

A million years ago, when I was training to be a priest, I was taught by two fine clergymen on a course they shared (the name of which I have now forgotten) but the teachers themselves were wise, faithful and compassionate priests. One was called Don Cuppitt and the other Rowan Williams! On one occasion I had to write an essay entitled "Is there a difference between interceding for someone who is sick and taking them a bunch of flowers?" I no longer have any clue whatsoever as to what I wrote, but it can't have been that disastrous, as I was eventually ordained and have been both interceding for people and visiting them with or without bunches of flowers ever since. Central to the life of every Christian is the life of prayer. Let me say at once that I do not think prayer is the recitation of pious devotions or phrases. Prayer is all about attitude. One of the great joys of ministering as your parish priest at St James' is that so many people participate in the worship and service of God in this parish church. Members of the congregation greet, teach, read, administer the bread and wine and not least lead intercessions for the church and the world, for the children of God in all their needs as well as for the faithful departed.

But what do we think intercession is? Is it the slot in the service for a second snooze, the first having been in the sermon? Is it the time to test out the new kneelers or your old knees? Is it the opportunity to slump forwards and think did I turn the oven on? The time of intercession within our worship is most certainly not the time for a Thomas Cook tour of the world's needy spots or to make a list of petitions rather like your shopping list. In fact, the word intercession comes to us from the letter to the Hebrews where the writer says of Jesus: "He always lives to make intercession for us". And that word has nothing to do with a list or a petition or intervention even. It means simply to encounter or to meet or to be with somebody. And just as Jesus is the model of being truly God-like in human life so we need to look at Christ's life to see what he understood as prayer. Simon Peter finds Jesus in a desert place before daybreak praying, Jesus prays though the night before he appoints the twelve disciples, Jesus prays on the mountain where he is transfigured, he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane and he even prays on the cross. Above all perhaps the prayer at the supper in John Chapter 17 that we might all be one, is deeply symbolic of the prayer life of Jesus "that we might all be one". Intercession is about that oneness, that encounter and meeting with others in God's presence. Of course it is something that happens in every Eucharist as we receive bread and wine but it is also something that happens day by day, hour by hour at home, at work, in our leisure time, in the shops, in school or wherever we may be, for our prayer is not a specialised activity but it is the point where we meet God, when we are laughing or weeping, when we are bored or happy, when we are working or eating, when we are alone or with friends. Prayer is to be with God for others and prayer is to be with others for God.

That's why our intercession book sits on the altar day after day after day and is used day after day after day in the prayer life of our parish. Everyone is welcome to write in it names, causes, issues about which they have a care and which they wish to hold before God and his people. There is a pen attached so please make use of it. Write in whatever you wish. It can never be exclusive, it doesn't matter whether we all know the situations or the people involved or not. We can pray for people far and near, in our community or beyond it. We can pray for the sick or the healthy, we can pray for the hungry or the sated, we can pray for those at peace or those in trouble and not only can we do so we must do so if we are truly to represent Christ in our world today. For prayer is nothing less than holding the people God has made before him and for holding God before the people he has made. Join us, as we join God's faithful people and saints in glory to pray day by day. For prayer is meeting God whether we do it in church, on our knees, by visiting someone in trouble, by marching with others to make poverty history or even by taking flowers to someone who is sick.

Brian Lethard

WEST PORCH

Yes we are almost there. The West Porch building work is virtually complete and now we are looking to equip our office and meeting room to enable it to serve the needs of our parish and community. Have you thought about making a donation to the West Porch?

Here are some suggested donations and what they will be used for.

We need:	£600	Computer and sundry connections
	£160	Telephone, fax and answering machine
	£148	Two filing cabinets at £74 each
	£188	Stationery cupboard
	£ 80	Multi-drawer cabinet
	£120	Two office chairs at £60 each
	£ 50	Office shredder
	£ 30	Office guillotine
	£ 50	Two office desk lamps at £25 each
	£250	Transcription machine

If you would like to make a donation which will enable us to purchase the goods we have planned then please do so by cheque to St James' Church and deliver it to the vicarage or any member of the Parochial Church Council.

See you soon in our new West Porch.

THE JAYS SUNDAY SCHOOL

A little bit about us -The Jays Sunday School is a lively, caring group for children aged from 3½ to 11 years, with three full time and one part time committed teachers. Why 'The Jays'? The name was derived many years ago and simply denotes the 'J' for St James and 'J' for Jesus.

When we meet - We meet most Sunday mornings. The exceptions are the first Sunday in each month, when there is an Informal Service in church that is suitable for the children to attend, and the three main school holidays (we do meet during half term holidays). Sunday school starts in church at 9.30; after the first hymn we leave to go to the hall. We finish at 10.15 when we then bring the children back into church to receive a Blessing or Communion and to join in with the last hymn of the main service.

