

June begins with the Queens Jubilee and I recently took down from one of my shelves a little red leather-bound copy of the New Testament, with the royal insignia and Coronation date, June 1953 on its cover, given to me by the local Welsh community of my childhood to commemorate the occasion. Inside it are printed the words which appear in the Bible that was presented to the Queen during that Eucharistic Service at Westminster Abbey: "We present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom: this is the royal law: these are the lively oracles of God".

It caused me to ponder what moral and spiritual values mean to society today. Certainly, for the Queen her Coronation oath has been her bond and she has shown complete commitment to her vocation of service and leadership despite its personal cost to her.

In the Christian calendar June brings us to the season of Trinity when we consider the interrelatedness of God our Creator with God the Son who saved us and God, the Holy Spirit who sustains us. How do we translate that interrelatedness in our own lives and communities ?

We appear to be developing into a society where we don't notice other people as we walk by them on the street. This seems to be in marked contrast to my observations in continental countries where people acknowledge one another in the street with a simple hello or good morning even if they don't know each other. When I was in France, I noticed the children greeting one another with a handshake.

Meals still feature there in a huge way too: families at restaurants in large gatherings for celebrations or sitting down together for Sunday lunch.

Spending time to be together over a shared meal is vital for that interrelatedness which contributes to a family's foundations. That is how we get to know one another at a deeper level, to hear and share our concerns, to recognize and value our gifts and to see how we can share them to enrich ourselves and the larger community. Like a pebble that is dropped in the water and which produces ripples well beyond its source, so too the value of time shared. Management speak uses the phrase "quality time". All too readily, we will say we have no time.

Life is a rush. Life *can be* a rush if we continuously try and fill it with an absurd amount of activity. If we are to have quality time we have to discipline ourselves to make choices - yes, perhaps difficult choices - to prioritize how we use our time so that there is space for family and for *being*.

Time with God should be an indispensable part of life. Worship and learning is necessary for our spiritual growth and well being and not an optional extra when nothing else seems to be happening. If that becomes our attitude, what are we saying about God's worth to our children? Their spiritual life can only grow if we show them by example.

The liturgical colour for the Trinity season is green, representing life and growth - just as the trees in Bushy Park will signal health and vitality in all their luscious green finery when the Queen visits it later this month. Healthy living for the individual and for society is much more than physical well-being: we would do well to give quality time to our souls. Billy Graham had a lovely way of putting it : "We take excellent care of our bodies, which we have only for a lifetime: yet, we let our souls shrivel, which we will have for eternity".

Opening Our Doors - A new project for the Jubilee Year

A new West Porch for St. James's Church. Words my husband Jon and I have heard many times over the past few months, but have never once really stopped to consider the impact for our family, congregation or the wider community of our Parish. No doubt like many others we had read the St. James's Mission Action Plan, however in our so called "busy" lives had never really given much thought or consideration to the content of the plan.

So when Brian asked if we could become involved in the redevelopment plan for the West Porch we had a very steep learning curve to go through, not least having to admit, with huge embarrassment that we were not even sure where the West Porch was!

Opening Our Doors - The benefits

The project now has a name "**Opening Our Doors**" which we believe is synonymous with the aims of the project and will in particular help us to achieve one of our key Mission objectives, that of supporting the growth of newcomers, those on the periphery and regular attendees.

On a more practical note there will be more office and administrative space for parish *"Creating a new space which whilst blending in with the rest of the building, will fill St. James's with natural day light, give a welcoming environment as you enter, and provide a wonderful view right through the whole length of the Church"*

business and a small workroom for individuals - and a very welcome new toilet with disabled access and baby changing unit.

Opening Our Doors - Keeping you up to date with progress

Your help and support will be fundamental to the success of the project. To help keep you up to date we hope to create a small exhibition at the back of the Church to give you a thorough overview of the project, as well as progress updates and details of the events we will be holding to help raise funds for the project.

Our aim is to have the project completed by St. James's Day in July 2003 - a fabulous way to celebrate, but a very challenging road ahead.

