

Like peanut and butter, church and mission belong together. Just as peanut butter comes in a variety of grades from smooth to crunchy so there is a variety of types of the church's mission. Mission at its heart means being sent out and we need to be brave enough to ask the question: to what are we being sent? The gospel stories make it clear that the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem was no accident but right at the heart of God's plan to re-establish contact with a world which had gone badly off course and to renew the binding covenant which God made with human beings through creation and the patriarchs. In the gospel stories Jesus undertakes God's mission which is both his own and the father's through the power of the Holy Spirit. He does this by healing and restoring, feeding and reconciling, he sets a new way of being human before his disciples, culminating in the last supper, the cross and the resurrection. The whole life of Jesus makes it clear that God is in control. And we are reminded elsewhere (Colossians 1:20) that through Jesus "God chose to reconcile the whole universe to himself".

Just as Jesus was sent out of God's love for the world, so he in turn sends out his friends and hearers to do likewise. He sent out his disciples sometimes in twos, sometimes in groups, sometimes in larger gatherings. Jesus sends people out to undertake those same loving acts of healing and restoring, feeding and reconciling. When Augustine was sent to England by Pope Gregory he accepted the challenge, but we know that on several occasions he lost his nerve and wrote letters back to Mission Control in Rome asking to be excused from the task in hand. He was not allowed to leave his band of brothers and the outcome was the mission which grew into the founding of the Abbey, then the Cathedral of Canterbury. So Christianity spread widely from the south east of England and from the north west through the Celtic route and the rest, as they say, is history. Or is it?

I would want to argue that it is history, but it is also contemporary reality for in this parish, and across our Diocese of London, we are committed to working to a Mission Action Plan. At the end of this month, on Advent Sunday, 28th November, the first day of the Church's year, we shall be launching our new mission action plan for 2004-2007.

The plan will be published fully in next month's edition of the Spire but I will let you into a secret. Here at St James' we aim to be:

A community committed to living in God's love

- open for all
- engaging with the world
- growing in faith

Everyone will receive a copy of our latest Mission Action Plan and full details can be seen displayed in church. It is important that this exercise guides our thinking, praying and action in the next three year period because we are, like those first

disciples, sent out into our homes, networks, work places, schools and wider communities to undertake God's mission which is nothing less than "reconciling the whole universe to God".

I think it is highly unlikely that we will achieve that from St James' in the next three years, but that shouldn't put us off, for we know that it is in the small things that we can make a difference. In the way in which we handle tensions within the family or at work, in the way in which we bring forgiveness and reconciliation to those we have offended. It is in the small acts of justice and kindness, be it sending a post card to the Prime Minister to affirm our commitment to trade justice or be it taking in the neighbour's washing when they feel unwell, that the mission of God in reconciling the universe to his nature of love is to be achieved. The mission of the church is nothing less, and nothing more, than Christ's mission and both you and I are part of it by our belonging to the body of Christ. So we look forward to welcoming you to participate in our Mission Action Plan, and alongside it we will be delighted to receive new members of the body of Christ confirming for themselves their desire to participate in God's mission on Advent Sunday evening when the Bishop of Kensington will be here to celebrate confirmation. Everyone is invited to take part in the mission of the church which is the mission of Christ. We look forward to welcoming you.

Brian Leathard

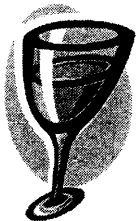


GIVE A GOAT FOR CHRISTMAS

What do you give the person who has everything for Christmas? Had you ever thought of giving a pair of crutches, a load of cement or four goats? These might seem very strange ideas but they are some of the suggestions in a Just Gifts leaflet produced by Christian Aid.

The real reason we celebrate Christmas can so easily be lost amid all the activities of the season. The idea behind Just Gifts is that instead of buying a gift for a friend or relative, you buy a gift that meets a simple human need - for water, food, good health or a decent living. For example, a pair of crutches would cost £10, a community tapstand for a village in Bolivia £24, a teacher's salary for four months £30 and four goats can be had for £60. When you buy one of these gifts, or others in the leaflet, Christian Aid will provide a card to be sent to your friend or relative detailing the gift and describing how much it is needed by the individual or community it goes to.

