

I must admit that it is not very often I feel inspired by the 'Church Times', a weekly organ of the Church of England. On the whole I read it to see which of my fellow priests have moved and even which of my fellow clergy have died. However, a recent addition of the Church Times contained two articles, which changed what I wanted to write in this September edition of the Spire. I wasn't as impressed by what the two articles said so much as by the fact that the two articles were next to each other on the same page. Both articles are in themselves important and impressive but their positioning next to each other made them all the more forceful. The first article is by Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, and is entitled 'Iraq War Would Fail Just War Test' and the second article is by Paul Vallely and is entitled 'Yes, Africans Do Have to Eat Again'. It was this juxtaposition that set my mind racing.

Up until I read these two articles I had grown more and more angry with talk of an impending invasion of Iraq for, it seems to me, dubious purposes which have not been outlined in detail and have not been accepted by the United Nations as being legitimate cause for action. And there below it was a sensitive and heartfelt article about the appalling famine across Southern Africa, particularly in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique caused by lack of rainfall, impoverishment and unjust trading systems. Of course, there are also the realities of regimes which fall far short of what one might expect in terms of democracy and accountability. Suddenly, these two articles being next to each other lifted the debate onto a new level. Whatever the activities being engaged in either now or in the future against Iraq, will of necessity cost many, many, many hundreds of millions of dollars and tax payers' pounds. And yet across Southern Africa, as in many parts of the developing world a mere few million pounds would radically change the way in which we live together in our world.

Whatever one feels about the rights and wrongs of an attack on Iraq or indeed the situation and its causes in Southern Africa, this huge discrepancy in the cost of addressing the two issues is manifestly obvious. In the short-term costs of war seem to be predictable, at least in terms of finance. The long-term effects are far from predictable for Iraq and its relations with the West, for the wider issue of relations between Islam and the West and indeed for the stability of the whole of the Middle East.

The long term costs of the Southern African famine are interconnected with the pandemic of Aids in Southern Africa, most particularly through continuing poverty. And the long-term issues will affect us. It is we in the West who decides how much we are going to pay for African products. It is we in the West who will decide how long we wish to keep Third World debt as a tool for keeping us rich and other countries poor, it is we in the West who will decide how much we are prepared to give

in charity or aid but also how much we are prepared to be changed into a world system which allows people to trade justly and fairly with each other whichever continent they are coming from.

As I thought about these two articles next to each other and the likely outcome of events by the time you read this article, namely, that war will be closer and that many thousands more people will have died of hunger in Southern Africa, the words of Jesus keep coming back into my head and I would urge you to pray them, act upon them and speak about them to each other. Jesus says: 'this is how you should pray. Father may your name be holy, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven, give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone who sins against us'. My hope is that individually and as nations of the world we can live out Christ's prayer which as followers of Christ is ours too.

Brian Leathard

ON BEING A SERVER

Serving in church is a useful and rewarding task currently undertaken on a rota basis by a small band of people from the congregation, ably led by Lesley Mortimer. The visible part is helping the celebrant in preparing the sacraments. You have probably noticed the servers (duly robed) receiving the gifts and administering the wine at the various communion services.

What is not so visible is the way in which servers contribute to the smooth running of the eucharist in a variety of ways. Duties include the preparation of the altar table, ensuring there are enough communion wafers available and checking that the cruets contain sufficient water/wine. We also check that the bible is open at the appropriate readings prior to the service and wash the chalice(s) and paten so that they are ready for further use.

If you think this a role you could fulfil we are looking for new volunteers to help. Please speak to Brian or one of the current servers.

The Annual Baptism Party will take place in church on **Sunday 15th September at 3.30p.m.** A fun afternoon for all.

Offers of help with catering will be appreciated, or if you'd like to come and socialise that would be great.

Debbie 8979 3078



Balancing the Books & Stewardship



What is Stewardship?

- Stewardship is a scheme where churchgoers agree to give a regular amount of money. This can be done either by setting up a regular standing order from your bank or by using weekly envelopes to put in the collection.
- If you are a tax-payer, a Gift Aid declaration can be made and the church can reclaim tax on all your giving. This makes so much sense and is a big boost to our parish's annual income.

