

WELCOME

March for slave trade

You are invited to join the Archbishops of York and Canterbury in a unique event to commemorate the bicentenary of the Act for the abolition of slavery

The Church of England is inviting thousands of people from across the country to join the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for an historic event in London on Saturday 24 March to mark the Bicentenary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

The Archbishops will lead the Walk of Witness through parts of the capital to culminate in a large-scale act of worship at Kennington Park. The event, organised by the Church's Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, forms the main part of the Church's wider awareness campaign, *Making our Mark*, set up following the General Synod debate in February 2006 on the subject of the Bicentenary.

The walk is being designed as a high-profile public act of Christian witness, following the formal apology made by the General Synod in February 2006 to the heirs of those who were enslaved. Organisers hope the event will be a gathering to acknowledge the lasting legacy of the slave trade and will serve as an

act of repentance and confession.

The Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, chair of committee, said: 'The event will mark the beginning of a healing process and a foundation for future relationships. We hope it will serve as a public acknowledgement of a time in history when people of African origin were barbarically treated, and will present an opportunity to re-commit ourselves to truly live by the values of the gospel - loving, caring and respecting one another as human beings made in the image of God. With these aims in mind, we pray that the walk will become an assertion of the power of the resurrection.'

Go to www.makingourmark.org.uk for more information on the Walk of Witness, a route map and details of how to register.

Making our Mark is benefiting from funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The venture is also supported by Anglican mission agency USPG, which today continues to work with churches in the Caribbean and West Africa.

Making our Mark is the Church of England's national contribution to Set All Free, a project of Churches Together in England working to commemorate the bicentenary.

■ See the Charities and Links news on Page Seven for details of the Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2007.

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...he's great at organising; but just not so good at delegating!

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NOTES TO NOTE



Lost your copy? Want to read an article again? Do not worry! All the Spire Magazines are now being put on the website in their entirety. Whole Magazines dating from January 2006 are now online. Go to: **Spire Magazine>Magazine Archives**. Selected articles from magazines are also on the website. Go to **Past Events** then choose the year you are interested in. Both these sections are being developed and will gradually include more.



Most of the photographs and artwork in the Spire and on the Website are provided by Prill Hinckley in digital format. If you would like to use any of them for Parish or Community use, please contact her and she will send you the appropriate digital files. These will be of a higher quality than the ones on the website.

All copy for the next issue of *The Spire* must be with us by:
15 FEBRUARY Send to the Parish Office (see contacts)

LENT 2007

Special events at St James'



Ash Wednesday

21 February 20.00 Parish Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Sundays in Lent 25 Feb, 4, 11, 18, 25 March

Normal Sunday Services, plus 21.00 Compline (Night Prayer)

Sunday 18 March

Mothering Sunday

Tuesday 20 March

20.00 Institution and Induction of the Peter Vannozi

Lent Housegroups

Meet weekly - details of times and places in church

Palm Sunday 1 April

09.30 All-Age Communion and Procession of Palms

Monday in Holy Week

09.15 Morning Prayer 20.00 Compline (Night Prayer) and Communion

Tuesday in Holy Week

09.30 Communion 20.00 Compline (Night Prayer)

Wednesday in Holy Week

07.00 Commuters' Communion 09.15 Morning Prayer 20.00 Compline (Night Prayer)

Maundy Thursday 5 April

09.15 Morning Prayer 20.00 Commemoration of Last Supper and Washing of Feet

Good Friday 6 April

10.30 Service for All Ages 12.00-15.00 Three Hours of Meditation - 'John and the Cross of Christ'

Easter Eve 7 April

20.00 Easter Vigil and Lighting of New Fire

Easter Day 8 April

08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion

More about Easter online in Worship/Services section.

Prayers from the Jays

Dear God, We pray for the people in Kenya and other poor places. Amen.

Please look after the world and keep us safe. Amen.

Electoral Roll revision

The Electoral Roll has to be completely revised every six years and this year everyone will need to fill out an electoral roll form. The forms will be available in church from Sunday 28 January. Completed forms should be returned either to the Parish Office or one of the Churchwardens.