Details will be available at the sale of charity Christmas cards on 7th November. Alternatively, phone 0845 3300 500 or speak to Brian or Ramani.



St James's

first ever



Tutored Wine Tasting

Saturday 13th November at 7.30pm

- * **Eight wines from all over the world to taste**
- * **Notes on each wine by a qualified lecturer for the Wines & Spirits Education Trust**
- * **Bread & Cheeses**
- * **Quizzes to test your palate and win prizes (£1 each)**
- * **Wines for ordering on the night and special discounts - bring a cheque book or cash**

All profits to the Open Doors Appeal

**Tickets from Dennis & Elizabeth Wilmot (Tel 020 8977 9434)
or David & Margaret Taylor**

Only £6.50

Numbers may well be limited, please buy your tickets now

THE WORLDS WE LIVE IN

The series of public dialogues held in St Paul's Cathedral in September was significant in many ways. The fact that the cathedral hosted these discussions reveals that the Church cares about the complex realities of environmental, social and political life. On each occasion a diverse range of people gathered in a sacred place to listen, to be engaged and to ask difficult questions. Rowan Williams was able to engage with people whose research and practice equipped them to bring important insights to each topic. Our own concerns and political/corporate priorities are challenged when we ask questions about public health, the effects of global capitalism and the impact of our national/international decisions upon the environment.

The dialogues were held in a place that has been set apart for prayer and worship, where on a daily basis, people bring their doubts, curiosity, hopes and questions. In hosting *The Worlds We Live In* the cathedral also became a place where insight, knowledge and experience could be shared, where difficult questions could be asked, and where economic policy, sustainability, health and governance could be discussed alongside the message of the Gospel. The Christian tradition handed on to us speaks of justice, it challenges us with hard sayings about wealth and offers a holistic approach to health and healing. During *The Worlds We Live In* Rowan Williams brought this message into engagement with the questions and opinions of others. We may not have left St Paul's with neat answers to some of today's most pressing questions, but the task of bringing Gospel imperative into engagement with those issues does not end there.

Debates are one way of bringing the Gospel to bear on important issues, challenging institutional assumptions and our own personal opinions. The Church is also in the position of being able to make practical responses by getting involved with campaigns that support trade justice, for example. *Jubilee 2000* had a massive impact, and we can hope and pray that future projects will also increase awareness and challenge policy. In 2005 the British Government will host the G8 Summit and hold the EU Presidency. The Church is a member of an inter-agency coalition called *Make Poverty History* which aims to put issues of trade justice, debt cancellation and better aid at the top of governmental and economic agendas. More information will be available about this campaign before its launch on 29th January. Participation in these issues can be as simple as filling in a post card as we did in September to *Vote for Trade Justice*.

Transcripts of the dialogues can be downloaded from www.stpauls.co.uk/institute.

Ann Peterken & Julie Gittoes

The Hannah Stanton Evening Reaching out to young people in the Richmond Borough

The Youth Café Bus Project



Some of the young people in our borough have a wonderful place to meet and make new friends; a silver painted double decker bus that is equipped as a youth café and mobile youth centre. Not only does the bus provide a safe and intimate venue, but it is staffed by experienced youth workers who offer support and a range of activities to the 13 to 19 year olds who visit.

The theme of this year's Hannah Stanton Evening was 'Reaching out to Young People in Richmond' and its main focus was the gleaming bus which was parked nearby for our inspection. It has been imaginatively equipped with a snack bar and sitting area downstairs where people can relax and chat, play games, read and listen to music. I particularly liked the 'football' lights and was most impressed by the smartness of it all. Upstairs there are computers, play stations and a digital camera. There is a small private area where people can go for advice, information and free condoms. Leaflets on drugs and helping agencies are displayed, but it was stressed that the main purpose is to provide a fun place for socialising. The bus regularly visits three areas in the borough where there are little or no facilities for young people. The plan is that once it successfully demonstrates the need for a regular youth centre, the bus will then go somewhere else, such is its flexibility and responsiveness. However, one of the bus's users who spoke on the panel that was held after the viewing, said he would far rather stay with the bus than have some designated building in which to meet. Our meeting agreed that the ideal would be to have four buses going out most evenings to all parts of the borough would that there was funding and staff available to make this a possibility!