What do we do each week - We use a variety of material, which includes teaching booklets, pamphlets for the children, videos, etc. We follow the church calendar so that the children can see that they are an extension of the church and congregation, not a separate entity.

The children have displayed their work during the year on the notice board in church and in the hall. This work comes from Sunday school activities. They also bring their pocket money for the Church of England Children Society and our collection box is always well stocked!

Supporting Church Fund Raising - The Sunday School worked hard to run a Bring and Buy Sale on 25th June, it was in aid of the 'Opening Our Doors' appeal. They worked hard for several weeks, making posters, delivering flyers, collecting many items and then finally on the day pulling it off by raising over £500!

This year has seen the number of classes increased from 2 to 3 and hence Sarah has become full time rather than just filling in for either Carole or myself on the rare occasions we were unavailable. This has meant that the year 5 children are now treated in a slightly different way to the younger children. So much so they decided to make jewellery out of discarded buttons and sell them in aid of the Tsunami appeal. They did this very well and conscientiously. They had thought in Sunday school about the Tsunami and what it would be like to have nothing. They then followed this through by discussing Hope and about making something out of nothing hence the jewellery from unwanted buttons. The current term sees then learning about the disciples and their differences and idiosyncrasies. The year 5 children are young people and soon to be teenagers hence the need to treat them differently.

Lou Coaker - Carole Fitchett - Sarah Peterson - Caroline Young

This Made a Difference

On 31 December 2004 I walked out of my successful and secure career at the National Archives, not into a better job or a lucrative consultancy but into an unplanned future. Career prospects had never been better for a professional archivist with 28 years' experience. Archives were turning into popular leisure centres as history became prime-time entertainment and, more importantly, the IT revolution and open government legislation had catapulted records-management issues "out of the basement into the boardroom".

An interesting job in an expanding field, great colleagues and a more-than-adequate salary - why leave? Essentially because the job and I no longer suited each other. From the minutiae of daily procedures to the overall culture, I was increasingly out of sympathy with the direction things were taking. The time had obviously come to make a move but I couldn't see where to move to. My view was distorted by standing in the wrong place - on top of a pile of unexamined assumptions about what matters. What changed my perspective was my father's death. It brought home to me that life ends. Somehow I had managed to ignore the gap between my intellectual assent to this obvious fact and my own behaviour. I had been procrastinating as if I had unlimited time. Suddenly the issue was not "what should I do about my career?" but "how should I live this limited life?"

Dad's parting gift was enough money to support me while I explored my options. Knowing I would not want to go back to the same job, I opted for resignation rather than a sabbatical. I planned a year in which to wind things up with least inconvenience to colleagues and clients, followed by a year in what would effectively be a home-based retreat. By the end of that period of reflection I hoped I would have identified what God was inviting me to do next.

My days are supposed to be divided between meditative reading and prayer, focused study and simple manual work like gardening and decorating. It is a lifestyle based on monastic tradition, but with space for café lunches, minding my friend's baby, and taking my mother on country holidays. The pace is leisurely but the process is demanding - a constant battle against ingrained habits of acquisitiveness, procrastination and self-centredness. What is *supposed* to happen very often doesn't, and I have no one else to blame!

Seven months into this retreat, I know that I want to make it a permanent lifestyle. For the first time I feel I am living in a way that suits my personality and reflects my values. Sooner or later I shall have to return to paid employment, but for the time being I am content to savour today and practice trusting Providence about tomorrow.

Val Traylen

TICKMORE

It sometimes seems like five minutes and sometimes like forever that we have been living on Brimfield Common; it is, in fact, four and a half years. We have been very fortunate in being able to welcome our St James's friends to stay with us at various times throughout that period. Although we have good guest facilities with our comfortable bedrooms with en suite shower rooms, we are quite incapable of formal 'B&B' (for instance, although we provide coffee and tea making facilities in the bedrooms, few people use them, preferring to amble down to the kitchen first thing in the morning and chat quietly while breakfast is being prepared).

Brimfield Common is a quiet location off the A49 about half way between Ludlow and Leominster. There is such a lot to see and do around here: National Trust properties to visit, markets in the historic towns of Ludlow and Leominster, the rolling English countryside at its best. A bit further afield there is Hereford, with its cathedral and the Mappa Mundi, there is the "book Town" of Hay-on-Wye and the fascinating museums of Ironbridge - and much more. Ludlow is famous for its castle and mixture of historic architecture and its arts festival, but most of all for food!

