

I feel like I ought to be writing this to Ken - our new mayor. What is it about London that we can't actually get anywhere in either a reasonable amount of time, or with a reasonable amount of comfort. I was recently trying to get to Pimlico for a meeting in our diocesan offices, but you could be forgiven for thinking I had been trying to get to Patagonia.

It took me 35 minutes to get as far as the Twickenham turn off on the A316. I had enough of the car by then. So I parked, bought a Travelcard and felt a proud friend of the environment as I waited on the station platform along with many others. Yes, you guessed, the trains were at least 45 minutes late because of a broken rail outside Waterloo. Quick thinking as ever, I was about to board a Waterloo bound train on the Wimbledon loop when it was announced that due to an incident there were no trains beyond Raynes Park. What now, a bus perhaps? But out of nowhere (and clearly to the great surprise of the station staff at Twickenham) a train crept in bound for Richmond. Hurrah! All ten thousand of us (approximately) crammed into a four carriage train, only to be told on arrival at Richmond that there was no Underground service as a tree had fallen onto the track at Turnham Green. Aaagh!!!

But help came in the shape of the much maligned North London Line which arches from Richmond to North Woolwich. One change at West Hampstead onto the Tube and, hey presto, (2 hrs and 40 minutes late) I was at my meeting - just as it finished.

I am sure that I am not alone in my frustration, nor is this the first time and it would be naive to think it may be the last. Why, O why can't we organise our communal life more positively and pleasantly. On the Tube I saw a deeply depressing advert for one of the zones in the Dome

'Average speed of a journey in London in 1900 - 11 mph

Average speed of a journey in London in 2000 - 11 mph'

And the verse from Exodus came to mind in which is described the forlorn attempt of the Egyptians to catch up with the escaping Israelites 'Their wheels were clogged and they lumbered heavily along'.

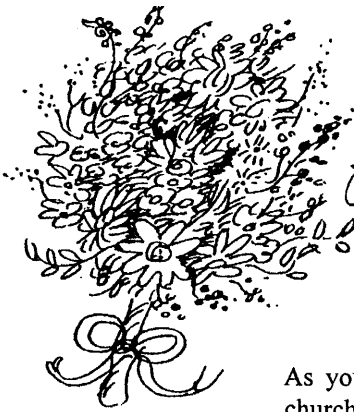
At least many of those who have to travel so slowly and uncomfortably into town every day will probably have a chance to take a break from it in this holiday month. I shall certainly pray for them with growing empathy.

The chair of my missed meeting reminded me of a comment by that wise priest, Harry Williams

'It belongs to the Christian life to travel expectantly,

not to arrive prematurely' - but there again, he didn't live in London.

Brian Leathard



Weddings

As you know many weddings now take place, not in churches or register offices, but in other and varied venues - locally marriages can be solemnised in York House, Kew

Gardens, even the Rugby Ground! But recently I have been to two weddings in churches. They presented a great contrast, totally different but each full of love and friendship and each imbued with the presence and grace of the Holy Spirit.

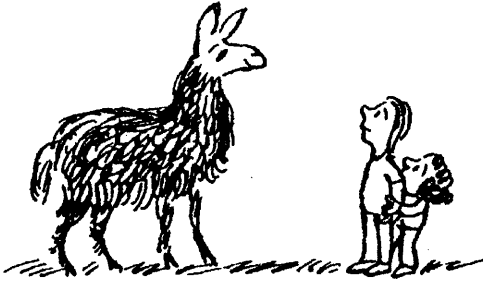
Christopher Taylor and Kristina McWhinnie were married here in St. James's among a throng of family members and friends, young and old. Although we may have heard the words of the service many times, on each occasion they resonate anew and ring different shades of meaning. This time, as we looked at the bride and groom, we wanted to wish them a long and happy marriage, especially because many of the older guests had known Chris since he was very young - an angelic choir boy with a bright face and neatly combed dark hair. As Brian said - one doesn't often officiate at the wedding of someone whose photograph hangs in the vestry! Now Chris is entering with Krissie into a new phase of life and I think we all prayed that they would grow together into a strong relationship with the framework of Alan and Helen's family, where they will have their own special place.