Already however, the Youth Café has made young peoples' lives better and has helped to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. The evening also highlighted the wide range of outreach work that goes on in the Borough and there was an inspiring presentation made by dedicated workers from various agencies.



The Start of 3rd Hampton Hill Brownies - and Hopes for the Future

Dear Brian, May I through *The Spire* say a big "Thank You" to Lesley for all her hard work over the past years with Brownies. When we as a family moved to Laurel Dene from Bromsgrave I thought I had ended my work with Brownies but a visit from Mrs Dorothy Coney proved me wrong. Warrant renewed and along to help the 1st Hampton Hill pack. Many girls came along so the group was split and 3rd Hampton Hill began.

What lovely times we had. Lesley came along to help, then her sister Sarah and Angela Horner and Eileen Elias. We met with Lady B.P. at Hampton Court on Thinking Day, planted bulbs and two trees in the Church grounds with the help of Bill Robinson, celebrated 75 years of Guiding with a holiday at Pontins Holiday Centres, ran a pet show at school grounds, entered floats in the carnival and some even won! Then time for a move, I was given the County Award Badge and on to Clacton where I yet again became a Guider until my age limit. I began Rainbows here in Jaywick and now am active in the Night Owls Trefoil Guild.

The Guide movement has so much to offer and I hope most sincerely someone will come forward. It's hard work but enjoyable.

All good wishes to those who remember us.

Brenda Oliver

DOES ANYONE ELSE REMEMBER?

I was looking at Songs of Praise on Sunday 29th August, when Aled Jones spoke of the first time that "Abide with me" was sung at the Cup Final. At the suggestion of George V it was to be in memory of the many Arsenal football players who volunteered in the early days of World War I, which began in 1914, the year they had won the cup. Sadly, most of them were killed.

I don't remember the actual date of the first match at which it was sung, probably in April/May, but I now know the year was 1927. Our family happened to be visiting one set of grandparents who at that time lived in Amersham. Although in their mid-sixties, they were quite advanced with their interest in "the wireless" and used to listen on a battery set with headphones which had the capacity to allow the use of two pairs. Presumably they had made up their minds to listen to the first broadcast of the hymn and they told us that there was a crowd of 90,000 present. I think this may have been an exaggeration but there must have been a capacity crowd. For a brief few minutes, my sister and I, who must have been aged 6 and 10, were allowed to listen by sharing the headphones with the grandparents. They put them on and then each turned one earpiece round so that the two of us could listen.

At the time I don't think that we were very impressed, as it didn't sound particularly interesting to us, but it was obviously an historic occasion. I remember it as an early introduction to this form of entertainment and have sometimes wondered in which year it happened. 77 years later I have the answer!

Jean Western

Here are two opportunities to reflect on current issues and problems.

1st DECEMBER IS WORLD AIDS DAY

MOTHER AND CHILD

Kensington Area World Aids Day Vigil

1st December, 8pm St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park

In December we remember the birth of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem. We stand in awe and gaze at the crib with Mary, Joseph, the animals and visitors. Do we fail to understand that Mary and Joseph were homeless that night and it was only the compassion of the Innkeeper's family which ensured the Saviour of the World had shelter, cold and damp as it was. They were northerners, had funny accents and were viewed with some suspicion as they wandered from door to door looking for help and shelter. Many doors simply did not open, some were slammed in their faces, and some people may even have had compassionate faces as they sent them on their way. They were the outcasts on that cold winter's evening.