Anyone interested in animals or the work on our smallholding is welcome to get involved (at your own risk, of course! - we find that one of the greatest risks is growing too fond of the sheep and wanting to take a lamb home as a pet!). We are now trying to promote our various business enterprises, so we are welcoming any enquiries for Bed and Breakfast as well as being pleased to hear from anyone who would like to buy our wonderful apple juice or some of our delicious lamb (we usually sell this by half lamb for the freezer, but might be able to deal with smaller packages for those who can't manage such quantities). Orders for juice and lamb will be delivered from time to time, by arrangement, when we visit Hampton Hill.

Please contact us by e-mail (enquiries@tickmore.co.uk) or phone 01584 711489

Judith Winstanley and Ruth Mills

Commuter Communion

On the first Wednesday of every month there will be an early morning communion service at 7am. This service will last approximately 20 minutes and has been designed to offer an opportunity for prayer and worship to those who commute to work during the week. The first

commuter communion will

take place on Wednesday 7th September. Do join us.

Future dates: 5th Oct, 2nd Nov, 4th Dec.

ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL IN MILO

An update bulletin from Dr Lwoga to all churches who support St Luke's through the Anglican mission agency USPG. Dr Lwoga is the only doctor at the hospital and of retirement age himself. USPG need to raise £16,650 during 2005 as part of our ongoing commitment to the hospital.

Life at St Luke's continues and we are slowly making improvements to the hospital and our facilities and service to the community, thanks to your generosity through prayer and giving. It is only through the long-term commitment from USPG that we are able to help the people of Milo and the surrounding areas.

Revival and renovation

There has been quite a lot of building work at St Luke's over the past few months. You may remember that the dispensary at Ludewa was shut down completely after a severe fire. Thankfully, due to much hard work, it is now up and running again, although it still has some furniture damage, which we plan to renovate further in the future. Expansion of Ludewa Dispensary and Njombe Health Centre started during 2004. We have commissioned builders to construct maternity wings for these two facilities through funds donated by friends from England. Through your kind donations, we have also been able to purchase an ultra sound scanner and an X-ray machine. These have been installed and are working well. We have also recently acquired a computer which we are slowly learning how to use. To improve our water supply, a new intake for piped water was built towards the end of 2004. We have now started getting a supply of water from this extra source. Work has also started on harvesting precious rain water.

Education

Education is the key to growth. Our library is growing, thanks in the most part to a number of up-to-date reference books and booklets donated by the World Health Organisation. During the year we continued to receive more and more of their publications. We also now receive the Nursing Times journal. Although self-learning from books is important, we recognise that this needs to be backed up by training and teaching. Due to limited resources, most of the nurses and doctors receive their training from other hospitals in Tanzania, but St Luke's still tries to organise as much as it can 'in-house'. Over the past 12 months we have had two 3-day workshops, one focussed ante-natal care, attended by all our midwives. The other workshop was on record keeping, attended by nurses and a clinical officer.



Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction by Sue Townsend

There was nothing much in at the library, this was a new and therefore unstained book, it was a hot day and I fancied an easy read. I did not envisage recommending Adrian Mole in *The Spire* as I had last encountered him at 13¾ and thought him droll but over-rated. Now he is 34¾ and he made me cackle with laughter on the train. Such a rare treat especially these days. I urge you to take another look at him. Despite 'verging on middle age' (he has a bald spot the size of a trebor extra large mint) and having fathered several children with different women, one of whom he married and divorced, he remains an innocent - this vulnerability is probably what renders him attractive to them. He has purchased a canalside apartment on Rat Wharf which is 'spare, masculine and very hard-textured'. As soon as he moves in he is terrorised by a gang of swans who inhabit his bit of the canal. He christens the leader 'Gielgud'. 'Occasionally Gielgud would fly past my balcony window. I had forgotten that swans could fly. I had the feeling that he was spying on me and mocking me because I had so few possessions'. In January he notes 'the car park at Rat Wharf is like an ice rink. Gielgud and his wife looked like a bad tempered Torville and Dean this morning'.

Attracted by the 'thin wrists and fingers that I like in women' Adrian falls in love with Marigold Flowers who makes tiny furniture and soft furnishings for her 18 dolls houses. Inevitably this romance is ill fated particularly when her sister Daisy appears on the scene, not to mention his childhood sweetheart, Pandora, now an MP in the Blair government.

Although is it superficially a light amusing read, there are some very serious issues running through the book. A literalist, Adrian is beguiled by credit card companies and banks offering him credit, thereby, as he believes, meeting his debts; we dread the consequences as these mount up. The dark reality of the war in Iraq is ever present and Adrian's seventeen year old son is eventually deployed there. A friend goes blind, something the author has experienced. Sue Townsend writes with tenderness and insight and we perceive her hero as not merely foolish, but kind, loving and compassionate. There is far more to Mole than meets the eye, as there is with most of us.

HARVEST GIFTS for the UPPER ROOM

St James is collecting essential items for the **Upper Room**, a charity that provides a broad range of services for the homeless, vulnerable, and socially disadvantaged of West London.

