

May I be bold? How much will you spend on Christmas this year? It is a rhetorical question. I don't need to know the answer but I would still want to pose it. I wonder what I will spend this Christmas, on presents, parties, food, drink and the celebration of God risking everything in identifying with his creation and most particularly with humanity. So, of course, it is worth spending a lot to celebrate such a high risk exciting stimulating event. God becomes human that we might become divine. Alas, what we spend on celebrating is not necessarily linked to the value we give to the feast day, the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Indeed, I guess many of us find the over-hyping of this Christmas celebration hides the true value of this Christian festival, but it does raise a significant issue.

Last month I challenged readers to think about the value and the worth they give to God and in a sense I want to do the same thing again.

This year our church in Hampton Hill has been present in bricks and mortar, in worship, in service and in mission for 140 years. But it was only because visionaries in the 1860s saw the need for a growing community to have the Christian faith at its heart through a parish church that the church was founded. Moreover, in that 140 years all sorts of new initiatives, new buildings, new strategies, new expenditure was undertaken to improve and increase and make more contemporary the message of Christ for each generation. That involved considerable financial sacrifice, and human energy and it continues to do so. We enjoy the inheritance of those Christians of earlier days in providing not only our building but the ministry and mission of this church.

But are we prepared to do the same? It is relatively easy (I stress relatively!) to think about a strategy, fundraising and other plans for the next year or two. But those builders of our church gave sacrificially in a way that has served us for 140 years and continues to serve us well. I wonder whether we can honestly say we are prepared to do the same?

We have to pay our way in the church. In our diocese, which provides your clergy, their housing, their stipends and important central services, we at St. James's like every other parish are asked to pay towards the common fund. This enables the mission of the church to be present and active in every parish from Staines in the West to Stepney in the East. Without such a common fund the church would not survive in the poorer parts of our city. We belong to one another in the body of Christ and it is our responsibility and our joy to support one another in prayer as well as in paying our way. But we need to do more than simply pay our way. We need imagination, grace and sacrifice along with generosity in order to make sure that the message of the God who becomes human in Jesus Christ is realised not only this year and next year

but for the next generation and the one after that. This means we need to give energy, time, commitment and cash to enable the church to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a strategy to realise the presence of God in every part of our diocese and in every part of our lives.

I am being serious in asking how much are you prepared to spend to celebrate Christmas, not only on 25<sup>th</sup> December but how much are you prepared to spend to celebrate God becoming human every day, not only for next year but for generations to come? If we want our church to grow and make that known to future generations then we have to think hard about our giving now just as those Victorians did when they gave sacrificially to enable St. James's Church to be built. When dedicated in 1863 the Bishop of London described our church as "a barn of a church in a wilderness of a parish". I hope that we want to describe it as a giving and forgiving church where all are welcome, all included in the feast of life.

*Brian Leathard*

## **COME AND SING!**

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30p.m. in St. James's Church there will be a further presentation of "A Pilgrim's Requiem" by Geoffrey Bowyer, our church's Organist Emeritus, together with the Faure "Requiem".

"A Pilgrim's Requiem" is a unique work which incorporates four movements of the "Proper" of the Catholic mass: Requiem aeternum, Dies irae, Pie Jesu and In Paradisium. There are parts of the St. James's bible and hymn settings all sung in English, with three psalm settings: "The King of love my shepherd Is", (ps 23), "O rest in the Lord", (ps 37), and "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills", (ps 121). The chosen hymns are headed by Bunyan's Pilgrim's Song, "He who would valiant be".

The performance on 11<sup>th</sup> October of those works will be in aid of the Princess Alice Hospice. "I commend "A Pilgrim's Requiem" to the congregation as a deeply inspired composition", writes the composer. There will be a rehearsal earlier in the day, 2.15 - 5p.m. in the church, so come along, rehearse and sing! This 'happening' is part of a "Voices for Hospices" movement, and is one of 500 simultaneous performances, UK and world-wide, in support of the Hospice Movement. All proceeds from this St. James's presentation will go direct to the Princess Alice Hospice.

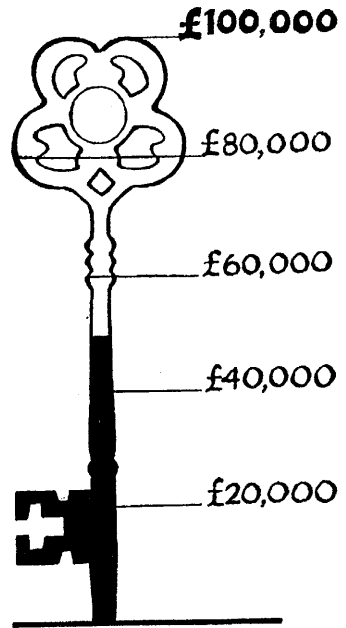
All tickets £10, including programme.

