

Some of you will know that (in my spare time ha ha!) I chair the UK support group of a Christian theology centre in Palestine. The centre is in Jerusalem and is called Sabeel, which is Arabic for The Way or a Channel of water. It is an ecumenical grassroots organisation, amongst Palestinian Christians which encourages men, women and young people to discern the way ahead in faithful living amidst the harsh realities of their daily lives.

Their reality is that of illegal occupation by the state of Israel in total breach of numerous UN Security Council resolutions. They are subjected to random arrest and extra-judicial trial and imprisonment by the occupying forces of Israel. Their lives are controlled by illegal forces in every respect - economic, educational, and health facilities are all at the whim of the occupying soldiers of Israel.

Watching our television screens these last few weeks has been a tragic and painful witness to the brutal reality of trying to live as a faithful Christian or Muslim in Palestine.

And of course trying to live as a faithful Jew in Israel amidst the fear of terror, unexpected at any turn, is equally appalling. Suicide bombers are impossible to identify and track down until their ghastly consequences have shattered more human lives. The covert groups who fund and recruit bombers are evil conveyors of violence who no longer see that the pain of suffering knows of no ethnic distinction.

This month, on 19th May, we shall celebrate the feast of Pentecost. In the Acts of the Apostles the Bible narrative makes it clear that this event occurred in Jerusalem, a city which, at that time as in our time, was inhabited by people from all over the Middle East and beyond. It was a city, then and now, under military occupation. Life was and is unbearably tough for the majority of the inhabitants, as today. At Pentecost the friends and followers of Jesus were gathered together and began to speak in a variety of foreign languages so that the visiting crowds from across the known world heard these ordinary Galileans speaking directly to them in a language which was their mother tongue. They were, in the parlance, gobsmacked!

How could it be that God could be known in such diversity, where previously God had been discerned for Jews only in the Law and in Jewish practice?

The answer was that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, this Palestinian Jew, God declares for all people God's own self in the human world. What was true then is true now. Oh Jerusalem, Israeli & Palestinian, Jew, Muslim and Christian today, if only we could see the uniqueness of each as part of the diversity of God's single creation and purpose. Today, can we leave behind the prejudices and mutual hatred which wells up on the streets of Jerusalem as military might or acts of terror? I do believe we can, when we first learn within ourselves that our human diversity is part of the oneness of God's creation in which Jesus, in Jerusalem, overcame the ways that lead to death and points us in the way that leads to life in all its fulness. That's the message of Pentecost that we all need to hear in our own way.

Brian Leathard

THE VIRGIN MARY

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word." (Luke Chapter 1 Verse 38) With these simple words, Mary became the Mother of the Son of God and the history of the world changed for ever.

In the Little Oxford Dictionary a Saint is defined as "a holy or very virtuous person, regarded as having a place in Heaven." If this is so, then Mary is a saint par excellence. Although she was chosen by God to be the mother of His son, we know very little about her. The relatively few references to Mary in the gospels paint a picture of a humble, unassuming but strong woman who believed that it was not necessary for her to understand what God wanted from her in order for her to love and obey him. I do not find it surprising that we know so little about her. It is enough that she is the mother of God and must therefore have a unique place in the great company of saints.

If we accept that the saints can assist us in our journey through life, both by their prayer and example, then Mary has a particular role. Children often beg their mother to "put in a word" for them with their father - "he will listen to you" they say.

At the marriage feast in Cana, Mary said to Jesus "They have no wines" and we know what a difference that intervention made to the festivities! Will she not tell her son now, when we run out of faith, of love, of hope, of humility? I believe that she will do so. As she stood at the foot of the cross where her son was dying in agony for us, Jesus said to his Beloved disciple John "Behold thy Mother" and to Mary "Behold thy son." At that moment she became not only our mother, but also the most influential intercessor with our God that we could hope for.

A very popular piece of classical music often heard on the radio, in churches and concert halls is the "Ave Maria." Do we ever think of the words or know what they mean? In the second half we pray "Holy Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death." I certainly hope that she will be there at my final hour to lead me to her Son - and most especially to put in a good word on my behalf! May she do the same for us all as we journey through life together.