LEADER

Vicars just take a couple of services on a Sunday, don't they?

Liz Butler discovered there was a bit more to a priest's working week, but thanks to the many helpers it all got done - somehow

Having worked in education all my working life, it had never occurred to me what the life of a vicar was really like. I suppose many people think that they do a few house visits, take a couple of Sunday services and smile sweetly at old ladies in the High Street.

Boy did I have a shock when I began to realise all that went on unseen - the shock of course being that Rodney and I had to do it all now, or at least make sure someone else did! With the shock came good fortune in the shape of many willing supporters and helpers from the congregation and elsewhere.

These are some of the tasks that have to be done:

- Choosing readings for the coming months (bearing in mind any festivals or saints days);
- Engaging 'spare' priests to celebrate three or more communion services a week and sending them a service book and all the appropriate details of their service;
- Choosing appropriate hymns and compiling and circulating lists in advance;
- Setting up the church on Saturday ready for the 8am Sunday service. This includes checking who's doing what and putting up the rota;
- Checking there are sufficient communion wafers and wine. Our servers have been most helpful in the 'altar department';
- Making sure that the altar frontal is the correct colour;
- Putting out the pew sheets;
- Filling in details of all the following week's services in the service book (and later checking that each priest has signed it);
- Writing up the intercessions book and hoping that you have been informed of those needing our prayers;
- Dealing with mail that arrives at the vicarage - enquiries about ancestors in the churchyard, forms to be filled in for the diocese, deanery business, bills to pay, etc;
- Meeting wedding couples and



- taking requests for baptisms;
- Dealing with parishioners who really need to speak to a priest because of an unusual problem; and
- Finding someone to dig a hole ready for burial of ashes.

We are very excited ... Peter is a warm, friendly person and is looking forward very much to taking up the St James' position as he loves parish work

Of course, Christmas presented extra tasks like co-ordinating with the schools who use the church for carol services and making sure the tree gets delivered and decorated.

We are so lucky to have Annie Crawford who comes and does the tree and sets the crib.

Paper aeroplanes

An eye has to be kept on the tidiness of the church after each carol service, including removing paper aeroplanes, mud from shoes deposited on the floor, sweet wrappers and restoring all the stray straw to the crib.

The church looked beautiful at Christmas thanks to Coryn and her

flower team. It is kept wonderfully clean thanks to David and Margaret Taylor and their small band of volunteers. There are also people who kindly hold hall keys and deal with the hirers.

Having a confirmation service at St James' during the interregnum presented its own problems too, but fortunately Julie (Gittoes) was the backbone of the organisation for this as she had prepared our candidates and liaised with Bishop Michael.

Our social committee worked very hard at this event and provided a wonderful spread of food. One of those dedicated people, Sarah Richardson, was a confirmation candidate too, so she roped in her husband and mum to help as well!

Tremendous back-up

So, as you see, we have been very fortunate indeed to have received such tremendous back-up, and we couldn't have coped without it.

It has been so lovely recently to hear very positive and forward-looking comments from the congregation.

One person said that she had really enjoyed hearing different priests; what has seemed a potentially difficult experience had actually turned out to be a pleasure.

Another person said they hoped that Peter would be quite different from Brian because then comparisons could not be made and it was all part of moving forward.

Peter's induction

And what's to come? Well, we are very excited about Peter's induction and, of course, the plans are well under way already: the liturgy, the guest list, the music, the hospitality and so on.

Peter is a warm, friendly person and is looking forward very much to taking up the St James' position as he loves parish work.

Of course, Rodney and I will do all we can to help and guide him through his first few months until he settles in and finds his feet.

Roll on 20 March!

The all-new generation game



Following the birth of Ella in November last year, **Coryn Robinson** reflects on what it means to be a granny and the effect it has had on the extended four generations of family.

Becoming a granny? Well, it is still a very new experience (Ella is only a few weeks old); however, I have given it some thought.

The beginnings of 'grandparent-hood' probably started when son James and his wife Mel excitedly told us their news back in the early spring of 2006. We all joined in the 'great announcing'. After all, not only was this baby the first child, grandchild and great grandchild, but, in our very extended family, it heralded the beginning of a whole new generation.

