

In the first part of the BBC's science series 'The Human Mind', Prof. Robert Winston explored what happens inside our heads when we remember. With the aid of dramatic graphics and human stories, he demonstrates the way in which neural pathways are created and strengthened. These pathways allow us to learn, to remember, and to have original ideas.

Such insights create a sense of awe at the flexibility and power of the human brain, and help us to improve our ability to remember. We also need to build up our spiritual pathways of memory. At this point in the Church's year there is a great deal of emphasis on remembering. On the feast of All Saints we remember the inheritance of the Church. We call to mind those whose lives have been a witness to holiness and faith. The commemoration of the faithful departed on All Soul's Day, reminds us that God's redeeming love unites his people on earth with those who have died.

As well as celebrating the church's unity across time, we also remember events in our nation's past. Fireworks and bonfires call to mind the violence of religious and political turmoil. Remembrance Sunday confronts us with the reality of loss, sacrifice, courage and devastation wrought by war.

That we engage in the process of public remembrance reminds us that to remember is a corporate activity. We are to gather in the present to remember the blessings and burdens of our past. As Christians, we are also reminded that remembrance is more than retrospection. By remembering we can learn to respond appropriately in the present and build a future.

We value our inheritance of faith. It is a gift to be passed on to future generations. We do this as we remember and imitate the example of Christ, the Saints and the faithful departed. We have to learn from the strengths and weaknesses of our country's history. By remembering we can act with wisdom in the future. To remember can bring transformation, healing and a renewed commitment to the way of God's love.

*Julie Gittoes*

**CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SALE**

**in the Church Hall after morning service on**

**SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER**

## TUESDAY MORNING GROUP

Every other Tuesday morning for the past few years, with some gaps caused by holidays or illness, a small group of parishioners has met in the home of one of its members. We arrive in time for coffee and conversation before a moment of quiet and a prayer marks the beginning of our study session. That is a rather grand term for a time that consists of looking together at our faith, and also our doubts. Sometimes we concentrate on a book in the Bible or another work, sometimes we have a leader, at others we don't. At the moment we are having a very interesting time thinking about miracles. For me the group provides a wonderful 'supplement' to my worship in church as we can consider questions that may have arisen during a service where there is usually no opportunity to ask. We probably don't find an answer - Brian has sometimes come to help us - but the exercise of communal thinking has helped me to formulate my own beliefs far more clearly and has sometimes proved revelatory. Needless to say some sessions are better than others and that often depends on the level of preparation or thought we have given to the meeting. What is always available is the friendship and empathy that comes from a group such as this. It can take a long time to get to know people when you just see so many different faces on Sundays and being a member of the group has certainly made me feel far more at home in St. James.

We do need two or three more people to join us and if you would like to give it a try you will be made most welcome. If you are interested please speak to me after church or mention it to Brian or Julie and they will tell you more. If Tuesdays or mornings are no good to you, why not start up another group perhaps in an evening. I am sure it would be worth your while.

*Marion Dewey*

### CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

on **SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** from 10a.m. to noon

Stalls include Christmas gifts and accessories, cakes, Christmas puddings and produce, souvenirs, books, jewellery and bric-a-brac

Tea and Coffee will be served

Donations, especially cakes, urgently needed

*Jill Goddard 8287 7438*

*Christmas Music Evening: regrettably this event has had to be cancelled this year, but we hope to hold it again in 2004. So sorry.*



**Lifeboats**  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution

### 3<sup>RD</sup> HAMPTON HILL SUMMER CAMP

This year our annual summer camp took us to Yorkshire to meet up with Peter Horner, one of our ex-assistant leaders, and his new troop 5<sup>th</sup> Shipley. It was a fun-filled week and we really enjoyed it. As well as the usual climbing (this time on real crags), wide-games, cooking on open fires and backwoods, we also went on a hike on the moor.

We investigated the Wensleydale Creamery where we ate and bought lots of CHEESE and saw many pictures of Wallace and Gromit. Later that day we went to the Hawes Ropemaker where we learned how rope was made and were given free samples!

The next day we took a trip to York and in particular the National Railway Museum and Jorvik. It was really interesting seeing all the old trains and what life was like in Viking times (but I'm sure one of the leaders could have told us that).

That evening we went on a ghost walk. The guide was dressed up in full Victorian costume. He took us round and told us some gruesome and exciting stories about old York. It is bad luck for the first person in every party to see the metal cat catching a pigeon, so what was the first thing we Scouts looked for?