Please give generously, bringing your gift to church on Sunday 2 October (or before mid-October).

Foods with a past sell-by-date are not accepted. The charity prefers tinned food with at least 12 months remaining for consumption.

Tinned Foods: corned and minced beef, chicken, sausages, salmon, pilchards and sardines, tomatoes, peas, carrots, chick peas, potatoes, sweet corn, soups of any kind, fruit, custard.

Dry Goods: sugar, lentils and other pulses, stock cubes.

Jars: jams, marmalade and honey, tomato ketchup and brown sauce, pasta and pesto sauces.

Toiletries: toothbrushes and toothpaste, disposable razors, soap and shampoo (travel size), stick deodorants, body lotions.

Clothing: new socks, trainers, men's and women's underpants.

We shall tell you more about the work of Upper Room next month and you will find out how your gifts are used.

Living the Eucharist

On Saturday 24th September there will be
a parish study day on the Eucharist

Time: 10.30 Place: St James hall

The day will conclude with a celebration of the
Eucharist at 16.30 in church

Contact Brian or Julie for more information
A full programme will be available in church

ALL WELCOME

Introductory Course in Understanding Bereavement

Once again the Richmond upon Thames Branch of Cruse Bereavement Care is offering an introductory course in Understanding Bereavement. This has been run every second year for eighteen years and has proved very popular. We use the Course as our method for identifying potential Volunteer Counsellors for the Branch. We are running the course for ten weeks starting on 20th September of this year. If you or someone you know are interested in attending the training you will be very welcome to join us.

Cruse Bereavement Care Richmond upon Thames Branch
c/o CVS 1 Princes Street Richmond upon Thames Surrey TW9 1ED
020 8785 4415 (answerphone)



As Hampton says farewell to David Vanstone, Vicar of All Saints, we send him our very best wishes for his well-earned retirement, hoping that he and Susan will enjoy many more happy years together. David will be missed not only by his parish and congregation for his guidance in their Christian life, but also by the community of Hampton in which he has been active for so long.

Jean Wilson is now home again and recovering well after her time in hospital. We are, however, very sorry that Rose Frier has broken her wrist in a fall, and we hope that she will be able to lead a fairly comfortable life with her arm in a plaster!

Ruth and Jack Gostling celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this month. Many congratulations.

Teddington Hospital has now a walk-in-centre pharmacy: the service is available to anyone who has a prescription from anywhere, and is open every day. Opening hours are: Monday to Friday 7.30am-10.00pm; Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 8.30am-9.00pm.

We shall all miss our popular gift-and-card shop Ashton House, now relocated to Hersham. How many people remember when it was Edwards' grocery shop?

Christian Aid are holding a Sponsored Walk around Richmond Park on 24 September 10am - 3pm. Start at Cambrian Gate and follow the deer. Walk any distance up to 15 kilometres. For more details contact Elspeth Clarke on 020 7496 1681.

Grand "Opening our Doors" will take place on Sunday October 30th when Bishop Michael will be with us to bless our new porch extension. More about this next month.

Finally, our warmest good wishes to young friends beginning new jobs, going to University or College, moving or starting school. Good Luck!

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

- 3 Juliet Isobel Gray, Hampton Hill
17 Xenia Angel Truman, Hampton Hill
Hugo Dominic Truman, Hampton Hill
Daniel Louis Truman, Hampton Hill
Rueben Jacob Truman, Hampton Hill
31 Faren Vary, Hampton Hill
Jaxon Alan Vary, Hampton Hill

WEDDINGS

- 16 Anthony James Diprose and Noira Rachel Weir
23 Darrell Grant Webb and Linda Susan Mann
30 David Patrice Millet and Elizabeth Lynne Pitcher
Andrew Thomas Mackintosh Muir and
Maria Gabriella Samantha Sardone

FUNERALS

- 7 Josphine Aspinall Waters, Hampton 88
26 Gladys Duval 93

DATES TO NOTE

- 1 14.00 Holy Communion
4 **15th Sunday after Trinity**
08.00 Holy Communion, 09.30 Parish Communion
7 Parochial Church Council
11 **16th Sunday after Trinity**
08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion, Preacher Phil Evans from USAPG
14 Holy Cross Day
15 Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage and Martyr, 258
16 Ninian, Bishop of Glasgow, 432
18 **17th Sunday after Trinity**
08.00 Holy Communion, 09.30 Parish Communion
20 John Coleridge Patterson, Bishop and Martyr, 1871
21 Matthew, apostle and evangelist
25 **St Michael and All Angels, transferred**
08.00 Holy Communion, 09.30 Parish Communion
15.30 Tea Party for the recently baptised
27 Vincent Paul, founder of the Lazarists
29 St Michael and All Angels