Why do we need a Stewardship Scheme?

- The church, just like any other organisation, has to pay for everything it does. That includes paying for clergy wages, insurance, heating, building maintenance and a host of other expenses. We get no money from the council or government.
- Currently this costs about £80,000 a year at St. James's.
- Without a known, regular income it is very hard to plan for the year ahead.

Why should I join?

- I am sure many of you make regular subscriptions or pay fees for many activities that you or your family undertake (eg. swimming lessons, gymnastics, Brownies, dancing, aerobics classes etc.) but do you give to the church on the same basis?
- Each year we need to increase our Stewardship giving by around 8% to enable the church to continue providing just the ongoing daily activities and support services. This year we have so far managed an increase of 6.4%, mostly from increased giving by current members.
- **We need to increase the membership. Do you feel now is the time for you to join?**

If you would like more information about stewardship please return this form to:
Carol Bailey, 75 St. James's Avenue, Hampton Hill TW12 IHL or contact Carol on
020 8783 0633 or carolbailey@blueyonder.co.uk or speak to the churchwardens or the clergy.

To Carol Bailey re Stewardship, I am interested in:

- Making a regular contribution by putting an envelope in the collection
- Making a regular monthly donation through my bank
- Increasing my giving - I am already in the Stewardship Scheme

YOUR NAME:

YOUR ADDRESS:

YOUR TELEPHONE NO:

An Inter-Faith Gathering will be held at

**The Neasden Hindu Temple
(Shree Swaminarayan Mandir)
105 - 19 Brentfield Road, Neasden,
London NW10 8JP**

Sunday 20th October 2002 at 3p.m.

during which Peace Awards will be presented
in memory of Canon Gordon Wilson,
Organising Secretary of WPWP 1974 to 1991.

We intend to organise a parish group to join this gathering.
Details next month in church.

FLOWERS AT ST. JAMES'S

We have been very fortunate in having many enthusiastic reliable and longstanding "flower arrangers" at St. James's.

However we now need to change our system to give some of these people a well-earned rest - though not "retirement"!

As from July this year we have introduced a new rota system which is displayed on the board at the back of the church. Please do sign up to do the flowers, any week that is available - perhaps to commemorate an anniversary, birthday or some other special event, or maybe just because you would like to do them. Our existing "team members" are willing and will be happy to help by working alongside if that is requested. Simple, casual arrangements as well as more formal styles are both most acceptable.

The flowers are entirely funded by contributions from the congregation; this system will continue. Donations will always be welcome and can be given to Ruth Gostling. Alternatively, clearly marked envelopes containing money can be handed to Brian or placed in the donation box in the wall at the back of the church.

We have always enjoyed lovely displays of flowers at St. James's and hope this will continue; however it is possible that some weeks may not attract anybody and as a result there could be occasions when there will not be flowers in church!

Many thanks to all the hard work from the members of the teams of the past, and we now look forward to new inspirations.

Coryn Robinson

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH HALL HARVEST WORKSHOP SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER

10.30a.m. - 1.00p.m.



What does harvest mean to us?
food for some: starvation for others



Come and help us tell others what we think through

Crafts, Drama and sharing food!

Activities for two age groups

4 - 7 years and 7 - 11 years.

Please contact Freda on 020 8941 4424 to book a place.

Our **Grand Bazaar** will be on 23rd November.

Please come along and bring your bright ideas to the Preparation meeting on Wednesday 18th September at 143 Burtons Road.

All proceeds to Church Funds.



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1902 Extracts from the September Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I have usually taken my holiday abroad, and it has often appeared that there were matters of general interest connected with my surroundings concerning which I have been tempted to write to you, but this time it is different. An ordinary country parish in England, however beautiful, is more or less familiar to you all in its general characteristics, and therefore there is not much that I could say that would be of special interest. I shall therefore content myself with very few words on this occasion.