In December we remember not only the Holy family who were outcasts two thousand years ago, but also the new society outcasts, who are afraid to name what is causing their situation from fear of doors not being opened, slammed in their faces and even those who have some compassion simply not helping. We remember them in prayer and action on the 1st December each year. They are part of the 38 million of God's people who live with HIV/AIDS, with over 25 million of them in the countries that stretch across sub-Saharan Africa, including our link Dioceses in Mozambique and Angola.

Are **we** going to simply not see them?

Are **we** going to say 'it's their fault so go away?'

Are **we** going to slam the door in their faces?

This year International World AIDS Day is focussing on Women, so our vigil is called "Mother and Child". In Britain, at the end of 2003, we have 11,831 women and 3821 children living with the HIV virus. EVERY community within the London Diocese has families who are seeking God's love and compassion as they fight this terrible disease. They are looking for God's love within our Church!

Jesus would not have failed them, he would have stood alongside them and prayed for them to our Heavenly Father. **We are going to follow Jesus' example again this year as we are led by Bishop Michael in prayer and vigil on 1st December at 8pm in St Michael and All Angels Church, Bedford Park.** (Opposite Turnham Green Tube station)

YOU are invited. Bring a friend, car full, bus, as many as you like, to hold God's People who are living with HIV and/or AIDS in prayer.

The difficulties in the Middle East are often in the media. Christian Aid aims to improve the ties of all God's people in the region.

Reflection

'Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever' (Isaiah 32:16-17, NRSV)

The prophet Isaiah sees peace as the fruit of justice. The words for peace in Arabic (salaam) and Hebrew (shalom) have the same etymological root and the same breadth of meaning: wholeness, health, safety and security. The Holy Land today is home to adherents of three monotheistic faiths - Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These faiths share a common heritage in Abraham, yet it is widely perceived that religion is at the heart of competing claims to the land, while their scriptures reflect a quest for peace and tolerance.

This pursuit of peace runs contrary to the relentless military incursions, suicide bombs, house demolitions, closures and curfews which are taking their toll on the work of Christian Aid partners in the region. Despite all this, organisations like the Middle East Council of Churches in the Gaza Strip work tirelessly to provide basic health services and equip young men and women with skills in carpentry, computer literacy and office skills.

For most Palestinians in Gaza, life is akin to being in an open-air prison. Costa Dabbagh of the Near East Council of Churches says, 'Most Palestinians are ready for peace but we have no opportunity here in Gaza to have dialogue with faith-based groups from Israel. God has made us all in his image and we need to enjoy this, but we cannot do this alone. We are already in the depths of despair, but we are committed to preserving peace and being good neighbours'.

I often think of the Church of Dominus Flevit on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. This is the church which commemorates Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. From its window one has a panoramic view of the city. With all that's going on in Jerusalem ('Jeru-salem', 'the city of peace') and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jesus weeps today for Jerusalem as he wept 2000 years ago. Jesus weeps for Palestinian and Israeli, for Muslim, Christian and Jew. He weeps for a world which constantly divides them, when they are together in his heart. Weep with him, pray for tolerance and peace in the Holy Land, and take whatever action you can to help bring it about.

Ramani Leathard

Council of Christians and Jews
(Staines and District Branch)

**CHRISTIAN
FESTIVE
FOODS**

Explained by

KIRSTIE HIRD

Thursday 25th November 2004
Our Lady of the Rosary Church
Gresham Road, Staines
Commencing 8.00 pm

**FESTIVE FOOD BUFFET
AFTERWARDS**

Tickets £5.00 each includes
Festive Food Buffet
only obtainable in advance from
Carole Greville-Giddings: 020 8979 6592

ALL PROFITS TO CCJ FUNDS

PETER RYAN'S JUG FULL OF COINS

For much of the time, Peter can seem like a real pain in the proverbial! He's drinking though not as heavily as he was a year ago; he's accident-prone and often ends up needing medical treatment but usually through no fault of his own; and he still manages the odd verbal run-in with organisations but again it's often because he's dealing with completely unsympathetic characters.

