

I think I must have been the only person on my recent flight to Berlin who was not travelling there in order to take part in the 27th Berlin Marathon. Those of you who appreciate my sporting prowess will, of course, understand why! However, I did take part in the service for Marathon runners and their supporters which was held on the night before the race in Berlin's most famous church - the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. In my limited (zero) experience of such events I had presumed that there might be 40 or 50 people present. To my amazement there were over 1200 people in church, on every windowsill, in every aisle, climbing up the organ - everywhere. The service itself was full of appropriate liturgy - runners lighting candles, jaunty music and bible texts galore on the theme of, for example, Psalm 121

'The Lord will not suffer your foot to stumble'

and from the Letter to the Hebrews

'Run the race that is set before you'

A German minister from our sister church, The Protestant Church in Berlin - Brandenburg, preached a most moving sermon, not least because he was running the Marathon (aged 67) for the 21st time. 'Because of my foot injury' he said 'I'm running for the first time in the full knowledge that I shall, most probably, not complete the course - and now I see the whole experience from a different perspective.'

His comment set me thinking about the images we use for our own life journey. Some bible texts certainly seem to suggest that it is reaching the goal, or, in marathon terms, crossing the finishing line which is the most important thing. But is it? In our success oriented society very few of us would seem to achieve success in every part. Career, income, physical appearance, sex life, social standing are but some of the many goals which appear to be taken as norms against which to measure ourselves. And yet - can we really subscribe to such expectations and assumptions?

Perhaps, above all, it is our acceptance of our own creatureliness - that we are made in God's image and likeness - whatever our appearance, our success in career or relationships, which is truly liberating. For every step on the race is as important as the final step which transports us across the finishing line. The Psalmist was certainly onto something profound when he asked in Psalm 121

I lift my eyes to the hills,

but where does my help come from?

Well, I'm quite sure it doesn't come from misplaced pictures or measures of success. After all, just look at the icon of Jesus of Nazareth, on a cross. What sort of success story is that? For me the race is about the next step on the journey, faithfully following in the way of Jesus, whatever befall. That means faithfulness in success and failure, pleasure and pain, delight and distress.

I don't know whether the preacher completed the Marathon, but that hardly seems the point. I do know that I shall not be entering any marathons other than trying walk with Christ and all the saints. One step at a time is probably enough.

Brian Leathard



Our annual sale of charity Christmas cards will take place at 10.45a.m. on Sunday 15th October, after Parish Communion. At least 8 charities will be represented. Do come along to buy or place an order.

Please contact Janet Nunn (8979 6325) or Susan Horner (8979 9380) with any queries.

Wanted - a Volunteer for a Dangerous Job

Perhaps archivist is too forbidding a term for the person we need to do a job that does not require any special skills, nor a lot of time, but will be very interesting.

Stored away in the church are beautifully bound copies of the old Parish Magazine, which in those days had full-page illustrations, dating back to 1885. Each year is carefully preserved and bound up to 1954, when the yearly binding was discontinued, and copies of the Spire were put into boxes or bags instead. These now are carefully preserved, but not put in order nor easily accessible.

The sorting, ordering and storing of these most interesting records, and perhaps considering an inexpensive way of keeping them together, is the job that needs doing. The danger? Once you start browsing through the old records, it's very hard to stop reading, you get hooked. Intrepid volunteers, please see any one of the Spire Committee, or me.

Dick Wilde





Stepping into Medieval & Reformation History

4 Oct ~

The Season for All Men

Dr. Clive Burgess

PURGATORY

11 Oct ~

They Sang it Here

Dr. Peter Wilton

MUSIC IN THE MEDIEVAL

& REFORMATION PERIOD

18 Oct ~

. . . . It Happened Here, As Well

Miss Jessica Freeman

MEDIEVAL STAINES

The Mary Lowe Lectures

All Wednesday Lectures begin at 7.30p.m.

followed by refreshments

at St. Mary's, Vicarage Road, Staines

Entrance FREE (Retiring Collection)

For further details please contact

The Churchwarden, Mike Sanders Tel: 01932 567858

or The Parish Office on 01784 469155

Dear Lord:

I give you thanks for precious people,

St. James's Church, its lovely steeple,

For sixty very precious years,

I shall leave it all with loving tears.