Almost everybody we told shared in our wonder and amazement, but I was already, only a few weeks into the pregnancy, beginning to have anxieties, fears and concerns.

Would everything go all right? Was the baby developing normally? How would Mel and James manage, having only just bought their first home? Was Mel coping with the heat? Incredibly, despite her obvious pregnancy, when commuting to London she more than once had to get off a train early as nobody offered her a seat.

I was showing clear signs of becoming a granny - all I could do was worry!

The pregnancy continued well, with Mel increasing in size and

'great granny-to-be' (my mum Eila) knitting as fast as she could to produce an exquisite, traditional shawl using an old family pattern. It was completed as autumn began. Everything was ready.

The baby's due date conveniently coincided with half-term holiday: wonderful planning, except she was a very late arrival. I couldn't settle to do anything, but had to stay at home and make curtains.

Within hours this human being transformed my son and daughter-in-law

Maybe I too was 'nesting'. I had already cleared the whole house to make room for a growing collection of kindly-donated baby items.

Poor Ian was heard more than once muttering to friends that far from gaining space from having the children move out, I was rapidly filling it with the second cycle of baby paraphernalia!

Baby Ella arrived after a difficult birth and ten days late. We were all exhausted from the tension, but also elated. The baby was very healthy, and her mum was recovering fast. Having waited at the end of the phone for the last few days, I couldn't get over to Kingston Hospi-

tal quickly enough to celebrate with all her new grandparents!

My first reaction was not only relief and wonder at this beautiful new baby, but also that within only a few hours this human being had transformed my son and daughter-in-law into adoring, capable and utterly competent parents. Obviously I could relax and enjoy my new role of granny!

It is early days, and we are very fortunate in being able to easily pop over to get lots of cuddles, and admire and enjoy Ella's progress. I have also taken an increased interest in the wider aspects of baby-hood: there is an amazing selection of wonderful toys and other products that I had no idea existed. New parents seem a great deal more confident than our generation, with far more information and choice than we had.

I have also reflected on my mother's relationship with me at this stage when she was learning to be a new granny. Always completely supportive, only ever offering advice when it was asked for, she seemingly effortlessly made time whenever it was needed and enjoyed developing a lovely relationship with her first - and every subsequent - grandchild. A wonderful role model, and one I will happily follow!



Many thanks to the Sunday School for the splendid **Jesse tree** which was in the baptistry over the Christmas period, and to all those unseen helpers who cleaned and decorated the church, arranged flowers and erected the tree and crib. The church looked wonderful and we do appreciate the effort that ensures this happens each year.

During the festive season, a number of our congregation have heard from our **former clergy** and their families, including Freda Evans, Nicholas and Susan Chubb, Connie Brunt (widow of Rupert) and of course Julie and Brian and Ramani. We remember them all with gratitude.

Marion Dewey will shortly be moving to Burton Bradstock, near Bridport. We wish her every happiness.

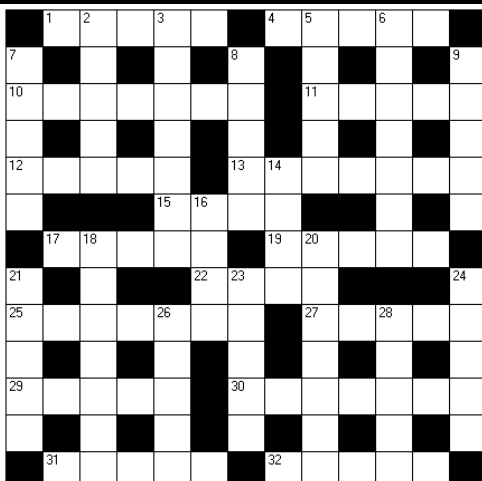
Welcome to the **Farmers' Market** which has recently opened on the High Street.

Thank you to everyone who has so far donated to the **flower fund**. Coryn Robinson also needs flower arrangers.

Several members of our congregation are awaiting **surgery**. We wish them all well and a speedy recovery.

