

November gives us plenty of opportunities to look back. Autumnal colours remind us of spent summer warmth. All Souls Day reminds us of those who have lived and died touching and shaping our lives. Bonfire Night reminds us of a past time in our nation riven by religious intolerance and hatred. Remembrance Sunday, as we gather at the War Memorial in the churchyard, cannot but bring home to us the folly and pain of warfare - which continues for so many people in our world today.

As Oscar Wilde may (or may not) have said: 'Nostalgia isn't what it used to be'. Certainly looking back can never be enough. Yet, looking back is crucial to understand who and how we are today as individuals, communities and nations, but much as it is crucial it is never sufficient.

In every service in church we confess our sin. If those 'religious' words don't chime with you then try saying in church at work or at home we need to search ourselves honestly, in the knowledge and security that understanding our past will make a difference to our future, for we believe that being honest with ourselves and God changes how we are. To lay things out plainly and in humility before God breaks the power of wrong, for as Jesus' living and dying show, the power of wrong never has the last word.

As the life of Jesus demonstrates, good will triumph over evil when we face up to it and live by it - it will be costly, it was for Jesus, but it will change us.

Unless we look back we certainly can't understand where we are now. But unless we are prepared to be changed by facing the past honestly we will be trapped by it. Acknowledging past wrong - in ourselves, our communities and churches will release us into a changed future.

Brian Leathard



Dream Auction

On Saturday 12th October, over 70 people attended the Dream Auction at the Church continuing the fundraising for the 'Opening Our Doors' campaign. Brian led the evening as the auctioneer and great fun was had by all! Promises that were sold on the evening included a week's holiday in Spain, a day's gardening, marmalade, babysitting, books, a day's dinghy sailing, casseroles and flower arrangements. More unusual promises included a will or mirror will, a ski lesson at Aldershot dry ski slope, teeth whitening, carer respite, valuation of a stamp collection and the design and implementation of a website.

The evening would not have been a success without the generosity of all those people who made promises. A huge thank you to all the local traders who donated:

Scruples Hairdressers

Ashton House

Hampton Hill Studios

Roy B Law, The Systems Studio

Guillaumes Solicitors

Courtyard Flowers

Burts Cycles

Scotts

The Gallery

The Hardware Store

Etha's Kitchen

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped at the auction. Again, without your time and energy, the evening would not have been the success it was. Grateful thanks, of course, to all the people of our congregation who also made generous promises and generous purchases.

TOTAL for this event was £2500

SPIRE TO SPIRE BIKE RIDE

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Spire to Spire bike ride to Chichester on the 28th September 2002.

After a chilly 7.30a.m. start, a blessing by Freda outside the West Porch started the day as 10 friends and colleagues from St. James's Church set forth on their intrepid journey to Chichester. But by 10a.m. the sun was shining and by the time they reached Goodwood for a picnic, it had turned into a truly glorious day. At 3.30p.m. everyone met at Chichester Cathedral for a photo call and a well deserved rest - and luckily cyclists and bikes were all brought back safely to Hampton Hill by transport of a four wheeled variety! Star of the occasion was Alice - at the age of 7 she cycled 40 miles!

Over £2000.00 was raised on the day, so once again a big thank you to everyone who sponsored people individually and as a team!

To all my friends at St. James

Thank you for all the beautiful cards and your messages of goodwill for my future here in Bicester. And for the lovely painting of St. James, which Brian presented to me when I joined you for Harvest Festival.

The house continues to be chaotic as there is very little storage space in spite of it being a larger house. It is very different from Hampton Hill and I do miss my friends and neighbours, but I am very happy in my new home and am enjoying being nearer the children. I'm sure things will eventually sort themselves out.

I have joined the congregation of St. Edburg's Church and the children have joined the Sunday school and are very happy. They have also settled into their new school, although Stephanie had one or two troubles initially.

We will all continue to miss our life in Hampton Hill - 29 years is a long time and requires a big adjustment, but I'm sure we will all enjoy a different way of life here. We will come back from time to time and will always remember our friends and neighbours in Hampton Hill.

Mona Gow

THE FUTURE OF ELLERAY HALL DAY CENTRE

Elleray Hall Day centre for older people has been run for and by the people of Teddington for nearly thirty years. It has been experiencing difficulties following the sad death of the chairman, Richard Bender, and although it is not yet out of the wood, things are now moving forward under its new chairman, Trevor King. The management committee awaits a condition report on the centre building which will hopefully lead to the council renewing the lease and a new constitution and strategy for fund-raising are being developed.

