

Have you ever counted the number of Bibles you have in your house? It may well surprise you! Why not have a go at it right now? Fascinatingly Bibles do tend to disappear from churches - if they were all taken and used regularly then I would be delighted. However, I have my cynical doubts.

This Autumn we want to help people focus on reading the Bible anew. This may sound a very obvious thing for a church community to do but I wonder if we really have the resources and the tools to do this.

- Do we have access to a version of the Bible which communicates its meaning easily and in a style which is relevant to our twenty-first century lives for children, youngsters, and adults?
- Have we got background information into what the Bible is and how it came to be as we know it and how to find our way around it?
- Have we got an open, discerning, and questioning mind in order to read the Bible both with faith and reason?
- Are there passages of the Bible which continue to perplex, confuse, or confound us?
- Do we have a scheme to read the Bible constructively, in manageable chunks with a feeling of making progress ?

In order to help and encourage everyone in turning again to the treasury of wisdom, insight, surprise and challenge for our faith which we can find reading the Bible we shall be using:-

Sunday 28th October as a day to provide you with an array of Bibles and Bible reading possibilities and Mondays 5,12,19,26 November at 8.00p.m. to have open meetings for anyone who wants a chance to discuss particular passages or Biblical approaches which prove difficult to understand. Please let me have suggestions for such passages for study by 21st October.

Of course, three passages of the Bible are read everyday at Morning Prayer and the readings for every Sunday are shown in advance on the weekly notice sheets. The prayer for Bible Sunday urges us to -

‘read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the truths of the Bible’ - our aim is to help.

Brian Leathard

P.S. Well, how many Bibles did you find in your possession, and more importantly, do you read them? And reading them, what difference does it make to living our Christian lives ?

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE **14th - 21st October**

On Sunday 21st October at 3p.m. an Interfaith Service will be held at The Wembley Progressive Synagogue, 324 Preston Road, Wembley.

This gives an opportunity to gather with representatives of the World Faiths and to meet and talk with them after the service.

The Gordon Wilson Award is also given at the service.

Leaflets of prayers and meditations will be available in church during October - Do take one and use it at home or with groups. None of us knows the power of prayer.

The International Prayer of Peace

Lead me from death to life from falsehood to truth

Lead me from despair to hope from fear to trust

Lead me from hate to love from war to peace

Let peace fill our heart our world our universe.

THE TRADE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

As we celebrate harvest here in England, we know we are also celebrating harvests in lands far beyond our shores. The global market place illustrates the inter-dependence of one country on another. As Christians we should have a concern that we pay a fair price for our overseas produce.

The Trade Justice Movement is a group of organisations (including Christian Aid, CAFOD, Oxfam, the Fairtrade Foundation and Traidcraft) concerned with the negative impact of international trade rules on the poorest people in the world, on the environment, and on democracy. It calls for fundamental change to the unjust rules and institutions governing international trade, so that trade is made to work for all.

As governments prepare to attend the World Trade Organisation's major meeting in Qatar in November, please consider sending one of the postcards that are in church. And join in the **Trade Justice Carnival**, a fun-filled family event in London on Saturday 3rd November to show our leaders that people want trade rules that work for the whole world. The colourful flyers in church give details on this event. Please contact me on 8979 8239 if you would like one to be sent to you.

There will more information from me in the coming months on this important new movement.

John Williams

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE PCC ON 11TH SEPTEMBER

In the temporary absence of the Vicar, Ann Peterken took the chair.

Keith Robinson, the Diocesan General Secretary, plans to visit us on the 31st October. This will be an important meeting; all parishioners are welcome to attend. Mr Robinson will give a short address and then be prepared to answer our questions. The PCC are particularly anxious to know more about diocesan financial planning.

Jane Newman, our Children's Advocate, gave the PCC details of the revised Child Protection Policy of the Diocese. Jane agreed to continue for at least another year as our Children's Advocate.

Freda Evans outlined the salient features of the Data Protection Act as it affected the parish. In brief, we may say that any data the parish keeps on any person must be agreed by them and accessible to them for checking. In the main this consists of a name, address and telephone number, and for stewardship members the amount of their giving. This last item is confidential, known only to the recorders and treasurer.