REGISTERS

For December:
BAPTISM
17 Joshua Rowe



Crossword No 200702

Across

- 1 Piece of wood cut by Elisha in 2 Kings ch. 6 (5)
4 Adhesive label proving postage has been paid (5)
10 Root vegetable (7)
11 Moslem religion (5)
12 Flashing spear and ___ (Job 39.23) (5)
13 Disease (7)
15 Performance by a single individual (4)
17 Highly spiced food first devised in Birmingham (5)
19 Burnt remains put on by Mordecai in Esther ch. 4 (5)
22 Elevator (4)
25 In which Paul shook out his clothes in Acts ch. 18 (7)
27 Caleb's daughter in Judges ch. 1 (5)

- 29 ..astounded at the ___ of fish (Luke 5.9) (5)
30 Palace home of Popes from 4th to 14th century (7)
31 Small value coin (5)
32 Sheds tears, as did Hezekiah in 2 Kings ch. 20 (5)

Down

- 2 Italian city after which a certain shroud was named (5)
3 Great struggle in the face of suffering in Hebrews ch. 10 (7)
5 Test (5)
6 Of an island on which St Paul was shipwrecked (7)
7 Fruit of tree that dried up Joel ch. 1 (5)
8 ..like one who finds great ___ (Ps 119.162) (5)

- 9 Break, as the three companies broke the jars in Judges ch. 7 (5)
14 What can be made with two tenths of an ephah of flour in Leviticus ch. 24 (4)
16 Medium used for painting (4)
18 Any one of twelve disciples chosen by Jesus (7)
20 Terrors ___ him on every side (Job 18.11) (7)
21 Gathered with myrrh in Song ch. 5 (5)
23 Whence came Pontus in Acts ch. 18 (5)
24 Intone (5)
26 One of those sounding cymbals in 1 Chronicles ch. 15 (5)
28 A pilgrim's pouch (5)

January's answers (200701) Across: 5 Years 8 Hogmanay 9 Bible 10 Theocrat 11 Wheat 14 New 16 Shinto 17 Handle 18 Day 20 Dream 24 Tiberias 25 Kings 26 Gamaliel 27 Storm Down: 1 White 2 Agree 3 Dance 4 Palace 6 Epiphany 7 Reliable 12 Chartist 13 Endanger 14 Nod 15 Why 19 Animal 21 Decay 22 Minim 23 Psalm

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine.



Prill Hinckley dusts off another page from the parish magazine - this time from February 1885

Where do we live? Strangers are sometimes puzzled when they are told by A and C that they live at Hampton Hill, whilst B, whose house lies between them, stoutly maintains that he lives at New Hampton. It is a pity that we cannot make up our minds amongst ourselves which is the right title, and thus be freed from the anomaly of one village having two different and distinct names.

The district which bears these two names was in 1864 separated from the mother parish of Hampton by order of the Queen in Council. Perhaps the following extracts from this 'Order' may throw some light on this apparently perplexing question:

ORDER OF QUEEN IN COUNCIL. At the Court at Windsor, the 7th day of April, 1864. Present: The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

After some preliminary remarks, there is introduced a representation made to Her Majesty by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of England as follows: - 'Whereas, it appears to us to be expedient that a New Parish should be assigned to the said Church of Saint James, situate at Hampton Hill'; and again, 'it would, in our opinion, be

expedient that all that part of the said parish of Hampton which is described in the schedule hereunder written (all lying north of the Hampton Edge road and the Longford river) should be assigned to the said Church, and that the same should be named "The New Parish* of Hampton Hill".

And it goes on to say, 'Whereas the said representation has been approved by Her Majesty in Council: now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her said Council, is pleased hereby to ratify the said representation, and to order and direct that the same and every part thereof shall be effectual in law.'

It would appear therefore that 'Hampton Hill' is the name 'effectual in law' and should be used in all legal descriptions of the place. There is no higher authority than this Order in Council.