The one great event of universal interest during the month was the Coronation of our King on the 9th inst. After the deep anxiety respecting His Majesty's health and the necessary postponement, the actual carrying out of the great event seemed to become much more solemn and important. And when we all knew that Edward VII was indeed crowned, we were conscious of a sense of relief and a heartfelt joy. Everyone, however humble, has the power of exercising influence. The higher a man's position is, the greater is his influence. The power of a king for good or evil is untold.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that our Chief Ruler should be a man of unquestionable integrity and honour. And this we believe our King to be. It was because of this that the whole Empire, with confidence and hope, entered into the spirit of the beautiful coronation service, and in heart joined in the prayers that God would bless our Sovereign and grant him "the spirit of wisdom and government, that being devoted unto (Him) with all his heart, he may so wisely govern this kingdom, that in his time (His) Church and people may continue in safety and prosperity." May he long be spared to rule over this great Empire with that sound judgment, that kindness of spirit, and that thoughtfulness for his people, of which he has given such abundant manifestation.

The Harvest Festival will most likely take place on Thursday, the 25th., and we shall then be glad of the usual kind offerings for the decoration of the Church. This year it will, I am sure, be felt by all that we have more than usual cause for the deepest gratitude, although the weather has been so uncertain there is every likelihood of an abundant harvest; the year has been one of great commercial prosperity, and there has been plenty of work for everyone; the



conclusion of peace in South Africa after three years of terrible bloodshed and anxiety; the recovery of the King from a perilous illness, are all facts to call forth our heartfelt thanks to Almighty God.

The Offertories will be for our Day Schools, which have for many years made great demands upon our Church-people, and which they have always met with such great generosity. It has long been the aim of the Church that the children should have a good secular education, and that they should also be taught those Christian truths which we believe to be the true foundation of sound character and the main source of England's greatness. It is because of this that Church-people, out of their own pockets, have voluntarily given millions for education.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

"OPENING OUR DOORS"

Fundraising Events



Coming Soon

"Spire to Spire " sponsored cycle ride to Chichester Cathedral - 28th September

We are having a sponsored cycle ride to Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 28th September. We need "Riders, Sponsors and First Aiders!" Can you help?

Contact: Jonathan Smith on 020 8979 2617.

"Dream Auction" - Saturday 12th October 2002 - 7.30p.m.

A fun evening out - where Brian will entertain us as the auctioneer and raise money through the auctioneering of "promises". From two hours ironing, computer training, an evenings baby sitting, 3 hours gardening, to an aromatherapy massage and lots more. Don't be shy in offering your idea - we are on the look out for lots of "promises".

Contact: Zoe Napier on 020 8941 7113

If you would like to help organise future events, or have any other fundraising ideas, please contact Kim Smith on 020 8979 2617 -your help would be much appreciated.

Visit our Website: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

GEORGE FOX

George Fox, the founder of what is now called "The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)" was born in Leicestershire in 1624. His search for religious integrity was initiated by his perception that those who called themselves Christians failed to live their lives by Christian standards - nor seemed to make any particular attempt to do so. In his four year search he developed a lack of respect for priests as well as the preachers of the various non-conformist denominations. Like many religious "greats" Fox reached despair before he found his answer. In his journal of 1647 he wrote, 'And when all my hopes in them and in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, nor could I tell what to do, then, oh then, I heard a voice which said, "There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition". He perceived Christ's influence as light or enlightenment and one of his perceptions still important in Quakerism today was 'that every man was enlightened by the divine light of Christ'. His use of the masculine pronoun follows contemporary usage, as, although men dominated the administration of the Quaker movement in the beginning, it was recognised in the first few years that women had equal enlightenment and their contributions were accepted on an equal basis - the testimony of children was also taken seriously. He wrote 'What! Are all Christians priests? Yes. What! Are women priests? Yes, women priests.' He went on to explain that their priestly vestments are not the surplice, but the righteousness of Christ. Equality remains one of the four Quaker "testimonies".

In 1652 he was drawn to climb Pendle Hill in Lancashire 'and the Lord let (him) see a top of the hill in what places he had a great people to be gathered'. It was during the period of preaching in that part of England that he met his future wife, Margaret, but at this time she was married to Thomas Fell. He accepted the Old Testament as the words of the prophets and the New Testament as the words of Christ and the apostles, but he believed that enlightenment did not end with the end of the New Testament. 'Art thou a child of the Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest is it inwardly from God?' In 1649 he was listening to a minister who was preaching that the measure by which to judge all doctrines religions and opinions was the Bible. George Fox was unable to contain himself and leapt up to contradict, saying that it was the Holy Spirit, who, after all had inspired the Scriptures. He said 'if there was no scripture . . . Christ is sufficient'.