Barbara Grant

Saturday 25th May

2 - 5.30p.m.

in St. James' Church

Listen, Sing and Praise

A Lively afternoon to focus on Music in Common Worship

Open to everyone

**Get some ideas, make your views known, listen to others,
all to enhance the quality and variety of our Worship**

Noah Knew Best

Everything I need to know about life I learned from Noah's Ark

- 1 - Don't miss the boat.
- 2 - Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 - Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 - Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 - Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 - Build your future on high ground.
- 7 - For safety's sake travel in pairs.
- 8 - Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 - When you are stressed, float a while.
- 10 - Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 - No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Now, wasn't that nice? Pass it along and make someone else smile too.

R.N.L.I Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th May (not 5th as in the Hampton Hill Newsletter) at 249 Uxbridge Road from 10a.m. until 12 noon.

Plants, Cakes, Produce, Books, Souvenirs etc. Donations welcome.

Jill and John Goddard

Tel: 020 8287 7438



The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1902 Extracts from the May Issue

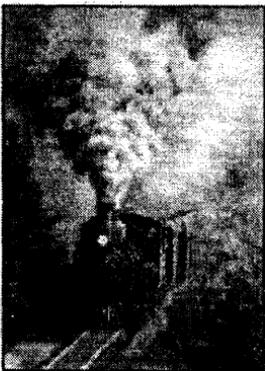
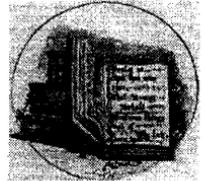
OFFERTORIES.		11 a.m.	7 p.m.	TOTAL.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April 10—Churchwardens' Fund	...	3 0 3	1 10 0	4 10 3
May 6—Curate's Fund	...	5 5 4	1 13 7	6 19 11
" 13—Churchwardens' Fund	...	3 13 9	1 15 9	5 9 8
" 20—Bishop of London's Fund	...	8 1 0	3 5 4	11 15 2
" 28—Mission to Seamen, 7.30 & 11 (Ascension Day)	...	1 3 10	2 4 6	3 8 4
Early Celebrations (Poor Fund), April 29, 5/11; May 5, 12/1; May 13, 9/2; May 20, 7/7	...	...	...	1 15 2
Children's Services (Missions), April 29, 2/7; May 5, 17/1; May 12, 5/6; May 20, 3/1	...	...	...	6 10 10
Special Celebrations—May 4, SS. Philip and James	...	...	...	6 5 9
Special Service—Communicants' Meeting	...	...	...	1 7 10
				<u>£39 12 8</u>

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

It will be noticed that most of the funds are a very satisfactory condition. The Curate's Fund, the Day Schools, the Nurse Fund and the Lads' Brigade are continually wanting new subscribers, as removals from our midst are frequently taking place, and I do not think that we are doing as much as we ought to be doing for Foreign Missions. I should very much like to see our lists increased for this object.

According to a request, several times expressed, I propose next month to publish a list of all the objects for which subscriptions are required. The sum total of the receipts is certainly a large sum and very gratifying.

We are in great need of Sunday School Teachers. We have room for one or two permanent ones in both Schools, and we should very grateful for temporary help for a few weeks. The fact that there has been a case of smallpox in the parish ought to have the effect of inducing every adult to be re-vaccinated as this is the only known safeguard against it.



The Annual Vestry Meeting took place on Thursday in Easter week, when there was a very good attendance. The accounts were presented and adopted. A resolution was unanimously passed appealing to the District Council to do their utmost to induce the Railway Company to construct a permanent Railway Bridge in Park Road. A further resolution was passed drawing the attention of the Railway Company to the inconvenience and danger of the present bridge and asking them to replace it with a suitable structure.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

Sara Butterfield's valuable work in Somaliland and Bethnal Green

Sara's topic at the Women's Forum meeting on 20th March did not sound like one for the faint hearted! Female genital mutilation ("Cutting the Rose") is perhaps something we do not want to know too much about. But on entering the church hall you were greeted by a display of colourful posters and travel mementos, the sound of African music, the buzz of many voices, and the striking presence of Sara preparing for her talk.

Sara is a key member of the Black Women's Health and Family Support charity in Bethnal Green, which has been at the forefront of the female genital mutilation (FGM) campaign in Britain for the last 20 years. They answered a call by Somali women to hold a forum on FGM in their own country, at which all those involved with the subject would have a chance to speak and be listened to - not just those already converted to the need for its eradication.

Sara talked openly about the practice of FGM and the health and psychological problems it has imposed on countless women over hundreds of years. She named brave women in Somaliland who have been working at exposing this hideous practice, unseen by the eyes of the world. She spoke of the empowerment of women, which is helping them to speak out against this terrible human rights abuse.