However, support is desperately needed from local people and businesses. The prime need is for people who are younger than the current members, particularly those with financial, legal, fund-raising, architectural and secretarial skills, to assist on the management committee. This should only involve a meeting about once a month plus, perhaps, some work in your own time.

The Day Centre also needs people who can help with activities, meals service or general care in the day centre on a regular basis one or two days a week. Even those who could only offer an hour or two to help in the coffee bar or with a specific activity would be most welcome.

All offers of help would be most gratefully received and should be made to the manager, Ruth Jennings (8977 0549) or the chairman, Trevor King (8977 3891).



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1902 Extracts from the November Issue

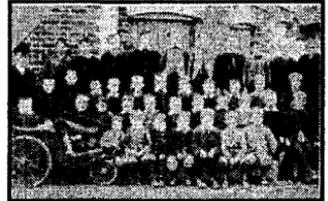


MY DEAR FRIENDS,

There is a long list of subscriptions for the Day Schools, which on the whole may be taken as very satisfactory. Church people in Hampton Hill have certainly been generous. We are very much indebted to Miss Barnard for the trouble she has taken in collecting.

If the Education Bill now before Parliament becomes law, we shall not have to trespass to the same extent upon our supporters in future, but it will still be necessary for us to keep our Schools in good repair, and so, notwithstanding the fact that we shall have to pay our full share of the rates, we shall also have to raise a considerable sum by voluntary contributions for the maintenance of our School Buildings.

I propose to give three Lectures, in connection with the Church Reading Union, in the Eastbank Mission Room, on Wednesday, at 4.30 p.m., as follows :- 12th, "Christian Character and Conduct." 19th and 26th, "Church History of the Fifth Century."



The Lads' Brigade has begun well with an orderly set of boys, and all looks promising. Dr. Howard, the Captain and Mr. Phillips are doing their best to make it a success.



The Annual Conversazione is fixed for Thursday, the 20th inst., at the Victoria Hall, when I hope we shall have a large gathering. The doors will be open at 7 p.m. There will be tea at side tables' which will be handed round. There will be no reserved seats. We shall have Music, Singing, and Recitations by well known friends, and I hope to give an account of my visit to Rome, with limelight pictures. The proceeds will be for the Curate's Fund and other parochial needs. Admission will be one shilling.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

St. Edmund

You can see St. Edmund in the National Gallery. His symbol is an arrow and he is pictured in the Wilton Diptych with John the Baptist and Edward the Confessor. As patron saints of Richard II they are presenting the kneeling king to the Virgin Mary, infant Christ and the angels. So why is he in such exalted company?

Edmund was chosen to be king of the East Angles around 860. He is said to have been a talented, successful and virtuous young man who learned the psalms off by heart as a mark of admiration for King David. At the time Edmund became king, Viking invaders had already laid waste to York and were devastating the countryside as they marched south. In 869 they reached East Anglia and Edmund led his troops against them. Initially the East Angles were successful, but eventually Edmund and his army were defeated and he was captured. At a time when kings were encouraged to identify with the sufferings of Christ Edmund felt unable to submit to pagan conquerors and so his captors tied the king to a tree, whipped him, used him as a target for their arrows and finally beheaded him. The Viking leader Ivarr the Boneless sacrificed Edmund to the god Wotan. Edmund's loyal followers recovered their king's body but not his head. According to legend this was discovered being guarded by a giant wolf; this image is depicted in medieval woodcarvings in churches at Hadleigh and Hoxne, the area where Edmund was murdered.

As the nature of Edmund's death became known people began to revere the king as a martyr and within fifty years of his death his remains were moved to the nearby Abbey. At the time of the Domesday Book the Abbey had 300 holdings of land throughout Eastern England and legal jurisdiction over half of Suffolk. In the next hundred years the Abbey was rebuilt and the town of Bury St. Edmund's established around it. The tomb of St. Edmund became the third most popular shrine in England. During the fourteenth century there was unrest in the town whose citizens felt that the monks were slow in granting Bury a charter. Nevertheless the Abbey was generous to the poor and hospitable to pilgrims, reportedly giving away a quarter of its income in the early sixteenth century. Sadly the abbey was destroyed at the Dissolution of the Monasteries and all that remains of the once glorious foundation is a few walls in the gardens of Bury Cathedral.

R. N. L. I.

Coffee Morning

Saturday 9th November 10a.m. - 12 noon.

Christmas gifts, Christmas cards, souvenirs books, jewellery and bric a brac.