But memories remain for ever

And their ties naught can sever:

I shall wrap them carefully

And take them when I leave,

And take them out to comfort me

When I look back and grieve.

But the future's bright before me

I shall live in it with praise

For all the joys I've known

And all the happy days.



Laus Deo.

Margery Orton

A PARISH OPEN MEETING
to discuss and explore
COMMON WORSHIP

Saturday 14th October 2000
9.30a.m. to 1.00p.m. in the Church Hall
followed by a simple lunch

Don't miss this golden opportunity to
take part in planning our new forms of worship

FOLDING CHAIRS - ONLY 6d EACH!

Approximately 50 years ago when I was a member of **St. James's Young Wives**, we were, as ever, trying to raise money for repairs to the church, (the Vicar at the time was the Revd Brunt). One moneymaking idea we had was the sale of old church chairs. They were wooden stalled folding chairs, which we think were at one time used in the church. I bought two of them at 6d each. My husband repaired and stained them and over the past years they have come in use for many occasions and are still in good condition, although in my daughter's garage.

I have two questions to ask:

Is anyone else still in possession of
another of the chairs?

And can any one tell me the age or date
the church originally purchased them? ||

D. E. Gunns





Make sure you have the date and the time of the Bazaar noted in your diary - **Saturday 18th November 10.30a.m. - 1.30p.m.** Plans are now well ahead. There will be a variety of stalls in the Hall and in the Church. These will include **books, plants, cakes, gifts, crafts, dried flower baskets, toys, china and glass, home-made preserves, tombola and a raffle.** Tasty refreshments will be available including light lunches.

Look for labelled boxes in church throughout October for contributions you may like to make to any of the stalls.

It is not too late to offer your help! Please see Wendy Baker or phone 8979 3654. Looking forward to a successful and enjoyable bazaar. See you there!

WOMEN'S FORUM NEWS

The Women's Forum held their annual service on 6th September, to begin the "new year". The theme was *2000 Years of Thanksgiving*. Brian spoke about how we give thanks every time we share the Eucharist, as Jesus did at the last supper. Thanksgiving should be part of our daily lives - "God loves a cheerful giver" rather than a "moaning minny". The well attended service was followed by a delicious cream tea.

On Wednesday 18th October at 7.30p.m., we shall be holding our AGM in the Church Hall. Wine and nibbles will be served and all members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is your chance to have your say and to vote for your new committee - or even to join the committee! The new programme will be available.

We should also very much like to welcome new members on that evening. If you are unsure whether the Women's Forum is for you, the AGM is an excellent opportunity to find out and to ask questions. It may surprise people to learn that we happily accept men as members too! We look forward to seeing you.

The Twickenham and District branch of the RNLI was founded in October 1959 and over these forty years successive generations of hard-working committee members have managed to raise the grand total of almost £498,000 - that's nearly half a million pounds!! So the present committee have set themselves the ambitious target of hitting the magic half million by our 41st birthday in October. This is involving huge efforts by the Committee and our loyal helpers. These efforts include a special appeal to fund a D-class inshore lifeboat to be named "Spirit of the Thames". The following events will go to the Appeal fund.

Wednesday October 4th - Afternoon Bridge Drive, Thames Motor Yacht Club Hampton Court. Tickets £7 to include tea.

Saturday October 7th - Autumn Sale at Teddington Methodist Church, Stanley Road, Teddington. 10a.m. to noon. Souvenirs, Christmas Cards, gifts, bric-a-brac, books, cakes and refreshments.

Friday October 27th - **Bamber's Bonanza Quiz** presented by Bamber Gascoigne. Tickets £15 to include supper (please bring your own wine/soft drinks). York House, Twickenham commencing at 7.30p.m. Table bookings if possible please but all welcome!!

Jill Goddard 8287 7438

MESSIAH

at St. James's Church, Hampton Hill
Saturday 14th October 2000 at 7.30p.m.
(rehearsal 4.15 for 4.30 - 6.00p.m.)