Paul Peterken presented the half-yearly accounts. He reported that the Finance Committee are uneasy about the mechanism presently employed to determine each parish's contribution to the Common Fund. There is no logical formula; we are merely asked to increase our previous year's giving by a fixed percentage. The Committee feels that this leads to an uneven sharing of the financial burden. There is also concern about the Diocesan use of funds. These points have been made to the Deanery Synod by our representatives and to the Diocesan Synod by the Vicar. Notwithstanding this we will meet the amount we are requested to give as we have always done in the past. Next year this will be £49,000.

The convenors of the four groups who have been working on our Mission Action Plan reported on their progress. The groups considered: Communications, Children and Youth, Worship and Outreach and Properties. There were many ideas from the groups; similar conclusions were reached from their different starting points. All shared the outreach ideal. By our building, our displays, our messages, our meetings and our worship we must show warmth and welcome. We have to show our commitment and the relevance of what we believe.

The meeting considered the outline plans produced by our architect for an extension of the west porch to provide an "Open Door" welcoming look to the church and a staffed church office. It was generally agreed that an extension was very necessary if many of our plans were to be realised, but more discussion was necessary before a firm decision was made.



HOME-START RICHMOND Supporting Families

PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

Have you a few hours free each week, and would you like to join **Home-Start's** growing band of volunteers, and help a parent with young children who is 'going through a bad patch'?

All our volunteers are parents themselves; most have been through difficult times, and know what it's like to have a baby who won't stop crying, or a two year old who terrorises the household with her tantrums. They are there for the mum or dad, who often have no close family nearby. They listen, support, encourage and help them enjoy their child too. They may go out to the park, the library, the shops; they can share a good laugh, a good cry, or just a cup of tea and a chat. Above all they have **time** to give to another parent, to be there just for them.

Our volunteers are carefully chosen for their qualities of commitment, warmth, tolerance and reliability; they attend a short preparation course, a day a week for about ten weeks, before being matched with a family whom they visit regularly once a week.

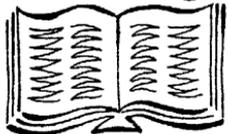
If you'd like to find out more about becoming a Home-Start volunteer, do ring us on 020 8948 8370. Our next volunteers' preparation course starts on Wednesday 3rd October 2001.



WANTED FOR THE ARCHIVES

If you have any spare photos, orders of service for special events, weddings, funerals, etc., please let me have them to store in the Archives for future generations to enjoy. Thank you.

Jennifer Lloyd

BOOKS of

the BIBLE

MATTHEW

Although it was probably not the first to be written, the Gospel of Matthew is well placed at the beginning of the New Testament, for it bridges the gap between old and new, the old Israel and the new world-wide church of God's people.

Matthew's record of the life and work of Jesus is not simply a historical report. He is not a biographer; his purpose in setting down his account is to inspire and nourish Christian belief. Matthew portrays Jesus as a teacher, and concentrates on the relationship of Jesus to the Jewish faith, showing how he came to fulfil the Old Testament, but at the same time to judge the Jews for their unfaithfulness to their religion. He was writing

for his fellow Jews, in the knowledge that many of them were expecting a political leader in their long-awaited Messiah. His accounts of the parables explore the distinction between earthly and heavenly kingdoms. And in his painstaking and detailed records of Jesus' life and work (some of Jesus' teaching, and accounts of several parables and incidents, are only found in Matthew's Gospel), Matthew is careful to observe and record, rather than interpret, the words of Jesus. Consequently his writing transfers well from generation to generation; it is Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer which we use, and his words are included in the Communion service in the Book of Common Prayer which I grew up with, including:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Also those wonderful 'comfortable words' which have also stayed with me since my childhood:

Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you . . . for the yoke I will give you is easy, and the burden is light.

Reading Matthew's Gospel, I recognise Jesus' frustration at the inability of people to hear his teaching - "Those that have ears, let them hear!" But whereas my experience in the classroom is of people who find it very difficult to listen, the problem here is of people who think they know it all, and therefore hear without understanding. Knowledge is one thing; but understanding can only be achieved through the application of knowledge, and many of Jesus' Jewish listeners found themselves unable to make the quantum leap from the security of the Jewish faith, with its customs and practices comfortably rooted in centuries of historical tradition, to reappraise their thinking and accept the bewildering challenge laid down by the ministry of Jesus - the challenge to throw away their preconceived ideas about the Messiah and to accept the inclusiveness of the Kingdom of heaven. The extent of this difficulty is reflected in the 'spin' the Jewish establishment needed to put on the political and religious implications of the Resurrection; only Matthew chronicles the

bribes offered to the soldiers on watch at the tomb. And how much of this is still relevant in the present day!

