

Sport is placed very high on the agenda of almost all children and young people these days and that offers them the wonderful opportunity of taking part in events and competitions with others.

Recent soccer, cricket and other games have drawn our attention to the importance of having rules and keeping to them. Most children, even if they only play on patches of grass on a housing estate, will be familiar with the meanings of words such as "off side" and "foul". The way that cricket is played is accepted to the point that it has infiltrated our language with the saying "not cricket" meaning underhand or dishonourable behaviour.

Therefore, perhaps we can hope that if more of our children learn to participate in such a group sport their understanding and appreciation of keeping to the rules will spill over into other aspects of their lives - their work and their relationships - even when life may not make it easy to do so.

Society functions because the majority keep to the agreed rules. Our legal rules are based on the Christian understanding of the ten commandments. Whilst keeping to the rules enables people to enjoy the game, whatever it may be, modern living entices people towards the idea that rules are for everyone else but themselves. This is an attitude which we need to overcome. No one likes someone who cheats but how often do we cheat ?

It is also vitally important that Governments should follow the agreed rules of national and international laws and charters to which they subscribe; truth and justice should not be victims of expediency.

In the Old Testament, Job had a pretty difficult time when he lost his health, his family and his wealth and yet he still said " If he (God) wishes to slay me, I have nothing to lose: I shall still defend my conduct to his face".

As Christians we recognise that we are all flawed human beings, constantly seeking God's forgiveness and striving to do better. We should live a life which if it is cut short tomorrow, we will be ready to meet God and to answer for our deeds. The self discipline and self restraint which young people may experience on the sports field or in the sports hall is what parents, godparents and families need to encourage and develop in every strand of life and of course, there is no better way of teaching it than by example! If we trust God and the rules he has given to us, we will maintain our integrity and survive. Paul put it like this in his letter to Timothy : "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith".

Freda Evans



HARVEST FESTIVAL 5th, 6th and 7th October



Saturday

9.30 onwards: Decorating Church. Help welcome
10.30 - 13.00 Children's Workshop: Crafts, Drama, Sharing Food
4 - 7 years and 7 - 11 years
Contact Freda (8941 4424) to book a place

Sunday

8.00 Holy Communion
9.30 All-age Communion: **Please bring a leaf and a coin offering**
18.30 Choral Evensong for Harvest

Monday

14.30 - 16.00 Harvest Tea in the Church Hall

You are very welcome at any of these events



CHURCH BAZAAR

Just over a month to go! Plenty to do! **November 23rd** is the date of the **Church Bazaar**. If you haven't already done so please put the date in your diary. During October you will find boxes in church in which to put items for the various stalls. Please see what you can contribute to make this a very successful event. It is not too late to make some jam or chutney from the Autumn fruits for the Home-made Preserves stall. Help to run some of the stalls is still required. Please ring 8979 3654 if you can offer help or ideas. Tell people about the Bazaar and bring your friends and neighbours along. There will be interesting stalls and delicious refreshments! More information next month. Watch this space!

SALE OF CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

after Parish Communion on **SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER** 10.45a.m.

ORGAN RECITALS

all at 8p.m.

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Mark Williams
(St. Paul's Cathedral)

WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

Richard Hobson
(Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair)

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER

Eleni Keventsidou and Christopher
Cromar (organ duets)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

When I was about 13 years old my gran sent my brother and me to church, where I was told about St. Francis. As a child I was attracted to his kindness to animals and to everyone. I kept hearing about him, then I met a Franciscan in a church in Cambridge. He is still my friend and has been so helpful to me.

Here is the story of St. Francis. He was born in Assisi in Italy in 1181, the son of a wealthy merchant draper. As a youth he lived a very frivolous and carefree life with other young sparks, but always showing great kindness and generosity. In a period of sickness he had a vision which he thought was calling him to fight, but as he rode out on a military expedition his sickness overcame him and he had to return in despair. While returning he saw a leper and threw a bag of gold at his feet but a voice told him to go back. He went to the leper and cleaned his sores; he said it was the hardest thing he ever had to do. His experience of sickness and warfare steadied him - then one day in the church of St. Damian he seemed to hear the image of Christ say to him: "Francis! Repair my house". He sold a bale of goods taken from his father's warehouse to pay for the repair of the church of San Damian; the outcome of this was that his father disinherited him and Francis was left penniless. Francis was now a beggar himself while he worked with devoted friends to rebuild the church.