The other wedding was at Herne Hill Baptist Church where Caroline and Peter are faithful and committed members of the congregation. The open form of service provided all sorts of nuances and echoes from the very first moment when the bride came into church as we sang *Be Thou My Vision*. The atmosphere rose to the words of the hymn and the momentum of the service carried along the large group of family and friends from both church and elsewhere. The music came from a gospel-type choir. The minister spoke of marriage in terms of the Song of Songs and, whilst concentrating on Peter and Caroline, he made us all conscious of the importance of our own marriage vows. The service was marked by their very evident faith and total commitment to each other and to God.

From each of these weddings I drew hope for the future and realised afresh the influence of the Holy Spirit on all human relationships. I acknowledged each time the unifying role of family ceremonies and rites - and I enjoyed both occasions enormously!

Margaret Taylor

Our trip to Frinkley Down Park Farm



We went to Frinkley Down Farm in the school mini-bus, driven by Brian. It was a very hot day. I went with my Mum and little sister and it was quite a long journey but we didn't get too fed up.

When we got there we bought some food to feed the animals. The goats absolutely loved it but we weren't allowed to feed the pigs or horses - I was a bit afraid of the llamas.

My favourite animal was the chipmunks and me and Jenny loved holding, the baby rabbits and chicks. We saw baby goats that had just been born. There was a wonderful playground and we all specially liked the trampolines. Me and Jenny played on the old tractors and jumped in the hay barn and milked a pretend cow with water. At the end we went to the shop and were allowed to choose something each.

I thought this was a brilliant farm (and so does my Mum - lots of space and tables to sit and have a cup of tea while the children play in the sandpit, slides or two large playgrounds). We would like to take my big sister one day.



Katherine Bailey

Common Worship - An Opportunity for Us All

Brian Leathard's leader in the July "Spire" gave us the background to the introduction of our new services, Common Worship replacing the twenty-year-old ASB. The ASB has served us well, and most of us have a great affection for it, in particular for the Communion Rites A and B. However, as Brian explained, some things in the services never felt quite right, either in language or content.

Common Worship attempts to address these awkwardnesses by evolution rather than revolution, and in addition give us, as participating church members, more flexibility in choosing a pattern of worship. The changes we must make to our main communion

services can be quite gentle transitions from our familiar ASB rites A and B. The opportunity to be more adventurous will still be with us, because the new services give us much more choice. For instance, we will have eight eucharist prayers to choose from, some very similar to those of the ASB, others aimed at young people, one very brief and interactive.

In the meeting with the Archdeacon on 16th May, to which all of us were invited, the Archdeacon gave us a headline: "Grasping a golden opportunity". We can all participate in this golden opportunity. The PCC have studied and informally discussed one form of the new communion service similar to Rite A. An open meeting was held after the Thursday afternoon communion service on 6th July to discuss Common Worship, and in particular the wishes of those who preferred the present 8.00a.m. service using ASB Rite B. Some very clear and very valuable contributions were made by the participants. They will help guide our new form of worship.

As Brian explained, a working group is preparing for the open meeting we will be holding on Saturday, 14th October. We will not only discuss their suggestions, but give them a practical trial. It will be an important occasion, a golden opportunity in which we can all take part.

Dick Wilde

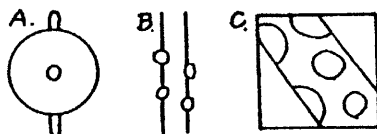
For our younger readers:

PARABLES

Jesus taught his followers by telling stories called **parables**. These stories are ways of explaining things that are difficult to understand; they have a truth hidden in them, not easy to see at first. When the disciples could not see the meaning hidden in the story, Jesus taught them how they could begin to understand and discover the truth. One parable that Jesus told is the Parable of the Sower. You can read it in St. Luke's Gospel, chapter 8, verses 4 - 8, and it is explained in verses 9 - 15. The seed and the soils show the different responses that people give to Jesus and his message. We must be good soil so that the message of Jesus can grow and spread.

If you have eyes to see.

What are these pictures?



A) a Mexican riding a bike!
 B) a koala bear climbing a tree!
 C) a giraffe passing a window!

Is it I, Lord? *Freda's ordination and first communion*

On the afternoon of Sunday 2nd July we were privileged to be in the congregation at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington to witness a rite of passage. We were present at the deeply moving and totally engrossing ceremony at which Freda was ordained priest. It was a near thing, however; the transport booked to convey the fans to the event failed to materialise. It took a combination of Brian's determination, the resourcefulness of individual parishioners and a replacement driver who drove like a member of the opposition to prevent a yawning gap in the pews allocated to St. James'.