As I write, thousands of anxious young people are filing into their schools and colleges to discover the results of their A and AS Level exams - a summative assessment of teaching and learning which claims to measure knowledge, but cannot begin to measure, or even value the wisdom needed to use that knowledge in the broader context of our social and spiritual life. Thank goodness the teaching of Jesus is not measured in such a way. Matthew, the despised tax-collector, makes it clear that God values all, not just the good and clever. This most Jewish of all the Gospels closes with a word from the Lord that throws the kingdom open to people of the whole world.

Jane Newman

THE DATA PROTECTION ACT AND HOW IT MIGHT RELATE TO YOU

The purpose of this Act is to uphold and protect the rights of individuals concerning information about them, either in written note form or computer records, and its main provisions come into force at the end of October. The Act affects the Parochial Church Council as well as the Vicar and any information we have relating to an individual must be kept up to date. Therefore, it will be very important for us to be informed as soon as any changes take place, including a move to another address. Currently, the Electoral Roll Officer keeps the electoral roll list with people's names, addresses and telephone numbers. This is made available to the Clergy and Churchwardens but we do not give the list out to anyone, nor do we disclose ex-directory telephone numbers without the prior agreement of the person concerned. The Stewardship officer has confidential knowledge of a person's annual donation with the relevant bank details where appropriate, and this is not shared with anyone. Names and addresses of those baptised are kept in order to invite them to the annual baptism party and the Sunday School Teacher keeps a record of the addresses and telephone numbers of the children who attend; similarly, the addresses of the next of kin of those whose funeral services we have taken are kept so that they may be invited to the All Souls' Service.

Under the new requirements, anyone is able to request a copy of whatever information is held about them, and wherever a note or record is made of a meeting or a conversation with one of the clergy, the person will be told what is intended to be done with the record, and under what circumstances we would disclose the information.

Following the recommended guidelines, the PCC will appoint someone to ensure that the Act is being complied with.



A GLIMPSE BEHIND ROYAL CURTAINS

The departure of the Royal Family for their Scottish holiday allows us the opportunity of visiting the State Rooms in Buckingham Palace during the months of August and September and it is certainly a different way of spending an afternoon! Having entered the building through the Ambassadors' Court, it is possible to stop in the Quadrangle to appreciate Nash's architecture in mellow Bath stone before climbing the Grand Staircase to view his ceilings of extraordinary domes, concave and convex coving, from which suspend the most amazing, tiered cut glass chandeliers.

The Throne Room reminds you of photographs taken there following family weddings; the Music Room, where the Queen's three eldest children were baptized, has a lavishly gilded domed ceiling moulded with the rose, thistle and shamrock, emblematic of the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland.

For me, the loveliest part of the visit was the Picture Gallery, 155 feet long and crammed with paintings, which include inspirational works by Rubens and Rembrandt, Van Dyck and Vermeer. If I could take one home, I think it would have to be the Music Lesson by Vermeer! The State Dining Room with its lavish red walls and carpet has a marvellous view over the landscaped gardens with its lake and naturalistic planting of trees and shrubs, a view which you carry with you as you wind your way to Grosvenor Gate.

Freda Evans

THOUGHTS ON A QUIET DAY

Golden silence invades me
Dropping shafts of love upon my brow.
Calm, oh so calm,
Filling me with longing for you, Lord.

From life's hectic pace I rest,
You settle my mind and renew my strength,
enabling me to see things your way.
Lover of souls, you love me.

Your praise invades my heart
Making me see life anew.
A myriad tasks cry out to me
But in your time, in your time, Lord.

To the world I return,
Wanting, oh so wanting,
To cradle this silence and hug it tightly to my breast.
But you, Lord, help me carry it within,
To fight the thrust of the world.

Janet Jeffries

IN APPRECIATION OF GEOFFREY

Neapolitan 6ths, figured bass and false relations - no, not ice-creams, svelte male singers and aunts and uncles but musical terminology which have all been part of our regular Friday church choir practice for the last eight years. For part of Geoffrey Bowyer's contribution to our church has been the musical education of our choristers, and that is not just learning notes and singing loudly and quietly.

Geoffrey has played some wonderful organ music for our services, the congregation often staying in their pews to listen to the voluntary after the service. He has delivered beautifully played Bach, show music and tunes topical to the lectionary or the news of the day.

Geoffrey has given of his time and effort unstintingly, particularly when it comes to organising Messiahs from scratch which, over the years, have raised thousands of pounds for Christian Aid.