Three years later in 1210 Pope Innocent III authorized him with eleven others to be roving preachers of Christ, in simplicity and lowliness. They became the "Friars Minor Lesser Brothers". Their headquarters was the Portiuncula chapel at Santa Maria de Angeli near Assisi. Recruits flocked in and another friary was started in Bologna. They refused even corporate ownership of property and ecclesiastical preferment, (Francis was never a priest).

In 1212, with Clare he founded the order of "Poor Clares", a Franciscan order for women. In 1217 the new movement developed into a religious order, and at the first General Assembly in 1219 there were 5,000 members. The movement spread to other countries, including England. Francis visited Egypt and the Holy Land and preached in the presence of the sultan, obtaining concessions for Christian pilgrims. In 1224,

while praying, he received the wounds of the stigmata. They never left him until he welcomed "Sister Death" two years later.

During the last hundred years admiration for him has grown. Francis was the first person to have a crib in his church. The cord tying a full Franciscan's robe has three knots, signifying Humility, Chastity and Love; a novice has just one knot.

I spent many happy hours at the Cambridge House and church, and at the Church of England House in Oxford. In the House at Cambridge I hoovered, washed up and made sandwiches and coffee for the homeless. I really enjoyed it, especially in the winter. I paid a small sum for staying there. I once went to the mother house at Hillfield in Dorset for Christmas. It was the best Christmas I ever had, the food was good, I never tasted Christmas pudding like it. I helped decorate the refectory and the church; you have to help in all things. I read one of my poems!! It was really lovely.

Eve Stock

To the Editor:

Am I alone in my dislike of this new habit of clapping after every Parish Communion service? What are they applauding? Is it the service, the sermon maybe it's the prayers, or is it the music which incidentally is not necessarily to everyone's taste? I am not totally against clapping in church on the odd occasion, but I think it is totally inappropriate after every service. What has been my favourite service for many years is now becoming a concert. This is not the way I am able to "recharge my batteries".

Eila Severn

Any comments on this, or other issues?

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.

If you wish to join this gathering,
please sign the clipboard at the back of the church.

SANTIAGO CATHEDRAL

Reflections on a recent visit

Jaded tourists and ecstatic pilgrims have dispersed, the Square is startling in its stillness. Two white doves preen; sculptured saints smile from cathedral walls. Early evening sunlight toasts their ancient features. One small nun scurries up a sidewalk.

I have returned to take another look, as the regimented guided tour this morning with its force-fed facts anaesthetised whatever spiritual response I might have had. We had attended the Pilgrims' Mass, [despite our 'pilgrimage' being from the hotel after a large breakfast] our guide finding us front seats as at a theatre. Alarmed, we gazed at the *Botafumeiro swinging over our heads and back, a smoking dragon spirit breathing fire on our confessions.

When it was all over, relieved by the normality of the cathedral shop, I bought my rubber tipped pencil and emerged blinking into Spanish brightness.

Now I am here alone, dwarfed by the reassuring granite walls that guard the sacred bones of our Apostle James. In the dark Crypt that cherished chest containing them confronts my disbelief. Millions have come here drawn by simple trust and faith. Am I so much wiser? This morning I had pitied their superstitious gullibility. I ascend to the little chamber, behind the sculpture of St. James that presides over the high altar. Earlier I had hurried past the hundreds queuing to kiss his image. Now there is only he and I. Placing my hand on his strong shoulder I see through his eyes the vast and empty nave. Instantly I am at one with all the saints and all who have ever worshipped here. The joy I feel transcends my feeble doubts.

Marion Dewey

** This is a censer which by a mechanical device flies through the cathedral on the end of a rope, incense burning. It weighs 60 kg and stands 1.6 m tall. Ten men are needed to work it.*

R. N. L. I.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th November 10 - 12a.m.
Elleray Hall, Teddington





Dream Auction Saturday 12th October 2002, 7.30p.m.