Opening Our Doors - How can you become involved?

A small team has been formed to help kick-start the project and currently we are putting together various development plans and have identified a number of fundraising activities, which we hope you will all be able to join in with and support. Our first event and official launch will be a B.B.Q. on the evening of St. James's Day, 7th July 2002. By time this is printed we will have already been selling tickets for a couple of weeks - so make sure you get yours soon!

If you would like to know more about "**Opening our Doors**" please contact Kim or Jon on 020 8979 2617.

Kim Smith

**We are
OPENING OUR DOORS**



REPORT OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 14TH APRIL 2002 IN THE CHURCH HALL

There were 50 parishioners present at the meeting in addition to Brian, Freda, Ann Peterken and Dick Wilde. There was a lot of ground covered and here is a brief summary of the main points:

- **Churchwardens** - Ann Peterken and Rodney Taylor were appointed as churchwardens. Ann has served 4 years of her 5-year term whilst Rodney replaced Dick at the end of his 5-year term. Brian made a presentation to Dick thanking him for all his hard work over the previous 5 years.
- **Electoral roll** - There are 273 people on this year's Electoral Roll which is 26 higher than last year.
- **Formal services** - The number of baptisms and funerals was lower than last year, whilst the number of confirmations and marriages was slightly higher.
- **Scout Group** - Brian expressed concern about the future of our 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group, as there are no leaders for the Cubs, Scouts or Venture Scouts. Without leaders these groups will have to close, so **if you think you can help, please contact Brian.**
- **Freda** - In anticipation of Freda's likely move to another parish, Brian thanked her warmly for her energy, devotion to duty and unstinting work for the parish during her time with us.
- **PCC meetings** - Dick reported that the PCC had met 8 times since April 2001 and he referred to some of the key events during the year:
 - ◆ The open meeting to review our church music
 - ◆ Christopher Cromar's appointment as organist
 - ◆ Development of the West Porch
 - ◆ The Parish Weekend and the Quiet Day
- **Financial report** - The treasurer, Paul Peterken, reported that both our income and expenditure had increased last year:
 - ◆ Stewardship giving - at £70,166 - was the major source of income
 - ◆ The Hall generated £7,000 net income
 - ◆ Our biggest single item of expenditure was our contribution to the Common Fund - £45,1770
 - ◆ Charitable giving was £8,000.

Paul was cautiously confident of the outlook for 2002, although the future of Freda's present accommodation should she leave, and the funding of our planned development of the West Porch will both have a very significant effect on our finances.

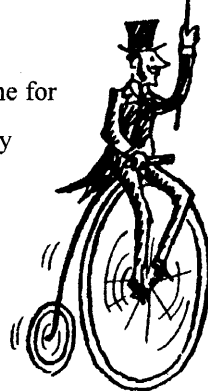
- **Stewardship** - There are 122 members in the scheme and stewardship giving constitutes 62% of our annual income. We are targeting to achieve a 7% increase for 2002 which is quite challenging. It was also noted that we had a number of very big givers which made us vulnerable should any of these leave the parish.
- **Deanery Synod** - Carole Greville-Giddings, Lesley Mortimer, Pip Rowett and David Taylor were appointed for the next 3 years.
- **Sidespersons** - We need at least 3 more sidespersons - if you think you can help, please contact Eila Severn.
- **PCC membership** - It was agreed, after some discussion, that from April 2003 there would be 12 elected PCC members in addition to the clergy, the two churchwardens and the four Deanery Synod members. Each year, one third of the elected members (i.e. 4) will retire but may be reelected after one year out of office.
- **PCC election** - The following existing members were re-appointed: Sue Adams, Wendy Baker, Clive Beaumont, Chris Hodges, Kate O'Sullivan, Paul Peterken, Janet Taylor, Margaret Taylor and Dick Wilde.

The following new members were appointed: Liz Butler, Martin/Prill Hinkley*, Andrew/Zoe Napier*, Jon/Kim Smith* and John Williams (*partner sharing membership).