Sara has travelled extensively in Africa for her work with UNICEF and related agencies. But her travel to Somaliland last autumn was perhaps one of the more nerve racking of her many experiences, if not for Sara herself then certainly for her family. It was especially nice that Pippa, Val and Mike were all in the audience to share the evening.

Many people stayed long after the meeting ended to look at photos and chat with Sara. We were all grateful for a truly informative evening and for the excellent work she does. It was an evening of energy and hope - a fine way to mark the end of Women's Forum in its current form.

Ann Peterken

SPRING CLEAN

This took place from 9a.m. to 5p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 9a.m. to 12.30p.m. on Saturday, giving total available working time, excluding lunch-breaks, of 17.5 hours. During this period, thirteen people put in varying amounts of time, according to their availability, for a total of about eighty man - or woman - hours.

We are grateful to David Bonner for the loan of his ladder, and to Paul Revis for once again donating the emulsion seal which imparts an impressive and hard-wearing shine to all of the hard floor surfaces.

And a special mention to those who, week in and week out, undertake the regular cleaning to maintain bright and welcoming surroundings throughout the year.

Playing the flute in Paris

A few weeks ago, I went to Paris for a flute weekend where I played in a concert and took part in a competition. We almost didn't make it, arriving at Waterloo with just two minutes to spare!

We were met at Gare du Nord by Atarah Ben-Tovim who was wearing her usual sequined clothes and flowery Dr Martens - she is a very unusual 60-year-old!

We took the metro to a magnificent apartment where we stayed the night and that evening we played some music with French speaking students - we played more than we spoke! The next day was non-stop music, with rehearsals for the competition until lunch. Then after lunch we had the competition, with both the participating students and the judges choosing the winners. I came second with Mozart's *Adagio*, the piece I played during Holy Week in Church. After the competition, we gave a concert to the parents and then had the prize-giving. It was a fun weekend.

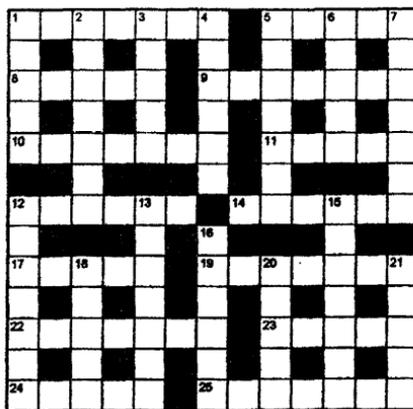
Frances Beaumont

Crossword

Crossword No. 2 -

Clues: Across

1. Patriarch of the Jewish Nation (7)
5. Priestly work by Handel (5)
8. All area put down to slab (5)
9. He announced the forthcoming birth of Jesus to Mary (7)
10. Pope (7)
11. "Whose hands were skilled at the plane and the..." (5)
12. Major prophet (6)
14. Birds (6)
17. Voles (anagram) (5)
19. She cut hair (7)
22. Archangel (7)
23. Tender (5)
24. Could be a semi or a full (5)
25. He was wise (7)



Clues: Down

1. A Jellified substance (5)
2. An area in the South of France (7)
3. To avoid the point (5)
4. "A great and ... wonder" (6)
5. Biblical character (7)
6. A believer in God (5)
7. Murderers (7)
12. Of a different faith than Christianity (7)
15. Fast (7)
16. A traveller seeking truth (7)
16. Not children (6)
18. Spoken (5)
20. Hereabouts (5)
21. Honer (anagram) (5)

In Christian Aid Week 12 - 19th May You could provide:-

- £1/€1.6 per month is a typical loan to allow one of Ghana's poorest people to start a business.
- £3/€4.8 can buy two new fruit trees every month in Ghana.
- £5/€8 would produce 150 postcards to send to political leaders, calling for changes to the trade rules that hurt Ghana's poorest people.
- £10/€16 per month would, by next Easter, provide two donkeys to lighten the load of women in Ghana transporting their goods to market.

Hearing God's call in the marketplace



It's easy to imagine the prophet who wrote the book of Isaiah, inspired as he walked among the traders, hearing a voice: "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters! He who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price!" (Isaiah 55: 1, 2). Here is a voice that offers nourishment for the body, and for the soul. "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?" As we consider how to spend our money in the marketplaces of the world, God's challenge is still issued in the words of a market trader. Here is a better deal, he says. I can offer you satisfaction that money can't buy. And here is a warning, he says. Be careful. Money can't buy satisfaction.