This is part of a network of over 500 **SIMULTANEOUS PERFORMANCES**
not only throughout the U.K. but also worldwide
to support the **HOSPICE MOVEMENT**
The proceeds from this performance will directly benefit
the **PRINCESS ALICE HOSPICE**

Tickets: Singers £9 Audience £7
available from Concert Secretary (BT VfH Hampton),
c/o The Princess Alice Hospice, West End Lane, Esher KT10 8NA
(please enclose SAE) or see the booking forms at the back of the Church

We must step up the fight

A delegate at the Durban Aids conference saw the Churches challenged to intensify their ministry of care. Their difficulties about sex translate into difficulties in dealing with Aids. Too often the answers are not compassionate enough.

AT the Aids conference in Durban one speaker pulled no punches in presenting the reality to the 12,000 delegates: "If HIV were transmitted by means of a mosquito bite, the Church would be in the forefront of prevention, cure and awareness raising. Think of the lead we took in the fight against leprosy and smallpox. As it is, sex is a big problem for the church, and that is why HIV is a big problem for the Church."

It was significant that we were in Africa, and in South Africa in particular, the rate of infection is so very high. All levels of society - old and young, male and female are affected.

And so President Thabo Mbeki was right in his opening speech to underline the need to address the fundamental problem of poverty. It is in a poverty stricken environment that HIV finds it easy to thrive. But the President was wrong, in his speech to use poverty, and the relatively immature nature of South African democracy, emerging as it is from apartheid, to cloak the immediate need of the millions living with HIV infection, who are his responsibility.

So many people in South Africa and other countries in the developing world are dying of aids. Every effort must be put into finding a vaccine, putting pressure on the pharmaceutical companies to lower the cost of therapeutic drugs dramatically, and to bring on stream a programme of providing appropriate drugs for pregnant women to counter the huge incidence of mother-to-baby transmission. Mbeki should have been left in no doubt as to the extent of feeling against reluctance to act.

But at least President Mbeki was there: the

first time in 13 conferences that the opening ceremony has been addressed by the host head of state. Where were the others? Where were the messages of goodwill and support from the British Prime Minister, President Clinton, the Pope, or the leaders of the many countries which face desolation in the wake of the Aids pandemic?

It is not just the politicians, however, who need to put their house in order. At one seminar, addressing the vexed question of the role of religion in the flat against HIV, speakers from a number of religious traditions

on the platform and from the floor gave voice to the fundamental issue. We need to learn in the churches to talk openly and honestly about sex. The theme of the Durban conference was "Breaking the silence". That silence needs to be broken nowhere more than in the churches, and across the faith communities. By constantly reinforcing the strictness of the tradition and quoting the Scriptures, we serve only to

strengthen fear in those who are most at risk, and make their silence all the more profound.

Nevertheless, conference speakers from across the communities of faith bore witness to the heroic work of countless people who exercise a ministry of care to people suffering appalling hardships and loss, as a result of what was identified at the conference as the worst infectious disease ever to have afflicted the human race.

Lindsay McKenna

Lindsay McKenna, an Anglican priest, is director of the Cara Trust, a community of friendship for people affected by HIV, based at 178 Lancaster Road, London W11.





RUDDIGORE

Hounslow Light Opera present Ruddigore by Gilbert and Sullivan at Feltham Assembly Hall from Thursday 19th - Saturday 21st October at 7.45p.m. This is a Gilbertian parody of Victorian Melodrama with a few extra twists thrown in. Among the cast are Maggie Revis playing "Mad Margaret" and Paul Revis playing her evil suitor "Sir Despard". Tickets can be obtained from Paul and Maggie (020 8255 4923), the box office (020 8560 9665), or at the door.

ALMA MEETING

On Thursday 7th September Ann Peterken and I attended a meeting of the supporters and parish representatives of the Angolan, London and Mozambique Association. Elizabeth Tucker, herself badly injured in the same car accident, presented a very moving video of Bishop Dinis' return to the site of his wife's death some two years ago. We hope to arrange for her to come to St. James's and present the video and tell us about some of the very positive things that have come out of Berta's tragic death. They also had boxes of Christmas cards for sale, the proceeds of which will go to the ALMA Common fund which helps to pay the airfares of Angolans and Mozambicans visiting us in London, ensuring that the numbers of those visiting London are roughly equal to the number of Londoners travelling in the opposite direction. The profits on the sale of the 1999 cards covered the costs of two of the airfares of the visitors who came in May. The ALMA Christmas cards will be on sale at the Charity Card Sale on October 15th.