The following day we set off for Whitby in a vain attempt to visit the seaside. It was pouring with rain. The tide was in. Despite this we had a great time investigating the winding streets and numerous sweet shops that Whitby seems to have in abundance. We had a hearty meal of fish and chips before retiring back to the campsite.

On the last full day of our camp we had a roaring campfire/inferno! (after about half an hour because the explorers couldn't light it).

After a brilliant week we all came back talking Yorkish for a couple of days.

We would like to thank all the leaders, Skip, Tigger, Mysa and Raan from 5<sup>th</sup> Shipley and Paul Fitchett and Ian Powell for taking us there.

*Colin & Duncan Love and Andy Williamson*

#### **EXHIBITION AND SALE OF ART BY LOCAL ARTISTS**

In the Bishops' building, **Bishop Wand Church of England School**,  
Layton's Lane (off Nursery Road) Sunbury-on-Thames

on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 6p.m. - 9p.m.  
and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 11a.m. - 3p.m.

Parking available Free admission

## HAMPTON HILL HARDWARE

Hampton Hill Hardware, number 64 High Street, is on the corner of the High Street and the short road leading to one of the entrances to Bushy Park. Centrally situated, it is an extremely convenient local store. It has a quite surprisingly comprehensive range of DIY tools and materials amongst other hardware goods.

Roger and Margaret King opened the shop in 1991. They came from the Oxford area, where Roger had worked as an engineer and Margaret in accounts. At that time shopkeeping was new to them, but their combined skills and interests suggested that such a business, a general hardware shop, would suit them both well. Roger says that they had a good friend who gave them excellent advice on starting such a business.

Looking for a place to start, the centrally-positioned shop in Hampton Hill, which was available at that time, seemed to be exactly what they needed for their new enterprise.

For the practically-minded man or woman it is a most useful place to get the equipment for major DIY enterprises, and sometimes to dash in and get the odd bits and pieces for a smaller job. It is also a fascinating place to roam around to see handy gadgets and get ideas for the home and garden. If, unusually, the shop has not got quite what the customer needs, Roger is very knowledgeable and helpful about where best to look for it. He is also a fund of DIY guidance for the less experienced amateur.

Looking at the racks and shelves in the shop one is always tempted: "Now that's just what I could do with for . . ."



---

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTING-UP PARADE:

**HAMPTON HILL HIGH STREET**

**FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER at 7.30 pm**

The High Street will be closed to traffic 7.15 - 8.15 pm

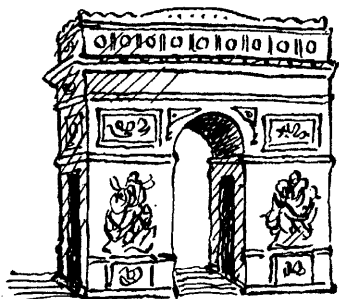
Many of our traders will stay open late that night.

## "When in Rome . . . . or even Paris . . . .!"

As the newlywed non-singing Methodist husband of one of the members of the Apocalypse Singers, their recent choral visit to Paris came as an interesting and at times a surprising experience. As it turned out, the Singers also found much of the visit to be surprising since care had been taken to avoid too much boring predictability with the itinerary. The following are some personal observations of the visit from a new groupy or camp follower.

After a bonding meal together following arrival on the Thursday afternoon, the first musical event was a contribution to Mass at the Trinite church on Friday morning. It was the Feast of the Assumption, a Public Holiday. The air was much cooler and fresher than of late and with little traffic the gardens in front of the Church were a haven of tranquillity. A Palestrina Mass was sung together with some Bruckner. A very pleasant start to the trip.

Saturday afternoon started with an attempt to find a Church for rehearsal. After an initial failure this was achieved. A phone call to the priest elicited an invitation to sing in the Mass that evening at La Madeleine, a magnificent classical Greek temple of excellent proportion, completed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The colonnade of 52 Corinthian columns, 65 feet high, together with a pediment with a sculpted frieze of the last judgement made a breathtaking setting. Motets by Rachmaninov, Poulenc and Villette were sung. A gracious word of thanks by the priest included the statement that the choir had "dropped from heaven". To this writer's untrained ear the singing was indeed angelic, although the same could not necessarily be said of all the choir members.



Sunday morning at 9a.m. saw us at the Anglican Church of St. George's near the Arc de Triomphe. While the choir rehearsed, your writer slipped off to the Arc to take some photos. At that time there was little traffic although by 10a.m. it was very busy. The service was a little high for the writers taste with plenty of smells and a very interesting sermon based on Church bells. It was, however, a relief to have a service in English. Part of the Palestrina Mass was sung, we were made very welcome and so was the glass of wine afterwards.