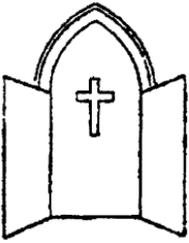
Annual Carol Concert

Friday 29th November at Teddington Baptist Church commencing 7.30p.m.

Music by the Salvation Army. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



For further information contact Jill Goddard on 0208 287 7438.



THE KEY

to Opening Our Doors

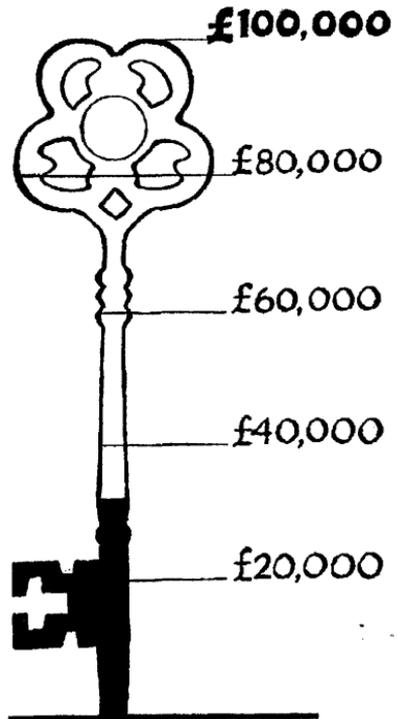
It seems like only yesterday since we launched the "Opening Our Doors" Project to raise funds to redevelop the West Porch. But in fact it was back in June when we held the Jubilee Open day - a magnificent day which attracted lots of people from both the parish and far beyond.

Our target, to enable us to complete the project is £100,000, and we are pleased to announce that after a series of very successful fundraising events, including the St. James's Day Family BBQ, the Spire to Spire sponsored cycle ride to Chichester and the Dream Auction, and a number of personal donations we have reached a magnificent total of £30,000 - nearly a third of the way to achieving our Goal.

To help keep everyone up to date with how the fundraising is going we have developed our own Key to "Open Our Doors" and this will be updated each month in the magazine and at the back of the Church on the "Opening Our Doors" display panels.

Also hot off the press, we have created our own "Opening Our Doors" Key badges, which will be on sale from mid October in St. James's and at all events. By wearing a badge you will not only help the project financially, but also hopefully help spread the message about the project and its aims, to our wider community.

If you would like any further information on the "Opening Our Doors" Project, please contact Kim or Jon Smith on 020 8979 2617 or look on our website: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk, which has all the very latest information.



GUIDE NEWS

I am pleased to report that 3rd Hampton Hill Guides have had a very busy and active summer. Our theme last term was survival and we had fun practising these skills on the water (rafting), in the countryside (navigation and backwoods cooking) and on the streets of Hampton Hill.

We were the only all girl team to compete in the NPI Water Rocket Challenge and whilst we did not equal the flight times of some teams; our rockets did fire and go in the right direction. We now have some dads working on better designs for next year!

Summer also meant camp. Several of the older guides camped at Bentley Copse in May and gained their Advanced camper badge, they are hoping to take their Patrol camp permits next year. In July we competed at Borough camp and were finalists in The Tug of War and Football. Over the August Bank Holiday we camped in the New Forest. For many girls the highlights of this camp were the High Pope Challenge Course, climbing and abseiling (when by a team effort one Guide managed to ascend the wall using her hands only!) and our Quidditch competition complete with levitating broomsticks!

We would like to thank the parishioners who supported our sponsored swim; we raised over £800 for Macmillan Cancer Relief. As always we would welcome any adult help either with a specific project or on a more regular basis; please contact me if you can help in any way.

Susan Blay, Guider

Church Bazaar

November 23rd is not far away. **The Church Bazaar** happens on that Saturday from 10.30a.m. - 1.30p.m. **Boxes are in church** for any contributions you may have for the various stalls, including gifts, tombola, raffle, home-made preserves, toys, books. Cakes will be needed on the day, so you could make some and store them in your freezer. There will be coffee, mince pies and light lunches available on the day. **Do come along and bring friends and neighbours.**

Sharing Worship

I was glad to see Eila's comment in the October magazine. Not only because I agree with her, but also because it could start a discussion about our services which, if conducted in a spirit of tolerance and understanding, might be helpful to us all.

I admit to some fairly strong opinions of my own, but I am well aware that they are not shared by several friends for whom I have a great respect. For instance, I value a complete focus on the liturgy during the service; to others, children playing, sometimes noisily, is an acceptable background. Again, the music to me is ancillary to the service. I know that several fine musicians in our congregation are inspired by the music itself; to me it is sometimes intrusive, even strident.