One of Geoffrey's special talents is the art of accompanying soloists which he has done frequently at weddings, funerals and concerts; he is always quick to cover up dodgy patches or catch up when the soloist forgets how to count! He puts himself out to provide specially-requested tunes for weddings, whether it be "My Tiny Hand is Frozen" or "Imperial Attack" from Star Wars!!

At choir practices we have been regaled with stories of Ballet Rambert, how to grow enormous pumpkins and how Geoffrey met famous composers and performers. I hope we rewarded his efforts by making some pleasant music for him. We certainly tried our hardest when we performed his own Requiem composition, a piece full of memorable and lovely tunes.

Sadly, it is now time for Geoffrey to move on, but I would like to say a huge thank you to Geoffrey for all he has done for us at St. James's. You might well receive a present from us, Geoffrey, but we're sorry we couldn't provide a 'good woman'!

Liz Butler



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I wonder whether any readers can offer advice on how or whether to respond when someone uses the name of Jesus, or the shortest sentence in the Bible as an expletive. It seems to be common currency these days and people are clearly unaware that they could be causing any hurt by using it. Perhaps I should just tell myself that He doesn't need my protection and that as some of what I say is probably even more thoughtless and hurtful, I should keep my mouth shut and simply ignore it. However, maybe someone has found a way to make it clear that they find it offensive, without seeming sanctimonious or causing embarrassment to a friend or colleague.

Marion Dewey

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We would welcome replies to this letter, and also letters on any other points that readers would like to raise. We are also always pleased to receive articles, poems, opinions, etc., but hope you will understand that if space is tight we may have to edit contributions or hold them over to another month.



Congratulations to Elizabeth and David Bonner, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 8th September, and to David Nunn, whose 90th birthday was on 28th September.

A number of our congregation have been unwell recently: Betty Redman, Nesta Humphrey, Peg and Sylvia Boarder, Stuart Ward and Margaret Bramall. We send our love and prayers to you all. We are glad to hear that Rose Frier is making a good recovery after her hip replacement.

Sarah Clay, Francesca Croney, Anusha Leathard, James Taylor and Romilly Taylor have all completed their A levels and will either be starting University or taking a "gap year". We send our best wishes to these young people as they embark on this next stage in their lives.

Finally, watch this space! We are hoping to have an exciting art-work project during Advent involving our young people- details next month.

SALE OF CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER

in the Hall after Parish Communion (approx. 10.45a.m.)

In addition to the charities represented in previous years, we hope to have cards in support of the Princess Alice Hospice.

FROM THE AUGUST REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 12 Dominic Piers Upton, 4 Cranmer Court, Cranmer Road.
19 Lucy May Bower, 45 Anlaby Road, Teddington.
Hannah-Rose Morley, 8 Hatherop Road, Hampton.

Weddings

- 4 Mark Newton and Joanna Humphreys.
Ian Donald and Denise Murray.
18 Ian Cambridge and Rachel Cribb.
24 Patrick Le Gros and Melissa Hook.

Funerals

- 14 John Cowper, 30 Hanworth Road 70
17 Trevor Traylor, 201 Uxbridge Road 83

DATES TO NOTE IN OCTOBER

- 4 Francis of Assisi, Friar and Deacon, 1226.
2p.m. Holy Communion.
6 William Tyndale, Translator of the Scripture, Martyr, 1536.
7 **Harvest Festival.**
All Age Communion 9.30a.m.
Tea Party for the recently baptised 3.30p.m.
10 Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644.
12 Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop and Missionary, 709.
13 Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066.
7.30p.m. Concert in Church Apocalypse Singers.
14 9.30a.m. **Parish Communion followed by Charity Christmas Card Sale - Church Hall.**
6.30p.m. Churches together around Hampton: Songs of Praise, Worship at Hampton Methodist Church.
15 Teresa of Avila, Teacher.
8p.m. Churches together around Hampton - Baptist Church.
16 Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, Reformation Martyr.
17 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, 107.
21 **St. Luke the Evangelist, Apostle (tr).**
26 Alfred the Great, King of West Saxons, 899.
27 **Children's Workshop for All Saints.**
28 **St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles.**
Bible Exhibition and Sales in church after Parish Communion.
29 James Harrington, Bishop and Martyr, Uganda, 1885.
31 8p.m. **Parochial Church Council.**
Kate Robinson, General Secretary, Diocese of London.
All welcome.

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH OCTOBER