The afternoon saw us going to the Church of St. Etienne du Mont for a rehearsal for Mass at 6p.m. to be followed by a concert. The Church was in the Latin Quarter, which in fact turned out to be most appropriate since they retained the Latin Mass with all the associated features implied. It was a creasingly hot and humid afternoon with

some male members of the choir, including the conductor, wearing shorts. This irreverence did not meet with the approval of one of the female guardians of the Church. Following protracted negotiations the rehearsal was allowed to proceed. During the service, the choir sang Bruckner and Rachmaninov motets and the concert which immediately followed included the Palestrina Mass and a Bach Cantata. The choir supporters, including the writer, were expiring well before the end and our admiration went to the choir who must have found it even hotter. During the service the congregation, who seemed to know what was happening, stood and knelt dozens of times at what seemed intervals of a few seconds. One imagines there is little call for fitness clubs in that part. The congregation numbered about 200, so the style of worship obviously has a strong appeal in some quarters of Paris.

The 'organised' part of the visit concluded with a meal that evening in a small restaurant with an excellent atmosphere, a fitting end to a trip full of the unexpected. Your writer will return but when it is a little cooler please.

*Brian Kent*

---

## **YOUTH ACTION THEATRE: Local Drama for Young Adults**

Youth Action Theatre is a voluntary leisure-time activity for all local young people aged between 15 and 25 to improve their acting skills through drama workshops and performances. This enables the individual to achieve increased confidence, self-esteem and trust in others by working as a team and improves poise, movement and speech. All this is offered free of charge.

YAT performs at the Hampton Hill Playhouse and its next production is the fine play "Our Country's Good" by Timberlake Wertenbaker, which is on some school syllabuses. Performances are from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45p.m. Tickets are £6 or £5 for a party of ten or more. Telephone the Box Office on 020 8892 7623.

YAT meets throughout the year for drama workshops and rehearsals on Monday and Thursday evenings at Collis Junior School, Fairfax Road, Teddington from 7.30 to 10 pm. Young people wishing to become involved will be welcome. Contact Eric Yardley on 020 8979 7904 or e-mail [eric@yat.org.uk](mailto:eric@yat.org.uk)

## I SEEK YOUR FACE

Come, turn away from the busy-ness of your day.  
Escape for a moment from the tumble of your thoughts.  
Step aside from the burden of your many cares.  
Leave your distractions to wait awhile.  
Be free for God.  
Rest in Him now.  
Enter your inner chamber, dwell deep in your hearts,  
Shut all else out save Him.  
Say, "Lord, I seek your face, your face alone do I seek".

*Anselm of Canterbury*

*If you would like to join or know more about our silent prayer group, please telephone Greta, 020 8979 6222.*

---

## INCLUSIVE CHURCH

At the beginning of August, several hundred priests and lay people gathered at St. Mary's, Putney to express their concern about the treatment of Canon Jeffrey John. The outcome of this meeting was a petition calling for an inclusive church. The aim of the organisers is to gather several thousand signatures before the meeting of the General Synod in May. PCCs and individuals are invited to sign the petition. The statement behind the petition is quoted below and resonates with the commitment to inclusivity adopted by St. James's. The petition has its own website: [www.inclusivechurch.net](http://www.inclusivechurch.net)

### **A Declaration of Belief**

We affirm that the Church's mission, in obedience to Holy Scripture, is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in every generation. We acknowledge that this is Good News for people regardless of their sex, race or sexual orientation. We believe that, in order to strengthen the Gospel's proclamation of justice to the world, and for the greater glory of God, that Church's own common life must be justly ordered. To that end, we call on our Church to live out the promise of the Gospel, to celebrate the diverse gifts of all members of the body of Christ, and in the ordering of our common life to open the ministries of deacon, priest and bishop to those called to serve by God, regardless of their sex, race or sexual orientation.

## GAP - YEAR TRIP TO UGANDA

When I left for Uganda in early February of this year it was on the back of three very successful trips to the developing world over the three previous years. This time however it was different. I was to be there for six months, teaching for four of them and travelling for the other two. I thought I had seen much of what there was to see. I thought I had understood what the difference between the developed and the developing was. I had the slightly cocky and knowledgeable air about me that largely came from the detailed study of the social, physical and economical aspects of third world development. It didn't take long for my attitudes to change significantly.

