We are looking for volunteers who would be able to give three to four hours a day, Monday to Friday, and would particularly appreciate help on Saturdays or Sundays.

Many of the inmates come from families who have never been involved with the Criminal Justice system and find it very hard to deal with. Someone to welcome them into the centre helps to diffuse their apprehension. Amongst other things, help is need with the completion of visiting slips as some visitors either do not speak enough English or may be unable to write.

If you feel you can help please ring 020 8844 0047 and ask for either Sandra Burge or Sue Pritt, before 1p.m. if possible.

Thank you.



Reg. Charity No. 299385

Visitors Centre
at HEMYOI & RC

Bedfort Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4NP

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The local Richmond and Twickenham group are trying to set up a letter writing initiative via e-mail. A local member will circulate a few letters about once a month each having space for multiple signatures. All the recipient needs to do is print the letters, gather some signatures and send the letters off.

Is anyone with an e-mail address interested in helping with this initiative? If so, please talk to me.

Ann Peterken

THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON

A Story of Homecoming

This year's lent course focuses on one of the most familiar stories in the New Testament. It does so using a remarkable book written by the well known Dutch priest, the late Henri Nouwen. At the heart of this account is an amazing painting by Rembrandt. A poster of it had such an affect on the priest that he set off to the Hermitage in St. Petersburg to view the original. Its impact on Henri Nouwen was immense: I believe it has the capacity to impact just as much on each one of us.

The painting is of the near-blind, father welcoming home a lost needy child. We have the overwhelming compassion of the Father - the tender expression on his face, the gentleness of his hands. Alongside him is the elder son displaying disapproval and three other bystanders - two of whom are shrouded in darkness.

What Henri Nouwen sets out to do in his book is to consider the story from the perspective of the three main characters - the younger son, the elder son and the father. In whose shoes do we place ourselves? Perhaps at the outset, we relate more to the bystanders with their air of indifference. Moving into the centre of the story involves risk-taking and that makes us vulnerable.

Let us consider for a moment what it would be like to be the younger man returning after years away from home, having squandered his share of the inheritance, and yet being embraced with such forgiveness and unconditional love. It isn't difficult to think "well that couldn't happen to me".

Then, there is the elder son, who believes he has always been dutiful and suffers from a sharp bout of jealousy, anger and resentment at the way in which his younger brother seems to have everything lavished on him. It is just possible to understand those feelings because often it seems that others do go through life with greater ease than us.

Finally, there is the Father, a portrait of God, loving, forgiving and waiting. As Henri found out, putting ourselves in the position of the father is the most difficult of all; what it must be like to reach out with an outpouring of unconditional love, ever-watchful for our return home.

Henry Nouwen's legacy is to enable us to travel this journey from younger child to elder child and eventually to father "discovering within ourselves not only the lost children of God, but also, the compassionate mother and father that is God." His immense love is for each one of us - yes, for me and for you.

Freda Evans

The Twickenham and Richmond United Nations Association influences the government's education policy

It is unusual for a local voluntary organisation to have a direct impact on government policy, but this is what the Twickenham and Richmond United Nations Association has been able to achieve after a campaign advocating that secondary pupils should be taught about the United Nations at school. The main mover was the UNA's local secretary, Derek Smith.

Our UNA branch wants future adults to be aware of the implications of the UK's unique position as the only one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council that is also a member of the European Union and the Commonwealth.

The two and a half year campaign started at a LTNA national conference which accepted Twickenham and Richmond's resolution that every effort should be made to ensure that the national curriculum, due in 2000, should include teaching about the United Nations.

This year David Blunkett, the Minister of Education, issued the curriculum for the teaching of citizenship in secondary schools. It stipulates that pupils should be taught about the world as a global community and the roles of the European Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations. The inclusion of the UN depended on the active lobbying of the local branch and the support in parliament of our two local MPs, Dr. Vincent Cable and Dr. Jenny Tonge.

Margaret Hobbs



Twickenham Branch of the RNLI is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 1st April from 10a.m. - Noon at St. James's Church Hall. On sale will be cakes and produce, plants, books, bric-a-brac and souvenirs, so come and find those special gifts for special Mums (Mothering Sunday is April 2nd). Donations of foods for sale will be welcome on the day or can be collected (contact telephone number below). Refreshments will be available.

The annual Lifeboat Service will be at St. James's on Sunday March 5th at 9.30a.m.

Jill Goddard 020 8287 7438

Leaving Church in a Hurry!

It is extremely unlikely that we shall ever have an emergency in the church that requires us to leave in a hurry. However unlikely, it is obviously sensible to be prepared. The two most important things in case of such an emergency are to have good clear exits, and for everyone to leave quickly but calmly under the guidance of our sidespersons.