## OPENING OUR DOORS

What is happening on the West Porch project?  
When are we going to see some building work?

The answer to the first question is that much of the action is behind the scenes at the moment. Following the planning permission, with all its problems, the architect has drawn up more detailed plans and a specification that has now gone out to potential tenderers. Tenders must be in by the end of September for us to select the builder. The plans also have to go to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to get a Faculty before we can start the work.

We have now raised more than £50,000 towards the cost of the project, and the PCC has earmarked additional funds in order that the project can proceed as soon as we have a builder and the Faculty. We shall continue fundraising to ensure that we take no more from our reserves than is necessary. So the answer to the second question is that we expect and hope that building work will start towards the end of the year.



*Rodney Taylor*

### **Listen to the world!**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2003  
St. James' Church, Piccadilly  
9.30a.m. - 2p.m.

Local churches with overseas links

Mission & Development Agencies and Fair Trade Stalls

Partners from the World Church

Workshops & seminars on Mission & Justice

For more information contact **Chris Brice** at London Diocesan House  
020 7932 1121 [chris.brice@london.anglican.org](mailto:chris.brice@london.anglican.org)

# **The Mayor's Charity**

## **2003 - 2004**

Richmond Carers Centre is a charity offering free and confidential information and support to carers. It was established in April 2002 as an independent organisation and is part of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers network. We are looking for the hundreds of people who unpaid, take care of relatives or friends who through age, illness or disability cannot look after themselves. We believe that many people do not see themselves as carers, simply because they are doing what comes naturally when the need arises.

The Centre is aiming to support carers by providing information on how to obtain existing services such as respite, benefits and welfare rights. It will promote carers' issues and needs by being a voice for carers. It could be invaluable to many as a listening ear, giving emotional guidance and can provide activity groups, complementary therapies (massage & reflexology), regular newsletters and is now available for contact through several GP Surgeries in the SW13, SW14 area.

Isolation is one of the major problems with which we would like to help people. Please call the Centre on 020 8744 3900 if you are a carer, living in or caring for someone, living in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

## **David Nunn**

The Service of Thanksgiving for David's life, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, commemorated a life which was truly one of service.

As a schoolboy David's enthusiasm and skill in chemistry earned him several prizes. Today such skills would lead to a university course; in 1929 David followed the old-fashioned route of apprenticeship, in his case an ICI chemical research laboratory in Scotland. Full-time work followed by evening study was the route for qualification then, except for the very few who could afford full-time study at a university leading to a degree. David followed the hard way.

He stayed in Scotland until 1950, then moved to Slough to become one of the founder members of the newly-formed paints division. He stayed with ICI until 1964, when because his family needed special care he took early retirement and came to live in Hampton Hill. His talents in DIY work were then fully used for himself and for the church.

David and Janet celebrated their silver wedding last year. Their work for the parish over the years has been immeasurably valuable. Quietly, often almost unnoticed, they have given practical help and counsel, sometimes singly, sometimes as a team. Those who knew David will not forget him.



# The Gallery



There used to be three shops on the corner of Park Road and the High Street: a hardware shop, a hairdresser and a chemist. These were acquired by Robert Crewdson in 1971 and transformed into a shop selling paintings and artists' materials.

The present owner, Tony Wilson, joined the business straight from school in 1977 as an apprentice picture-framer. Over the years, he worked side by side with Robert, dealing in contemporary art and picture-framing whilst Robert specialised in antique and water-colour paintings.

When Robert retired in 2000, Tony completely re-furnished the Gallery inside and out. It no longer sells paints and brushes and currently offers almost entirely contemporary art. However, having taken on two new employees, Tony will soon have the time to go to salerooms and antique dealers and will be able to start selling antique watercolours, etchings and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century paintings again.

In addition to the very varied selection of art for sale, the Gallery offers a quality comprehensive picture-framing service and will also supply mirrors to any size and in any frame - there are over 500 to choose from! There are prints of local views and a fascinating selection of cards - just the place to go if you are looking for a more unusual card for a special occasion. Do go in and browse!



The building  
as it was  
c. 1900

## Report on the PCC Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September

The Vicar first reported on matters concerning the immediate business of the parish. These included the planned dates of the autumn and Christmas services, Harvest, All Souls, Advent and Christingle. We have not yet appointed a permanent organist, but have been well served by deputies. Certain lay parishioners were to be re-licensed to assist with communion; new recruits for training as servers would be welcome. Kim and Jon Smith, who have been key workers on the West Porch development, have agreed to be co-opted to the PCC

The Vicar then reported on an open meeting at St. Mary's Putney. The theme was "Inclusiveness" in the Church. The meeting had been attended by over 800 people; its message might be summed up by the welcome on our own notice board - our fellowship extends to everyone who respects our Church, nobody is excluded. The PCC agreed unanimously that a statement of our endorsement of inclusiveness should be put to the October meeting of the General Synod.