That's the bad news but there's plenty of good news too! What I appreciate in Peter is his indomitable spirit; despite being invalided and largely confined to his arm-chair with very few visitors, he remains incredibly cheerful and appreciative.

He pulls my leg when I'm late, he never moans when I leave and he never makes me feel guilty that I don't see him more often. He's never critical, indeed quite the contrary - he's always grateful and always sends his love (and the occasional present) to Frances and Maria and always asks to be remembered to St James. St James means a lot to him and he's just donated a jug full of coins to the church.

Despite the poor quality of his life and the mayhem that usually accompanies him, I often find that my visit is an uplifting experience for me and, in his own rough way, he's a man of dignity and love. Where does this dignity and spirit come from? I believe it comes from his strong belief in God.

Clive Beaumont

Yoga Class in St James' Church Hall

Starting on Wednesday 3rd November 2004

For some two years I have been attending a yoga class in Kingston which is taught by Muriel Mueller. I think she is an excellent and enthusiastic teacher and I am delighted to say that Muriel is now going to run a class in Hampton Hill at St James' Church Hall on Wednesdays from 1.15 to 2.30 pm. The classes are for people of all ages, levels and ability. The cost is £6 a class but if you pay for the first class the second class will be free. There is no need to book - just turn up. For more information please telephone Muriel on 07761 812190.

Griselda Barrett

HARD THEMES IN THE BIBLE

A series of discussions in the Upper Room
of the Church Hall

8 - 9.30 pm on Thursday evenings
4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November

ANNUAL BAPTISMAL PARTY

Upwards of 60 people enjoyed a very pleasant Sunday afternoon recently at the annual Baptismal Party. This was a chance to explore the church, meet friends old and new, and eat and drink to excess if desired! Church visitors were able to catch up with families they had befriended at Baptism. Thank you very much to anyone who helped in any way - it was very much appreciated.

Debbie Nunn

We would like to express our gratitude to Debbie for organising the afternoon and for all the work she and her team of visitors do with baptismal families throughout the year.

2004 CHURCH BAZAAR

Don't forget Saturday 20 November.

The 2004 Bazaar, 10.30 am - 1.30 pm

A great occasion for all ages. Come along
and bring your friends and neighbours.

There will be a variety of stalls and refreshments,
including things for children.

Make a note in your diary NOW!

GUIDE NEWS

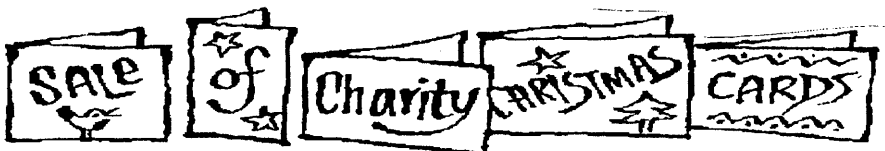
The Spring term began with one of the Guides' usual preoccupations - chocolate. We spent a weekend in Birmingham, staying at a Guide HQ and visited Cadbury World, where we indulged in as many free samples as possible. On Sunday all the excesses were worked off when we went climbing, abseiling and potholing at Aston University. Some Guides continued the chocolate theme and gained their Chocolate badge later in the term whilst some went for the more physical option and worked for their Circus Skills/Agility badges. The term ended with a trip to Wimbledon Theatre to see Grease.

During the Easter holidays 3 Guides and a Young leader took part in the Great Ormond Street Hospital Scavenge Hunt around Central London. Despite being the youngest team to enter we WON and hope soon to gain fame on the GOSH web site. In the Summer term Guides concentrated on learning a variety of new skills to complete their Surprise Yourself Challenge. These included upholstery, an introduction to Makaton sign language, shorthand, crochet, salsa dancing and bell ringing. In the fine weather we spent several evenings round and about Hampton Hill undertaking some photography challenges. Unfortunately, the good weather did not continue for camp but we had a great time at Walton Firs where our theme was disability awareness. Camp ended in a major hailstorm which soaked everyone and everything!