If we have an emergency, the congregation will be asked by Brian or the leader to remain seated for the few seconds that it takes for the doors of the three exits to be opened by the sidespersons. The sidespersons will then direct the congregation, pew by pew, to leave the church, and assemble on the vicarage lawn.

The three exits are through the vestry, through the south porch, (our usual entrance and exit), and through the west porch, which is normally kept shut. They can all be opened in a matter of seconds. The people in the chancel and the front two rows of pews will be normally be directed out of the vestry exit, those in the south aisle and the south side of the nave will be directed through the south porch, and those in the north aisle and the north side of the nave through the west porch.

We had a trial evacuation after the 9.30a.m. service on 30th January. Although the church was not as full as it might be at Christmas and Easter, the trial was very useful and instructive. The church was clear in just under three minutes from the "alarm" being given by Brian. If we could do this in a real emergency we would be doing well.

The church exits will always be kept ready for quick opening, the sidespersons know what to do; if the congregation act calmly under their guidance we can be sure of our safety.

Dick Wilde

"Just a Song at Twilight"

with the Cantanti Camerati.

At York House on

Friday March 10th at 7.30p.m. and

Saturday March 11th at 2.30p.m. and 7.30p.m.

On Saturday March 25th at 7.30p.m. in

St. James's Church,

the Teddington Choral Society sing **Handel's "Saul"**.

Tickets for all concerts from Geoffrey Bowyer 020 8894 3773.



Last month we extended congratulations to the Butterfield family on the arrival of Pippa and David's baby girl Beth. This month we congratulate Sara Butterfield who has made a millennium ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro - 1900 feet! Sara's sponsored climb was in aid of the Medical Foundation's Victims of Torture. Some of the victims also completed the climb - a wonderful achievement.

Alwyn Loyd has been both a server at 8 o'clock communion, and in charge of the distribution of *The Spire* for many years. Sadly he has decided to retire from both these valuable tasks and we send him our grateful thanks. A presentation was made to him at the 8 o'clock communion on Sunday 6th February to express our gratitude for his many years of service to St James's. Michael Horner takes over the magazine distribution from now on, and our thanks go to him too for taking on this monthly task.

On Saturday 29th January, Freda held a children's workshop for Candlemass. It was a very enjoyable morning when the children learned about Candlemass, and made posters and collages with plentiful use of glitter and sequins.

We ask you to remember in your prayers all those who are ill or distressed: Ramani's father John who is ill in Sri Lanka, Vera Cook, Jill Goddard's mother and Sunil de Mel who is undergoing an operation on his shoulder. Chrissie is home from hospital and we send her our love and best wishes. Please also remember Eve Stock's mother, Rose, who has died, and pray for Eve in her loss.

Look out for the Young Church Fashion Show on the afternoon of Sunday 26th March! It promises to be a show with a difference and to raise lots of money for £2000 in 2000.

If you have lost any possessions - umbrellas, gloves etc - or have left plates or dishes in the kitchen, please see Dick Wilde or Eila Sevem. Dick is clearing out the garage and will get rid of anything not claimed by the end of March. Last, but not least, we welcome the birth of Adam James Ketch, our millennium baby born on the 1st January 2000!

FROM THE JANUARY REGISTERS

Funerals

4	Agnes Watson, 90 Windmill Road.	90
10	Ethel Hutchins, 12 Myrtle Road.	97
19	Gladys Hill, 67 Uxbridge Road.	87
24	Jack Arnott, 11 Links View Court, Paget Close.	85

DATES TO NOTE IN MARCH

- 1 David. Patron Saint of Wales, 601
Chad Bishop of Lichfield, 672
- 4 1900 Friends of St James's, Shrove Party
0930 RNLi Annual Service at the Informal Service
- 7 Shrove Tuesday
- 8 **ASH WEDNESDAY.** For details of all Lent Services see Box
- 16 Bishop Michael visiting the Hampton Deanery today
- 17 Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland, 460
- 20 **Joseph of Nazareth**
- 21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop Canterbury, Martyr, 1556
- 25 **The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 29 John Keble, Priest, Pastor and Poet, 1866
John Donne, Priest and Poet, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, 1631



*Sunday 26th March at 4p.m.
in the Church Hall*

Tea will be served

This is a fashion show with a difference!

*The Young Church have made the outfits they will be wearing
from recycled clothes.*

*The proceeds will go to £2000 in 2000 together with more than
£40 raised at their cake sale on Sunday 6th February.*

COPY DATE FOR APRIL MAGAZINE: 10TH MARCH