Rodney Taylor reported on the progress of the west porch development "Opening Our Doors". Our architects have invited firms to tender for the work, we should shortly be able to budget more clearly for the project.

Our Treasurer, Paul Peterken, gave a wide-ranging and lucid picture of our financial position, and under the title "Gazing Into the Future", gave projections over a five-year period. His slides gave us carefully evaluated estimates of how our income and reserves might fare making conservative assumptions. We are committed to maintaining our increasing support to the diocese and charitable giving. With our own parish work and development we shall be hard pressed unless we can increase our income, largely through stewardship, commensurately.

Paul also described the mechanism of "designation" unrestricted funds. This, as the name suggests, enables the PCC to designate, without obligation, certain sums of money for expenses we expect to arise. An example is the money we shall estimate we will require from unrestricted funds to add to the restricted funds, mainly donations, of the "Opening Our Doors" project. The PCC agreed to both the principle and in particular the designation of £50,000 to the project. A further designation might be made in due course for the repair of the south aisle stained-glass windows. The total cost is likely to be of the order of £50,000. This very large cost will have to be spread over a period of several years.

The Vicar reported that Jane Newman has agreed to continue as our Children's Advocate, a position which is the backbone of the parish's child protection policy.

*There will be more about the "Inclusive Church" in next month's "Spire".*

## CHALLENGE YOURSELF!

**GUIDE CAMP**  
in the New Forest  
23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August



We arrived at 9.20 a.m. half a sleep at Fulwell Station where we met our leaders Angela Anaconda, Delia the Measle and Heather Feather. We loaded our luggage into the back of Delia the Measle's car and Heather Feather's car. Our other leader Cheesecake Charles was already on his way to the campsite in his loaded van. After three challenging changes on the train we arrived at Beaulieu Road Station for a "Short Walk!" Finally we arrived at the campsite for our first challenge: a quick lunch, then hammering tent pegs into what could easily be concrete in the blazing sun! Our last and final challenge on Saturday evening was BED! zzzzzzz

On Sunday, we were woken at the crack of dawn to make breakfast, only to find ourselves being pelted with nuts from squirrels. After the attack we settled down to eat breakfast. Later on we made tie-dye T-shirts while our tent leaders took a ride to Tescos to buy food for our evening meal. In the evening our final challenge was to cook a meal mud-free and not to poison ourselves. To our surprise, we all chose the same food - Burgers (all very different). We cleared up and played a game of rounders. Our bowler was Cheesecake Charles (Chas). Rounders seemed to tire us out so we were sent to bed.

On Monday morning we were woken even earlier to go swimming and shopping in Lymington. We had a long walk to a swimming pool. There are many ways to describe a sea-water pool, such as extremely, extremely cold. However, as we found out, this was not the case, it was worse! We took the short cut back to the town centre where we had the best meal all camp, fish and chips with no washing up. After our meal we were allowed to go off in small groups to get any shopping we wanted and food for breakfast. However, we'd all forgotten that it was a Bank Holiday. To our horror after buying our own essentials (such as mascara) we realised that the only shop left open was Woolworths. In desperation we called Cheesecake Charles and Angela Anaconda to tell them that we were breakfastless! Luckily Cheesecake Charles had an idea and rushed off to the nearest Budgens to buy muffins and a cow! So our breakfast was saved. On our way back we bumped into Suzy Wong and her husband. After the train journey back in 1<sup>st</sup> Class we arrived for strict inspection from Suzy Wong. After passing the test our next challenge was orienteering without a map. We were given a compass and bearings to follow.

Tuesday morning soon dawned and we awoke to our first challenge: high ropes. The younger Guides careered up poles and along tightropes. Then we were faced with our worst nightmare: The Billies! Luckily they weren't that bad so we managed to survive. After washing up we were given some lunch and cleared up. The time to go

home was drawing closer and we all scabbled around to get the tents down. We made it and then walked to the train station. Shortly our train arrived and we all clambered in.

Charlotte, Kathryn and Louise

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## Reflections

Brian's challenge in the September issue for us to confront effectively the all pervading materialism of the age, as typified by record spending on modern day footballers, well merits our response.

Unlike Brian, who says that he knows nothing about football, I know a great deal! Indeed my first clear childhood memory, other than of the day I first went to school is of the gloom which descended upon our Yorkshire home when someone came in and announced that in the 1930 Cup Final Huddersfield Town had been beaten 2 - 0 by those southerners, Arsenal (who much to our satisfaction lost twice to northern clubs in the next five years. Sorry, Arsenal fans!).