The Queen's GOLDEN JUBILEE Picnic in Bushy Park

The Queen and Prince Philip will be in Bushy Park on 25th June for one of the biggest Golden Jubilee events in the country. Many local charities and organisations will be involved. Events will take place from 11.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include vintage bikes, cars, buses and emergency services, a display by a civil war re-enactment society, horse displays, bands, Punch and Judy shows and a major display of river craft.



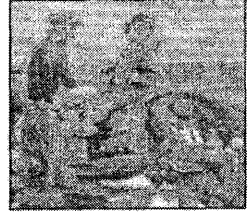


St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1902
Extracts from the June Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Our Annual Sunday School and Choir Excursion will take place on Friday the 6th inst., and it will be to Bournemouth. The Children will assemble at Fulwell Station at 6.30, and must place themselves under the care of their own teachers. The train for the return journey will leave Bournemouth Central Station at 6.10 p.m. The tea will take place at St. Swithin's Parish Room, East Cliff, at 4 p.m.



Adult tickets for the journey 5/-, children under twelve 2/6. These may be obtained from the Rev. E S. Phillips, Miss Kidner and Mr. Golden, and also at Mr. Makepeace's. This will be a more costly excursion than we have hitherto had, but we hope that in view of the Coronation there will be a readiness on the part of those who kindly subscribe for the treats, to give a little more than usual. Miss Barnard is very kindly collecting subscriptions.



The two new bells have been fixed in the Church tower, but very little will be heard of them until the Coronation unless there should be a declaration of Peace in South Africa in which case they will help to spread the good news. There may, however, be some little practising beforehand. There will be a short dedication of the bells, probably on the eve of the Coronation.

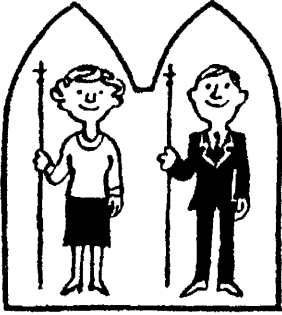
On the Coronation day, Thursday, the 26th inst., there will be a choral service at 9.30 a.m., which will be identical with the service in Westminster Abbey, and there will also be a recital of the ceremonies to be there observed. The service will last about an hour. No doubt many who do not go up to see the procession on that day will like to be present. The local festivities which are to take place on that day, at the Manor Park, are well known to everybody. Old and young alike are to have a thoroughly good time. A dinner for the veterans and a tea for the young, and games and fun for everybody will be the order of the day.



We shall rejoice that a wise and good king reigns over us, and we must not forget to thank God for all our national blessings, and to pray that our king and country may ever have divine guidance, blessing and protection.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,
CHARLES R. JOB.

ON BECOMING CHURCHWARDEN



I am conscious of the great honour and considerable responsibility that has become mine on being elected Churchwarden at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on 14th April 2002. The title churchwarden first appears in English in 1494, but this is an ancient office with records of such appointments dating back to the 13th century. (The Parochial Church Council is a newcomer, having not been empowered until 1921.) The churchwarden has a mixture of legal, spiritual and pastoral responsibilities, as well as a need to look after the Church and its contents.

The duties of the churchwardens, usually two to a parish, are set out in Canon Law and make formidable reading. "The churchwardens, when admitted, are the officers of the ordinary"; the ordinary being the Bishop. "They shall discharge such duties and responsibilities as are by law and custom assigned to them". The law is universal, but custom varies considerably from parish to parish. The churchwardens maintain an inventory or 'terrier' of the fabric and possessions of the church. They furnish the Bishop with an annual return and a copy of the inventory as required, and update it to note any alterations, additions and repairs. They are required to inspect the church buildings and all articles belonging to them at least annually and to make an annual report on the fabric to the PCC. They are the legal owners of the contents of the church and thereby responsible for their upkeep.

One of the less weighty duties is the allocation of all seats in the nave of the church, though this is one that could require considerable tact! But, "they shall be foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the incumbent"; "they shall use their best endeavours by example and by precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion"; "and promote peace and unity among them". "They shall maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during times of divine services".