The term ended with our usual activities, the Water Rocket Challenge at NPL where we won the teamwork prize and swimming and a barbecue at Hampton Pool. We said goodbye to five year 9 Guides who have all moved on to join Hampton Hill Duke of Edinburgh's Award group. This group started in June and is for girls and boys aged 14+. We are currently meeting once a month in the Church Hall on Tuesday evenings after Guides.

We are delighted that our two Young leaders, Raffaele and Charlotte have now completed their Young Leader Award and are continuing to help with the unit. Unusually we have a few vacancies for girls in years 6 or 7 so if anyone is interested please contact me on 020 8979 8239.

Susan Blay, Guider



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7th in the Church Hall after the Family Service



The Church was packed for Harvest Festival and we were delighted to have the Children's Choir, who sang a Harvest Samba, accompanied by an enormous band. Many thanks to Martin, Susannah and the children for making this such a happy occasion.

The Roving Supper was also a great success and raised about £1200. It was a most enjoyable evening, giving us a chance to chat to others in the congregation whom we may not know very well, and their friends, in most convivial surroundings. Our thanks to Griselda for organising the event and to all who hosted or cooked.

Congratulations to two of our bellringers, Lisa and Ian, on the birth of their daughter Constance Thea. With great dedication, Lisa was ringing right up to the last minute - almost literally, as she was due to ring on the morning she went into hospital!

Our congratulations and best wishes also go to Marjorie Smee, who celebrates her 99th birthday on 6th November.

On All Souls Day, 2nd November, the Church remembers all those who have died and whose lives have touched our own. At the service at 8 pm, the names of all those whose funerals have been held at St James's in the last two years will be read out. All are welcome to attend.

If anyone needs roof, gutter or small building maintenance work done, D.J. Lester (tel: 01784 251276) has been recommended by parishioners.

In the October *Spire*, Lesley Mortimer wrote about the work of Angela Mullins, a missionary teacher with USPG in Malawi. We are looking forward to hearing Angela preach in St James's on 21st November.

HAMPTON ENTERPRISE

November

Wednesday 17th Staines Shopping (plus lunch?)

Wednesday 24th London Eye and Lights

Thursday 25th Kempton Market

Friday 26th Pub Lunch

December

Wednesday 1st Garson Farm

Monday 20th Diamond Lunch (Winning Post)

TO BOOK CALL GREENWOOD CENTRE 8979 9662
Also regular shopping buses and transport to Linden Hall

FROM THE SEPTEMBER REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 5 Emma Francesca Bagge, Hampton Hill
19 William George Hulatt, Hampton

WEDDINGS

- 4 Vincent Salvador Boluda and Katrina Louise Fawsett
5 Ross Anthony Brown and Suzanne Julia Hayler
18 Darren Lee Maxwell and Helen Emily Dewhurst
25 Oliver John Small and Jennifer Ann Hiscock
Nicholas James Harvey and Rachel Jayne Leak

DATES TO NOTE IN NOVEMBER

- 2 All Souls Day - Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
20.00 Holy Communion when the names of the departed will be read out during the service
- 6 William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury and teacher of the faith, 1944
- 7 **Third Sunday before Advent**
Charity Christmas Card sale after morning service
- 8 Saints and Martyrs of England
- 13 Charles Simeon, priest, 1836
19.30 Wine Tasting
- 14 **Second Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)**
- 16 Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093
- 18 Elizabeth of Hungary, princess of Thuringia
- 19 Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680
- 20 Edmund, King of the East Angles, martyr, 870
Christmas Bazaar 10.30 - 13.30
- 21 **Christ the King**
- 22 Cecilia, martyr at Rome, 230
- 23 Clement, Bishop at Rome, martyr, 100
- 28 **Advent Sunday**
18.30 Confirmation with the Bishop of Kensington
- 29 Day of Intercession for the missionary work of the church
- 30 Andrew the Apostle

FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER: HAMPTON HILL CHRISTMAS PARADE
AND LIGHTS

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH NOVEMBER