A shopping prayer

As I enter the street market,
wheel my trolley at the superstore,
leaf through a catalogue, or log on to the internet:
Be with me, and help me
when I spend money.

Be with me, and help me
to choose carefully
to know when 'enough' becomes 'too much';
to deal courteously with the people standing in front of me,
and to remember the people I cannot see
behind the food I eat and the products I use.
Be with them, and help them.

Be with me, and help me
to see the marketplace as you see it,
as wide as the world you love so much.
Be with us, and help us
to shape the markets we share
for all the people.

As we live under your steady gaze;
so we can change, by your gracious love.
Amen



Our thoughts and prayers go to Ron and Roma Bridges. Roma has had poor health for a long time and was cared for by Ron. On 19th March Ron had a sudden and unexpected stroke which at the time of writing has left him almost totally incapacitated. He is in West Middlesex Hospital, slowly regaining some power of speech and movement.

Many thanks to all who made the church look so beautiful for Easter. Bell ringers, flower arrangers, and cleaners work hard all the year round and at festivals such as Easter their efforts are especially appreciated.

Betty Redmond has recently had a bad fall and is now recovering at home. We hope to see her back with us soon. Sadly we report the deaths of Nellie Wile of Burtons Road and Iris Batt of Uxbridge Road. They will be missed by their families to whom we send our support in their grief.

The performance of the Messiah on Good Friday gave us a splendid evening, thanks to all the singers and musicians. Our particular thanks to Chris Hodges who conducted and produced the oratorio. Many of the singers had spent time during the weeks of Lent rehearsing the music and studying the texts with Brian.

And we would all join in saying another 'thank you;' this one for Chris Myhill who has been our organist in recent months. He has become a part of church life and we hope will continue to be active in our music as a member of the choir. Our new organist Christopher Cromar joined us on Easter Day and we are looking forward to hearing him very often. Welcome Christopher.

Congratulations to Sid and Monica Heaford who celebrate their Emerald Wedding (55 years of marriage) and Monica's 76th birthday at the end of May. Best wishes to Sid for a speedy return to better health.

A PRAYER FROM BUSHEY PARK

When I walk in the park, Lord, I know you are there, for the sunshine is your smile, the breeze on my face is your breath, blowing my cares away; the raindrops are your tears for the world; the clouds are your loving arms around me; the birdsong is your laughter and the trees are your angels, your sentinels, symbols of your majesty and might.

How can I be sad, how can I feel lost, when I know you are there with me, my loving, living Lord?

Greta Rosten

FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 7 Alexander Miles Dexter, 37 Tudor Road, Hampton
11 George Elliott, 17 Glenmill, Hanworth Road, Hampton
11 Harry Michael George Hunt, 4 Woodville Rise, Chineham, Hampshire

Funerals

- 8 Doris Brown, 23 Hamilton Road, Twickenham 81
25 James Burnet Gresle Farthing, Laurel Dene Nursing Home 66
26 Edward Cole, 18 Bayleaf Close, Hampton Hill 90

Weddings

- 2 Nicholas Smallwood and Alison France
9 Peter Hardman and Phillippa Williams
30 Rhys Davies and Clare Wilson

DATES TO NOTE IN MAY

- 1 **Philip & James, Apostles**
2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
4 English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era
5 **6th Sunday of Easter** 0930 All-age Communion
6 Rogation Day Bank Holiday
9 **ASCENSION DAY** 2000 Parish Communion
12 **Sunday in Christian Aid Week**
0930 Preacher at Parish Communion Ramani Leathard,
Senior Communications Officer, Asia, Christian
Aid
14 **Matthias the Apostle**
19 **PENTECOST** 0800 Holy Communion
0930 Parish Communion
1530 onwards Tea in the courtyard followed by
1700 Choral Evensong
20 Alcuin of York, Deacon, 804
21 Helena, Protector of Holy Places, 330
24 John & Charles Wesley, Priests, Hymn Writers & Evangelists
25 The Venerable Bede, Monk of Jarrow & Scholar, 735
1400 - 1730 Listen, Sing and Praise: An afternoon
on Music in Common Worship.
Church and Hall. All Welcome
26 **TRINITY SUNDAY**
30 Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)
31 Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

COPY DATE FOR JUNE MAGAZINE: 10TH MAY