The Bishop of Kensington, supported by two other Bishops and several dozen clergy, led the service. The church was full of friends, relations and parishioners from the candidates' parishes. It resonated with the joyful singing of a large choir, the powerful organ augmented by a brass ensemble and the enthusiastic voices of the congregation. The presentation was followed by the candidates' declaration and then the solemnity of the ordination. After this, communion for all was taken at multiple service points around the massive church. The service was awe-inspiring but never threatened to overshadow the eight candidates presented for ordination. It was a wonderfully fitting celebration, reflecting both the traditional values of the Church and the needs of ministry in the modern world.

Freda presided at her first Holy Communion on the evening of 5th July. St. James' had a full congregation representing the local community and her previous parish in Fulham with friends and well-wishers there to support her. The sermon was preached by Prebendary Kenneth Bowler, of All Saints Church, Fulham who outlined Freda's road to the Ministry and echoed all our thoughts and prayers for her future role. Freda gave a near perfect delivery of her first Eucharist. We were left in no doubt as to her genuine Welsh blood as she led the sung responses. I am sure that all those present shared the sense of true communion she created. A party of celebration and congratulation in the Parish Hall followed the service.

As she processed down the aisle, Freda was radiant. There can have been no doubt in the minds of those present that she will indeed hold Your people in her heart.

Janet and Rodney Taylor

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A big thank you to all who contributed to the joy of my ordination to the priesthood - to those who joined me at St. Mary Abbot's Church and to everyone who came to my

First Eucharist. I was overwhelmed by the messages, cards and gifts I received and by the parish party which produced such a happy ending to a memorable, special evening. I have been affirmed by the love and support of a tremendous number of people which can only strengthen and harness my ministry. Thank you.

Freda Evans

BELLRINGERS WANTED



Anyone from the age of about 10 can learn to ring the bells and we would welcome some new recruits. If you would like to learn during the summer, please contact me on 8979 9380.

Susan Horner

CHURCH BAZAAR

I hope you are all having an enjoyable summer. Don't forget though that **Saturday 18th November is the date of the Millennium Christmas Bazaar**. That isn't so far away now and we need to be drawing together ideas for stalls, volunteers to run them and items to sell. Suggestions so far include tombola, home-made preserves, glass and china, bric-a-brac, holiday items and dried flower baskets.

I know there are many among you who have other brilliant ideas and many who are making and collecting things and are anxious to help to make this occasion a great success. Please come along to a meeting at 143 Burtons Road on Monday 11th September at 8p.m. to discuss plans for the Bazaar or contact Wendy Baker on 8979 3654 with ideas and offers of help. Thank you very much.

THE APOCALYPSE SINGERS

The Apocalypse Singers, conducted by Christopher Hodges, have now given two concerts, adding a delightful dimension to the music at St. James's.

In April, they demonstrated their skill in unaccompanied singing of 17th century music, particularly notable being the setting of the Passion by Victoria and 'I am the Resurrection' by Orlando Gibbons. The balance and beauty of tone was truly memorable.

The most recent summer concert was varied, with the choir, many of them members of St. James's, singing Victorian and Edwardian part-songs, expertly supported by Pam Phillips on the piano. In addition, there were harp solos, lieder and clarinet works - what a feast! The programme ended with the beautiful, very English yet ethereal work, the Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams.

Thank you, Chris and the choir. More, please.

Beryl Smith



WOMEN'S FORUM QUESTION TIME



Wednesday 20th September at 7.30p.m.
in the Hall

Rev Brian Leathard in the Chair

Panellists:

Deidre Curran - Hampton and Hampton Hill VCG

Bill Jerman - Headteacher at Hampton Hill Junior School

Rev Simon Lane - Vicar of The Good Shepherd Church, Hounslow

Lesley Mortimer - Single Regeneration Budget Manager

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL

Services at Marling Court and Laurel Dene

Weekly acts of worship take place at both these neighbourhood residential homes and are provided by local churches. St. James's take the services roughly every six weeks. The residents are very appreciative, especially at Marling Court where up to ten people can be waiting expectantly at the appointed time of 4p.m., including our dear friend Violet Clark. The services are an important aspect of our Christian witness, bringing the word of God, including hymns accompanied on a piano, to those unable to reach a church. They last fifteen minutes and are usually led by lay people, though more recently Freda's involvement and piano playing have given a lift to proceedings. New volunteers would be most welcome. Come along one Sunday for a trial run!