In a recent publication, some desirable qualities for a churchwarden were noted to be "undivided loyalty to the Church and the priest", "being a person of prayer and able to see things from a spiritual point of view" and "from a practical point of view, know the location of the stopcocks and electrical fuse boxes"!

I am honoured and also aware of the enormous significance of the responsibilities that I have taken on as the new churchwarden of St. James's. With God's support, I shall do all that I can to fulfil the duties that the parish has vested in me.

Rodney Taylor



Alban: Martyr, and Saint

St. Albans Cathedral stands high in a pleasant grassy area half a mile from the central market place of the city, overlooking a valley. It has been rebuilt and repaired many times since the abbey was founded in 793 by Offa, the king of Mercia, in honour of Alban, the first recognised Christian martyr in Britain. At the founding ceremony the old Roman-built town of Verulamium was re-named St. Albans. The cathedral is said to be built where Alban was beheaded in 303. Legend has it that his severed head bounded down the steep hill into the valley below, and where it came to rest a miraculous spring began to flow. The steep main road which runs nearby, a challenge to young cyclists of the nearby St Albans School, is called Holywell Hill.

"Legend has it . . ." is true of much of Alban's story. Much is the stuff of legend rather than of history. Even the date of his death is uncertain, though he is commemorated on the 22nd June. We usually think of saints living a life of scholarship and heroic virtue, some like Augustine after conversion, some like Francis de Sales beginning in early childhood. Not much is really known of Alban, though the story of his martyrdom is recorded by Bede. He was said to be a Roman soldier who was secretly instructed by a Christian priest. This was a time when teaching Christianity was punishable by death. When soldiers came looking for the priest to kill him, Alban took the priest's robes and was executed in his place.

Stories of lives of scholarship and heroic virtue like those of Augustine and Francis are rather daunting. One can relate to Alban's story and his sacrifice, legend or not, more easily. Possibly he did lead a life of heroic virtue. Possibly his life until the test was nothing to be proud of, like Sydney Carton in "The Tale of Two Cities", or Dick Dudgeon, Shaw's "Devil's Disciple", who said: ". . . all I can tell you when it came to the point whether I would take my neck out of the noose and put another man's into it, I could not do it." But perhaps he was just a very ordinary man leading a very ordinary life, who when the ultimate test came, made a noble choice, standing rock solid in his loyalty to his faith and his friend. Many ordinary, little-known men and women have made noble choices when their test came. Alban's recognition is a tribute to them all.

Dick Wilde

MANUFACTURER'S RECALL NOTICE

The maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units; code-named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed, Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality, more commonly know as SIN.

It is primarily symptomised by loss of moral judgement. Some other symptoms:

- (a) Loss of direction
- (b) Foul vocal emissions
- (c) Amnesia of origin
- (d) Lack of peace and joy
- (e) Selfish or violent behaviour
- (f) Depression or confusion in the mental component.

The manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing a factory authorised repair service, free of charge to correct this SIN defect. The number to call for the recall station in your area is: P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected. Please upload your burden of SIN by pressing R-E-P-E-N-T-A-N-C-E.

Next download Jesus into the heart.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, the JESUS repair will replace it with:

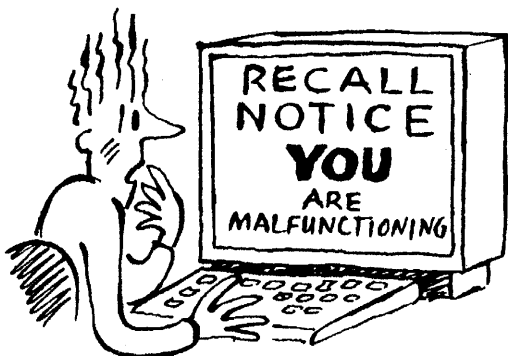
- (a) Love
- (b) Joy
- (c) Peace
- (d) Longsuffering
- (e) Gentleness
- (f) Goodness
- (g) Faith
- (h) Meekness
- (i) Temperance.