So I well understand the feelings of a businessman in a recent newspaper interview who when asked how he most liked to spend his leisure time said, "As a matter of fact I'm a Spurs supporter, but they played so badly towards the end of last season that I vowed I would never go to see them again. Yet I know that come August I will be up there buying my next season's ticket. *I can't help it, it's in the blood!*".

I conclude that what's predominately *in the blood* at any given moment accounts for so much of what we decide - about resources and all else. Enthusiasm for sport is certainly in my blood, though it is not the only element. Politics is in my blood, as it may well be for others like myself who first voted in the so-called forces election in 1945 at the end of the second of two world wars last century "fought to end all wars". Communication via the media is in my blood, possibly first prompted by all the daily newspapers which came in to our family living room after spending the day in my father's hairdressing saloon. Lyrical music is in my blood, as so often enjoyed in St. James' at concerts - and through devotional hymns. But at a certain point another blood entered my life, far more important and motivating than any of these.

"If we live in the light as he himself is in the light, then we share a common life, *and the blood of Jesus his Son* cleanses us from all sin". 1 John 1 v7. Sin is a word less commonly used in daily life than heretofore - except perhaps when accusing others, (often aggressively) of it! Yet it was a turning point in my life when I heeded one of my early spiritual mentors who said "Make sure there is no minimum emphasis on your own sin. Make it maximum. Then quickly make the adjustment and move on". Maybe that is a key for many others, including football chiefs and celebrities, in making the necessary re-adjustment of honouring our Creator God with all our resources.

The then President of my Professional Institute, addressing a small meeting a few years ago in Twickenham Rugby Ground, said: "We accountants are rightly recognised for our expertise. But it is far more important that we become known for our integrity. If that sounds like a sermon, so be it!". Same here!

John Rainbow





Janet and Peter Nunn would like to thank everyone for their support and messages of sympathy when David died. Donations at the funeral thanksgiving service amounted to a generous gift of over £800 to Crossroads, the charity which helped with David's care.

On Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> about 50 guests came to the Annual Baptism party in the church. There was much exploring the church, eating the scrumptious tea and chatting! Debbie Nunn would like to thank everybody who helped to make the party so successful.

Confirmation classes have now started. If you would like to be confirmed or to refresh your knowledge, contact Brian or Julie.

Our invalids seem to be progressing well: Kevan, son-in-law of David and Jennifer Lloyd is now out of intensive care. Susannah Nettleton has made a splendid recovery from her operation, and Jean O'Sullivan is home again. Louise Wilder is settled in her nursing home; she can be found at Wingham Court Care Centre, Oaken Lane, Claygate KT10 0RQ. Tel: 01372 464612.

Margaret Bramall, however, has had a fall and is now recovering in the West Middlesex Hospital, (Osterley Ward, New Building).

We are sad to hear of the death of a well-respected parishioner, Lewis Barrett, a resident of St. James's Avenue.

Many of our younger members have now moved on to new schools and colleges. We remember all of them and wish them well, whether Esher College, Oxford, gap year or moving on from being an Infant to a Junior!

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards in aid of various charities will be on sale  
on SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER  
at 10.45a.m. in the Church Hall

## HARVEST FESTIVAL 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

9.30a.m. All-age Communion followed by Harvest Brunch in the Church Hall. Please bring to the service a coin, and container (cup, flask, glass etc.) that can hold water.

**Stop Press:** Next month an article about the Apocalypse Choir visit to Paris, from a whimsical point of view!

## FROM THE AUGUST REGISTERS

### Baptisms

- 10 Sophie May Smith, Cherhil, Wilts  
Joshua Arache Collins, Hampton  
Annie Isabelle Cox, Feltham  
Owen Harrison Glover, Hampton Hill  
Amber Yassaman Lory, Kingston  
24 Evie Leilani Miller-Soleil, Hampton  
Rebecca-Rose Robley, Hampton

### Funerals

- 8 Alice Caldwell, Hampton Hill 81  
21 Doris Windeatt, Laurel Dean 94  
22 David Nunn, Hampton 91

### Weddings

- 2 Lee Ross Badgery and Joanne Michelle Spriggs  
9 Iain Charles Stuart MacGreggor and Laura Jane Campling

## DATES TO NOTE

- 4 Francis of Assisi, friar and deacon, 1226  
5 **Trinity 16**  
0930 **Harvest Festival** All-age Communion followed by  
Harvest Brunch  
6 William Tyndale, translator of the scriptures and  
Reformation martyr, 1536  
12 **Trinity 17**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Parish Communion  
15 Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582  
16 Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, Reformation martyr,  
1555  
17 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, 107  
18 Luke the Evangelist  
19 **Trinity 18**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Parish Communion  
22 2000 PCC  
26 **Last Sunday after Trinity, Bible Sunday**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Parish Communion  
31 Martin Luther, reformer, 1546. Today we give thanks for  
our partnership with the church in Berlin Brandenburg.

**COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE: 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**