What one cannot understand from a classroom is a sense of the culture in other countries. After a few weeks I really began to see how different the west is to Africa. In fact, I really prefer the culture in Africa to the culture of England and the west. In Uganda there is no rush to do anything. People don't wear watches because that tends to compartmentalise their lives. Each day is something of an adventure and people tend to take things as they come. I stopped wearing a watch after the first week and I found life so much more relaxing after that. In Africa you stop and talk to people you've never seen before. A trip to the shops takes a long time because there are so many people to talk to.

Because of the culture difference arriving was an extremely un-nerving experience. I remember walking off the plane thinking that this was what I had to get used to for the next six months. My first impressions on landing in Uganda at Entebbe International Airport, (scene of the infamous hijacking of an aeroplane in the 1970's), were of the extreme heat. The next thing I really recall is walking into the arrivals area and seeing a large group of Ugandans standing in a corner with a handwritten sign reading "Hampton students". I could have turned straight around and got on the next flight home. The staff who came to collect us were very friendly but I found it difficult to talk to them, as my head was full of thoughts about what I was there to do. I felt completely out of my depth. I soon realised though that Uganda was much different to what I had imagined it to be like. There was such a friendly and positive atmosphere.

When it came to teaching, the children were extremely eager to learn and their discipline was of the highest order. I found the teaching hard though as their method of learning was so different from the way we learn in England. Instead of learning by discussing and actively taking part in lessons the children look lost if you do anything but dictate or write notes on the blackboard. This is one of the many things that will have to change if the amazing development that Uganda has seen over the past decade is to continue. On the whole, however, things are looking good for Uganda. It may well be that she will be the role model for other African countries fighting the poverty trap.

I found the experience of living in another country, for an extended period, a life-changing one. I would recommend this way of spending a Gap-Year to anyone as it opens one's eyes to the world we live in. I've come back far more aware of my



surroundings and I hope more appreciative of other cultures and backgrounds. I intend to return to Uganda in the next few years as I have a deep fascination for this amazing country, which continues to defy convention by improving its lot on an almost daily basis.

*Ben Newman*



Thank you to all who donated coins at the Harvest Festival and to children and parents at Carlisle School. The result of this offering was approximately £300 and it will be used by Christian Aid in water projects. Thank you also to those who helped with the brunch after the service. Margaret Bramall is in West Middlesex Hospital and is very happy to receive visitors.

We were sad to hear of the death of Alison Loyd. Alwyne has cared for her for many years and they celebrated their Emerald Wedding Anniversary a few months ago. We send our sympathy to Alwyne and their six sons.

We also record with sadness the sudden death of Gordon Stowell, who has provided illustrations for the Spire for many years, including the drawings in this issue. We remember Janet and their daughters Charlotte and Ingrid and their families in our prayers.

Confirmation will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December at St. Mary's, Hampton. It is still not too late to think about confirmation and/or a refresher course.

Monica Heaford wishes to thank all parishioners who have placed their used postage stamps in the jar at the back of the church. These are sorted and then sold for the benefit of the M.S. Society Richmond branch. As Christmas is coming, she is looking forward to a bumper harvest from everyone, postal strikes permitting.

During Advent we hope to keep the church open from 9a.m. to 12 noon every day but need volunteers to do this. If you are able to help, please sign up on the list in church or contact Brian, Julie or the churchwardens.



## **LEAF SWEEP AND GUTTER CLEAN**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 9 a.m.

Volunteers very welcome!

## FROM THE SEPTEMBER REGISTERS

### Baptisms

7 Lauren Ann Hunt, Basingstoke, Hants.

### Funerals

8	Alma Jackson, Hampton Hill	81
10	Leonard William Mack-Habes, Hampton	90
16	Lewis Barrett, Hampton Hill	87
17	Alison Loyd, Teddington	83
30	Doreen Swan, Hampton Hill	72

### Weddings

20 Andrew Michael Pattison and Sally Rosemarie Hatcher

## DATES TO NOTE FOR NOVEMBER

1	All Saints Day
2	All Souls Day
	Charity Christmas Card Sale after morning service
1830	All Souls Commemoration Service
6	William Temple, Archbishop and teacher, 1944
7	Willibrord of York, Bishop, 739
8	Saints and Martyrs of England
9	3 <sup>rd</sup> before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)
10	Leo the Great, Bishop and teacher, 461
11	Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397
13	Charles Simeon, priest and teacher, 1836
16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Before Advent
17	Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200
19	Hilda Abbess of Whitby, 680
20	Edmund, King of East Anglia and Martyr, 870
22	Cecilia, Martyr, 230
23	Christ the King
30	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b>
1830	Words and Music for Advent.

**COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER MAGAZINE: 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**