As part of the 'Opening Our Doors' campaign, we have organised a fun-filled evening, 'Dream Auction'. Brian will act as auctioneer and we have already been offered some fantastic promises to be sold on the evening. These include:

- A long weekend for five people in Normandy, France
- A dinner party for eight
- A day's gardening
- Computer lessons
- Babysitting
- Ironing and cleaning
- Aromatherapy massage
- A round of golf
- Make-up for a wedding
- Two facial sessions
- Will-writing service



Needless to say we need more items to be sold on the evening so are you able to help? Do you own a holiday home which you could donate for a week/weekend or know someone who owns a hotel who might give free accommodation? Are you able to give some professional time such as building work, dentistry, financial advice, a lift to and from Heathrow, language or music lessons? Can you cook and donate a cake, pizza, casserole or provide some wine or champagne? Have you got greenfingers so are you able to give some plants or hanging baskets? Do you have connections in the theatre or sport to provide tickets to a show or game or another attraction such as the London Eye? If you are unable to provide anything, do you know someone who can? These are just some ideas but put your thinking caps on and see what you can come up with!

Tickets to attend the evening cost only £5 per person which includes a buffet supper and a glass of wine so come along and bring your friends. Numbers are strictly limited so early booking is advisable.

If you would like tickets or are able to donate to the event please contact Zoë Napier on 020 8941 7113 for more information.

Volunteers are also needed on the day to help with the catering and to set up the hall. Please let us know if you are able to help. Volunteers can bid for auction items!

Attractive 'Opening Our Doors' pin badges will also be on sale.

Look out for a full update on how the 'Opening Our Doors' campaign is going in the November issue of the Spire.

Confused by all the fine words about global poverty. Perhaps I can help?

"The only long-term way to deal with the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa is to deal with the poverty that allows it to flourish. This requires a combination of policies, including changing trade rules and cancelling unpayable debt. But these policies alone are not enough, and will take time to bear fruit. Resources are desperately needed now."

Christian Aid

The scourge of world poverty does seem to be in the news more frequently. But is it all fine words? Gatherings of world leaders come and go and it is all too easy to be confused by what they announce. Are they promising new money or will it come out of an existing budget? I cannot claim to have a complete picture, but I hope the following facts will help to give you an overall picture of how things are progressing.

In September 2000 the United Nations General Assembly produced a set of Millennium Development Goals, with the year 2015 as the target for fulfilment. One goal is to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty (less than \$1 a day) - about one quarter of the world's 6 billion plus population. All charities and organisations concerned with world development are determined to hold world governments to these goals. They are a benchmark against which national and international decisions can be rated.

Three policy areas that can help poor countries to develop are debt relief, trade and aid. So what has been happening with each of these building blocks?

Debt relief

The Highly Indebted Poor Countries' initiative (HIPC) was launched in 1996 to reduce the debts of poor countries to sustainable levels. Thanks to the Jubilee 2000 campaign, HIPC was enhanced at the G8 summit in Cologne in 1999, with pledges to finance \$100 billion of debt relief.

Sounds good, but . . . this was only a third of the sum Jubilee 2000 considered essential, not all donor countries are meeting their pledges, and the initiative is failing to deliver "sustainable" levels of debt. Projected export earnings of the poor countries have been adversely affected by falling commodity prices and the global economic slowdown. Debt campaigners continue to say that calculation of the level of debt repayments for each country must embrace the social welfare needs of the country, not simply its export earnings.

This year's G8 Summit acknowledged that HIPC has a problem and an additional \$1 billion was pledged. But the initiative needs proper reform, not just a sticking plaster. It was always too little too late and continuing pressure is essential to rectify

inadequate action at the outset. Jubilee Debt Campaign helps to mobilise this pressure here in the UK (www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

Contrast the progress of HIPC with that of US business legislation (cracking down on corporate fraud) that won speedy approval in Congress in July. Amazing what self interest can achieve!

Trade rules

The double standards of the developed world in not practising what it preaches on free trade are becoming more widely known, thanks in part to the Trade Justice Movement. At the meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Doha last November a decision was taken to begin talks on phasing out Europe's big subsidies through the Common Agricultural Policy and there was at least a token commitment to embrace poverty reduction in the new trade round.

Aid

Aid from donor countries is a good example of how targets often remain simply that! A United Nations target of 0.7% of gross domestic product for overseas aid has been in place for many years. In 1990 the overall average reached by donor countries was 0.33%. By 2000 it had fallen to 0.22%. Aid levels are rising again, but not by nearly enough. The global annual total (all donors) is about \$50 billion; Oxfam has estimated that aid budgets will need to be trebled to \$150 billion per annum if the world is to meet the millennium development goals by 2015.

To help put these sums of money in context, \$35 billion a year is spent by the EU on farm subsidies and the Pentagon's budget is \$330 billion, with an extra \$50 billion proposed for 2003.