Like many Quakers, George Fox was imprisoned several times for his beliefs. There was so much persecution that a "Meeting for Sufferings" came to be a regular event and this is still the name of the committee which is the main administrative body of the Quakers. While he was in prison in Cornwall, he wrote emphasising his original driving idea that "Friends" should be examples in every place and situation in life 'then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone'. The appearance of Quakers in court tested their testimony of truth. George Fox was among those who could not swear on the book that said "swear not at all". Because the authorities were rather suspicious of their Quaker prisoners - perhaps their

behaviour was, at times, eccentric - Fox drew up a declaration affirming the pacifist stance of Quakers.

The last eight years of George Fox's life were restricted by his heart condition, though he continued to speak and campaign as much as he could. He was 66 when he died in 1691.

Ruth Mills



September is with us once again - time for the new School, College, and University terms. We congratulate those of our younger members who have survived their O, AS, and A levels and wish them success and happiness in the new term or new job.

The 'Lunch box' in the High Street has new owners, Shuba and Fardi Azar. Rumour has it that the sandwiches are great, so it's nice to have them on our patch.

People from our congregation come and go -We are always happy to welcome newcomers and hope they will make themselves known. The West family moved from 39 St. James Avenue - we enjoyed their company as Friends of St. James. Their house is home to Bob and Louise whom we have met recently and Hilary and Duncan Adamson have also joined us. Welcome to you all and to those whose names we don't yet know!

Rebecca and Darryl have been with us for some months now and are preparing their forthcoming marriage in Rebecca's home parish.

Brian Jefferies' operation has been successful and he is pleased with his new knee. The Charity Christmas Card Sale will be on Sunday November 3rd after 9.30a.m. service, in the Hall.

After the Harvest Festival service on October 6th, there will be a sale in the Hall of hand-made wooden toys from the Czech Republic in aid of the Shooting Star Children's Hospice Appeal.

We hope that you have all enjoyed the summer - either at home or on holiday. Welcome autumn!

STAMPS FOR THE LEPROSY MISSION

Thank you to all those who put used stamps in the Leprosy Mission jar. Can I please ask you to leave at least a quarter of an inch margin around the stamp which is of no value if it is trimmed too close to the perforation. The stamps are a valued contribution to the income of the mission.

David Lloyd

FROM THE JULY REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 14 Ethan George Imi, 13 Longford Close, Hampton Hill
21 Sam Alexander Coyne, 159 Burtons Road, Hampton Hill

FUNERALS

- 1 Ron Bridges, 19 St. James's Road, Hampton Hill 77
23 Gladys Dowding, 25 Winifred Road, Hampton Hill 81
25 Anna Maria Curry, 41 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill 89

WEDDINGS

- 20 Giles David Christopher & Abigail Cockroft
25 Harry Frederick Seth & Daisy May Redington
27 Kevan Antony Walker & Rachele Lloyd
27 Matthew James Weeks & Jacqueline Andrade Tavares

DATES TO NOTE FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1 9.30a. m. **Trinity 14. Parish Communion with the Band.**
3 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604.
5 8p.m. Parochial Church Council.
8 9.30a.m. **The Blessed Virgin Mary. Parish Communion.**
11 8p.m. Clergy and Churchwardens meeting, Vicarage.
12 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407.
15 9.30a.m. **Holy Cross day. Parish Communion.**
15 3.30p.m. Baptismal Tea Party for all those recently baptised at St. James's and their families.
16 Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, 432.
17 Hildegard, Abbess of Bingham, 1179.
20 John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop and Martyr in Melanesia, 1871.
21 9.30a.m. **St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist. Parish Communion.**
25 Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626.
26 Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942.
27 Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission, 1660.
28 9.30a.m. **St. Michael and All Angels. Parish Communion.**
29 Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, 420.

COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE: 10TH SEPTEMBER