Please see operating manual "HOLY BIBLE" for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human unit without correction, voids the

manufacturer's guarantee, exposing owner to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call the manufacturer direct.

The above notice was found by a church member on holiday in Spain - authorship unknown.





Thank you to all those who deliver the Spire month by month and to the new volunteers who have offered their services. We do appreciate your time and commitment to see that the magazine is distributed promptly. Thank you also to all who collected during Christian Aid Week; we hope to let you know the total collected next month.

Congratulations to Moya and John Meredith-Smith on the birth of two new grandsons in March: Tristan Edward on 13th and Owen John on 30th.

Please remember in your prayers Lucy Hodges, who was confirmed at Roedean on 4th May. Your prayers are also asked for many members of our community who are unwell at the moment: at the time of going to press, Peter Ryan, Kath Brooks and Stan Bannister are in hospital, Betty Redman and Louise Wilder are unwell at home and Sid Heaford is at home recovering from an operation.

We have had two very happy occasions in Church recently. Dorothy and Richard Wilder were married at St. James's 40 years ago and we were very pleased to see them at Parish Communion on 28th April, just after their anniversary. Helena Jeffries, daughter of Janet and Brian, was married to Alexander Latham-Boal on 4th May. We send our love and best wishes to them all.

* * * * *

French holiday cottage for hire

300 year old fisherman's cottage in attractive seaside town 30 miles south of Cherbourg (west coast). Thoroughly modernised. Sleeps up to 7.

Andrew and Zoe Napier have the above cottage, which they do not let out commercially but do hire out to friends and colleagues and would be happy to hear from any Church members who may be interested. Contact them on 8941 7113.

Answers to Crossword No. 2

Across
 1 Abraham
 5 Zadok
 8 Paved
 9 Gabriel
 10 Clement
 11 Lathe
 12 Isaiah
 14 Snipes
 17 Loves
 19 Delilah
 22 Michael
 23 Carer
 24 Colon
 25 Solomon

Down
 1 Aspic
 2 Riviera
 3 Hedge
 4 Mighty
 5 Zebulon
 6 Deist
 7 Killers
 12 Islamic
 13 Abstain
 15 Pilgrim
 16 Adults
 18 Vocal
 20 Local
 21 Heron

FROM THE APRIL REGISTERS

Baptisms

7	Jowed Luc El Hadi, 40 Malvern Road, Hampton	
21	Hope Ellie McLoughlin, 45 Taylor Close, Hampton Hill	
28	Harry Michael Haldane Breeze, 163 Uxbridge Road, Hampton	

Funerals

26 March	Edward Cole, 18 Bayleaf Close	90
31 March	Ella Leathard, Interment of Ashes in Garden of Rest	
2 April	Iris Batt, Courtland, Uxbridge Road	88
5 April	Ellen Wile, 97 Burtons Road	82
24 April	Herbert Douglas Wright, formerly of 134 Uxbridge Road	88

DATES TO NOTE IN JUNE

- 1 **Jubilee Weekend**
1930 A Concert of Handel & Bach
The Apocalypse Singers & Christopher Cromar, Organ
- 2 **First Sunday after Trinity**
Jubilee Open Day

JUBILEE OPEN DAY

Sunday 2nd June 2002

11.30a.m. - 4p.m.

- * Spire Tours:- Panoramic views, Bell ringing, Victorian clock mechanism
- * Exhibitions:- Local History, Parish Records, Robes, embroidery, etc.
- * Children's Activities:- Treasure hunt, bouncy castle, etc.
- * Jubilee Refreshments

We are
OPENING OUR DOORS



- 3 Bank Holiday
- 4 Bank Holiday
- 9 **Second Sunday after Trinity**
- 11 **Barnabas the Apostle**
- 16 **Third Sunday after Trinity**
- 19 Parochial Church Council
- 22 Alban, first British Martyr 250
- 23 **Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
- 24 **The Birth of John the Baptist**
- 29 **Peter & Paul, Apostles**
- 30 **Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

COPY DATE FOR JULY MAGAZINE: 10TH JUNE