Contact: David Taylor 8977 1342

KENSINGTON AREA OFFICE

For some time the Kensington area Council has been looking at the most efficient use of our resources to enable our Area Advisers and Officers to work together for the building up of church life in the Kensington Area. At the moment our three full-time and one part-time officers work in four separate locations (two of which are not even in the Area) with four separate lots of secretarial assistance. Thus there is a considerable amount of duplication and time is often wasted in getting together for meetings, and the Kensington Area Council has decided that the best use of our resources is to bring our Officers together in one place. In this way the Officers can work collaboratively and be served by one Administrator/Secretary. There will be no cost to the parishes or the Common Fund: the capital cost of setting up the area Office will come from CPC money and the running costs of the Office and Administrator will come from the present sources.

The Area Office is to be located on the ground floor of the Vicarage of St. Francis, Isleworth which is geographically central to the Area and served by Underground and Network South-East trains, bus and road. The Office will be opened by the Bishop of Kensington on September 19th, following a meeting of the Kensington Area Council.

In September you will be informed of the phone numbers and email addresses for the Area Office and those who work there. Please pray for our Advisers and Officers as they move to the Area Office and begin to work together even more closely.

Malcolm Colmer



Bishop Michael preached at the service on St. James's Day and afterwards officially launched St. James's Website. We thank Prill Hinckley, John Inglis and Gordon Stowell for all their work in setting up this website.

Sunil de Mel has taken up a six-month post with the United Nations as an engineer in East Timor. We remember him and his family in our prayers.

After 61 years in St. James's Road, Margery Orton has moved to Oxfordshire to be near her son Peter. Her new address is: 3 Chiltern Close, Benson, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6LG. We wish her every happiness in her new home. We shall miss seeing her week by week and hope that she will visit us often.

Miles Alistair Upton was baptised recently and wore a lovely family christening robe for the occasion.

We were extremely sorry to hear that Jean Western and her sister Pam were involved in a car accident whilst returning from holiday and that, although Jean sustained only minor injuries, Pam was killed. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Jean at this sad time. Our sympathy and prayers also reach out to Jill Goddard on the death of her mother Vera Cook.

We would like to remind you that if you need to talk to any of our clergy, there is the Vestry Hour from 7p.m. to 8p.m. on Tuesday evenings, which is a good time for a chat to sort out any issues.

The Scout Group were at Twickeree at Marble Hill Park on 24th and 25th June and took part in the pageant. The same weekend, a very successful street party was held in St. James's Avenue. The children had a bouncy castle and competitions for welly-throwing, fancy dress and decorated bicycles, and with the street closed to traffic they could play freely and safely. After a pantomime by the Globe Players, there was a barbecue and dancing to the band continued until after midnight. We would like to thank the organisers who generously donated half the profits to St. James's Church and also for this example of great community spirit.



FROM THE JUNE REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 3 Annie Mae Segal, 128 Hanworth Road
4 Finlay Xavier Battle, 63 Uxbridge Road
16 Alicia Kate Roberts, 6 Albert Road
18 Eliza Matilda Lyons, 30 Cross Street
25 Rudi George Harry Smith, 5 Cranmer Road
Thomas Charles Rowland, }
Harry William Rowland, } 8 Anlaby Road, Teddington

Weddings

- 3 Michael Jones and Sarah Gould
25 Jonathan Smith and Kim Duller

Funerals

- 8 Margaret Robinson, 36 St. James's Road 80
26 Pamela Muriel Western (Jean Western's sister) 70

DATES TO NOTE AUGUST

- 4 Dominic, Priest and Friar, 1221
5 Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642
6 **The Transfiguration of Our Lord**
7 John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn writer, 1866
9 Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921
10 Laurence, Deacon and Martyr in Rome, 258
11 Clare of Assisi, 1253
14 Maximilian Kolbe, Friar and Martyr, 1941
15 **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
24 **Bartholomew the Apostle**
28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430
Bank Holiday
29 Beheading of John the Baptist
30 John Bunyan, Writer, 1688
31 Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE: 12TH AUGUST