If we share worship we have to allow for the needs and preferences of others. Bored children will try to amuse themselves. Exuberant music is not always out of place. But I hope we can also preserve the rhythm of the liturgy, full consideration of the sermon and the quiet solemnity of the communion.

Dick Wilde

In response to Eila Severn's question 'What are they applauding?' in last month's edition of 'The Spire', in my case it is to show appreciation of the organ voluntary which is played so beautifully at the end of the service. This appears to receive less attention than the efforts of the lunch time pianist in Bentalls or Squires, as there is a such a hubbub of conversation whilst people are leaving the church. An added reason, therefore, for my applause and probably of those others who try to listen, is so that the Organist is aware that his efforts are appreciated. I would not want him to feel discouraged and to give up the practice of playing a voluntary altogether.

Marion Dewey

("The Spire" would welcome any letters on this subject. Editor)

THE BISHOP WAND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Invites you to an
EXHIBITION AND SALE OF ORIGINAL WORK
By Local Artists

to be held on	Thursday 14 th November 2002	6p.m. - 9.30p.m.
	Friday 15 th November 2002	6p.m. - 9.30p.m.
	Saturday 16 th November 2002	11a.m. - 3p.m.

in

The Bishops' Building, The Bishop Wand Church of England School
Layton's Lane (off Nursery Road), Sunbury-on-Thames
Parking available Refreshments Free



We are glad to report the Barbara Grant is recovering well from her illness and is back among us.

Good wishes and congratulations to David Nunn who recently celebrated his 91st birthday.

One sunny Sunday in September we held the annual Baptism Party in church. We laid on a magnificent spread and about 50 people came. The church was buzzing with children exploring and adults chatting. Many people helped in a variety of ways. Debbie Nunn would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to them all. She can't wait for next year.

Eve would like to add the following amendments to her article on St. Francis in the October Magazine - The cords tying a Franciscan's robe symbolise poverty, chastity and obedience. Payment for staying in the Franciscan houses is entirely optional - no money is asked for or expected, but any contribution is gratefully received.

Many thanks to all those who enhanced the church with floral decorations for Harvest. The trees painted at the Children's Workshop certainly came alive with the leaves brought by members of the congregation.

Greta Rosen is happy to report that the Shooting Star benefited by £100 from her sale of wooden toys.

Saturday 30th November

Annual Leaf-Sweep and Gutter-Clean:

The annual leaf-sweep and gutter-cleaning of the church, Hall and courtyard is planned for Saturday 30th November. Once again the Properties Committee ask for volunteers, if possible with a broom and a bucket. Work will start at about 9.30a.m.

The Properties Committee

Christingle Workshop

Children, Guides and Brownies will be preparing Christingle oranges also on this date. Do come and join in the fun. Contact either Lou (8979 2040) or, for general information Sue (8979 8239).

FROM THE SEPTEMBER REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

1	Olivia Caroline Clarke, 10 Bridgeman Road, Teddington	
1	Sophie Nicola Drake, 10 Barlow Road, Hampton	
14	Liyah Masie Jean Bonnichon, 179 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill	
15	Stella Joanne Moore, 25 Bishop's Grove, Hampton	
15	Ava Lauren Shopland, 13 Windsor Road, Teddington	
15	Deborah Jayne Shopland, 13 Windsor Road, Teddington	
15	John Darke, 13 Windsor Road, Teddington	
15	Gloria Gay Longyear, 13 Windsor Road, Teddington	

FUNERALS

2	Laurence Atkinson, 223 Uxbridge Road	72
6	Stan Bannister, 13 Chichester Close, Hampton	86
18	Winifred Alice James, Glendower House, Cobham	97
23	Charles Smith, 35 Taylor Close, Hampton Hill	81

WEDDINGS

21	Paul Leonard Williams & Deborah Anne Boyd	
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DATES TO NOTE IN NOVEMBER

1	All Saints' Day	
3	0930	4th Sunday before Advent: All-age worship
.	1830	Service of Holy Communion marking All Souls' Day
6		William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1944
9		Margery Kempe, Mystic, 1440
10		3rd Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday Prayers will follow Parish Communion at Churchyard War Memorial)
17		2nd Sunday before Advent
19		Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680
20		Edmund, King of East Anglia, Martyr, 870
22		Cecilia, Martyr, 230
23		Church Christmas Bazaar
24		1st Sunday before Advent Christ the King
30		Andrew the Apostle

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH NOVEMBER