Elizabeth Wilmot

NO DOUBT!

From a parishioner:

My mother (who lives in another parish) was taking a bath one afternoon. On returning downstairs, she found that a card had been pushed through the door. It stated: The Vicar has called and is sorry not to have seen you.



Yasmin Robins, daughter of Miriam Gunsekara, was married to Andrew Morphitis on 16th September. The following week, Andy Sutton-Jones, who was recently baptised at St. James's, married Marianne in Twickenham. Andy and Marianne are going to work with the Sisters of the Assumption in Mexico. We remember them all in our prayers and send our best wishes for their lives together.

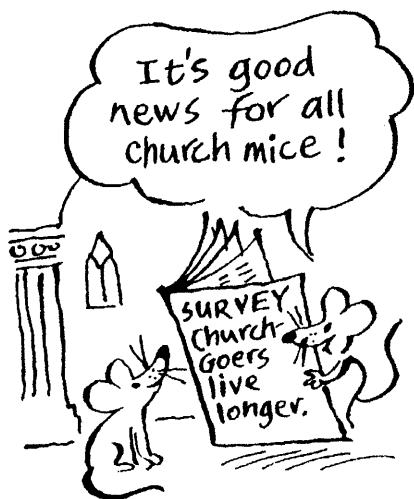
Many of you will know that Ramani's father, John, has been ill for several months. Sadly, he died in Sri Lanka on Friday 22nd September. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family at this sad time.

We are also sorry to report the death of Mrs. Liz Stephen, Chairperson of our Scout Group. Liz was involved with the Scouts for many years and will be very much missed by the group, who greatly appreciated her work. She also worked for the HHA. Liz leaves a husband Jay and son John who are in our thoughts.

Bishop Alan Rogers, the brother-in-law of Peg and Sylvia Boarder, is in Teddington Hospital. We are pleased to report that Janet, Eila and Rose continue to improve after their operations.

Finally, the wall at the eastern end of the churchyard (Dudley's wall!) has been restored.

Health tip of the week



To live longer, skip the gym on Sunday mornings and go to church instead. An analysis of 42 studies involving 126,000 people has revealed that regular attendance at a church, mosque or synagogue can lead to a significantly longer life. "The odds of survival for people who rated higher on measures of public and private religious involvement were 29% higher than those people who scored lower on such measures," said US psychologist Dr. Michael McCullough. In other words, while people who believe in God are more likely to live longer than those who do not, the real health benefits of religion kick in when regular churchgoing is involved. One study of

9,000 Americans found that those who had never attended church were nearly twice as likely to die in the nine-year follow-up period as those who went once a week.

FROM THE AUGUST REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 13 Andy Sutton-Jones, 216 Staines Road, Twickenham
27 George Richard Fraser-Smith, 7 Nightingale Road

Funerals

- 1 Doris Hartwell, 1 Fitzwygram Close 83
4 Timothy Pye, 41 St. James's Road
14 Rose Pinchard, 35 Pigeon Lane 60

DATES TO NOTE IN OCTOBER

- 1 0930 Harvest Festival
2 1400-1600 Harvest Tea, Church Hall. All Welcome.
4 Francis of Assisi, 1226
5 William Tyndale, Translator & Reformer, 1536
10 Paulinus, Bishop of York and Missionary, 604
12 Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop
13 Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066
14 1930 'Messiah'. Sing for the Hospices in support of Princess Alice Hospice
17 Ignatius, Bishop & Martyr, 192
18 **Luke, Apostle**
1930 Women's Forum AGM
19 Henry Martyn, Translator & Missionary, 1812
26 Alfred the Great, King & Scholar
28 **Simon & Jude, Apostles**
29 Today we remember in prayer the Partnership between the Diocese of London and the Protestant Church in Berlin-Brandenburg.
31 Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

All Souls' Day

2nd November 2000

Parish Communion

8p.m.

In this service each year we remember those who have died and all who mourn them. The Apocalypse Singers will help us worship as they sing Faure's Requiem during the service.

All are welcome.

If you would like a loved one to be remembered by name during the service please contact the clergy.

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH OCTOBER