My article started with a quote that mentions the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. This year's G8 Summit gave special consideration to Africa, pledging \$6 billion extra aid a year to a plan called **NEPAD** (*New Partnership for Africa's Development*). It commits Africa to guaranteeing the peace and stable rule that is essential if help from the West is to bear fruit. Quite an incentive for Africa's leaders to get serious. Africa's failure is due not only to the neglect or clumsy interference of the rest of the world, but to its own political failures and stagnation. People who care can press the leaders of the rich world to help African leaders make, NEPAD work.

This article has only scraped the surface of complex issues, but I hope it helps to get you thinking. Do please talk with me about any of the issues.

Ann Peterken



Several members of our congregation have moved recently. Kath Allen has left Fitzwygram Place and Peter Ryan has moved to new accommodation in Kew. Chris and Chrissie Taylor are now living in Haslemere and looking forward to the birth of their first child in the New Year. Mona Gow has moved to 14 Beaufort Close, Bicester, OX26 4XN to be near her daughter and family. We wish them all happiness in their new homes.

Please remember the new arrangements for flowers in Church. There is a list at the back of the Church for you to sign if you could help on a week which is convenient to you. Please do consider helping so that we can maintain our tradition of lovely floral displays. Coryn Robinson (8979 6786) will be very happy to give advice or further information. More cleaning volunteers are also needed. This can be done at a time which suits you and young children can be brought along; they usually enjoy helping with dusting or sweeping or could play in the children's area. Ring Margaret Taylor on 8979 3961.

Stan Bannister, who lived in St. James's Road for many years and latterly in Hampton, died at the end of August. He was a loyal friend to many in the parish and we remember Vera and their family in our prayers. His ashes will be interred after the morning service on 3rd November.

We wish Margaret Bramall a good recovery after her stay in hospital.

Matthew Horner is spending the third year of his degree course studying at Erlangen University in Germany. In February, Ben Newman will travel to Kiira College in Uganda for six months as part of his gap year.

Thank you to Martin Hinckley, Chris Hodges and Christopher Cromar for the evening of French music. There are several organ recitals coming up shortly - see details elsewhere in this magazine.

Concert in aid of PROSTATE RESEARCH CAMPAIGN UK

To raise men's awareness of their health



A PILGRIM'S REQUIEM

Composer and Hon. Conductor
GEOFFREY BOWYER, M.Mus
and

FAURE'S REQUIEM

on Saturday at 7.30p.m.

19 OCTOBER 2002

at

St. James's Church

Park Road, Hampton Hill

Tickets £15 Concessions £12 (over 60, students and under 14)
from Norman Green, 73 Waldegrave Park, Twickenham, Middx TW14 4TJ
or Albert's Music Shop, 138 Heath Road, Twickenham

FROM THE AUGUST REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 11 Alice O'Brien, 81 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill
11 Sophie Tucker, 35 Cranmer Road, Hampton Hill
25 Piers James Frederick Kimberley, 20 Tudor Road, Hampton

FUNERALS

- 5 George MacDonald, 27 Windmill Road, Hampton Hill 73
7 Lucy May Reed, 15 Roy Grove, Hampton Hill 91
27 Marie Lovibund, Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill 88
29 Ronald Thompson, 7 Princes Close, Teddington 67
30 Gladys Olrog, 3 7 Cranmer Road, Hampton Hill 89

WEDDINGS

- 3 Paul Daniel Elliott and Victoria Ashford
3 Robert Davey Belgrave and Susan Anne Heymer
10 John Duncan Harber and Elizabeth Anne Wilson
10 Clement Lloyd Vaughan and Amanda Bernadette Chinn

DATES TO NOTE IN OCTOBER

- 5, 6, 7 **HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND** See box for details
12 19.30 DREAM AUCTION for Opening our Doors Appeal
13 **Trinity 20**
14 20.00 Parochial Church Council
16 20.00 Deanery Synod at St. Augustine, Whitton
17 20.00 Common Fund Bidding Meeting for 2003
18 Luke the Evangelist
19 19.30 Teddington Choral Society:
Faure's Requiem and Bowyer's Pilgrim's Requiem
20 **Trinity 21**
15.00 Inter-Faith Gathering for Peace at Neasden Temple
18.30 Churches Together Around Hampton United Service, URC
27 **Last Sunday after Trinity**
28 Simon and Jude, Apostles

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH OCTOBER