* *In the original 'district chapelry,' but by an Act passed since, all district chapelries having become New Parishes, the words 'New Parish is inserted to make the sense clearer'.*

Visit our website for much more from the archives, as well as an expanding history section



HISTORY GROUP/HISTORY OF ST JAMES' CHURCH

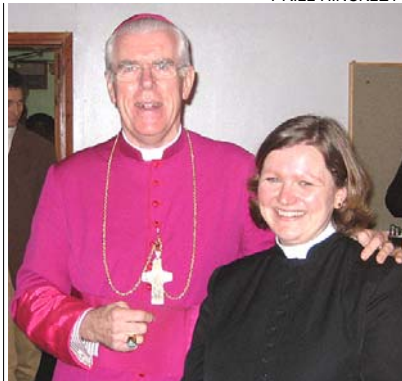
The History Group are supplementing and continuing the story of St James' Church, recorded by Margery Orton in her book, *The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill*. They are building up archival evidence and using extracts from this, including past magazine articles, PCC minutes, photographs and information provided by local people. If you would like to be involved in, or contribute to, this long-term project please contact Prill Hinckley or Coryn Robinson.

PRILL HINCKLEY

Ros ordained priest

On Saturday 6 January Ros McDowell, well known to us at St James', was ordained priest at the church of Holy Innocents, Hammersmith, where she has been a deacon and will continue as the assistant priest. With her were family members, including husband Tim, and Mark, our 'parish baby'.

The service opened appropriately enough with 'Behold a great priest' an anthem by Bruckner, sung with feeling by Concordia. This anthem set the keynote for the ceremony, led by Bishop Michael who ordained Ros and presided at the Holy Communion. Brian preached the sermon, speaking for Ros the priest, the wife, mother, daughter, lawyer and friend to many, who has now been received and accepted as a fully ordained servant of God. I am sure Ros appreciated the sermon and felt its power and conviction that she will continue in her ministry as her true self, cho-



sen by God. The congregation, many from St James', supported Ros in their prayers, and our new priest was radiant and fulfilled. As she processed out of the church Ros carried Mark, who one day will understand her great calling. We send our love as she goes forward.

Make your new year resolution to do God's business

We were privileged to welcome Bishop Michael as our celebrant and preacher on New Year's Eve. His sermon gave us much to consider as a Christian community and in our personal lives as we begin the new year.

He reminded us of the twelve-year-old Jesus, thought to be lost, telling his anxious parents that he 'must be about his Father's business'.

The bishop gently suggested that in following our faith, we too have duties and may be called to make sacrifices, referring us to Paul's exhortation to the Colossians: we should try to 'clothe [ourselves] with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience'.

This will certainly not make competitive secular life easy, but as a community we are both helped and helpers.

Coming together in communion we are a family, supporting one another and being supported as we try to go about our Father's business ourselves.

Helpful words from two fathers of the church: Abbot Anthony, 'every morning I say to myself, today I start'; and the French Dominican Father Lacordaire, 'I go where God leads me, uncertain of myself, but sure of Him'.

Dick Wilde

YOURS FAITHFULLY

PRILL HINCKLEY



Johanna Calder

Johanna is married to Hamish and her three children are Alice, Ursula and Peter. She works part time as a Traveller Achievement Teacher for Richmond

When and why did you come to St James'?

We came to St James' in 2005 after having moved to St James' Road. I like being able to just walk up the road and attend our local church.

What do you value most about St James'?

I value St James' as an open and welcoming church, especially for families. I also loved Brian and Julie's thought-provoking sermons and look forward to Peter Vannozi.

How did you become a Christian?

I was baptised by my Dad, aged six weeks old, when he was a parish priest in the Anglican Church in Nova Scotia, Canada. He later went on to become an archbishop (now retired). His example and influence has had a massive impact on my faith. Dad's humble background, poor upbringing and ability to connect and communicate his faith with a wide range of people has been an inspiration to me. Questions of faith were debated round the dinner table. As a teenager there was an eclectic flow of dynamic religious personalities that visited our home, including Robert Runcie and Desmond Tutu. Despite the awe and wonder of grand cathedral events, I have most consistently experienced faith in quieter moments of reflection.

What is it in Christianity that particularly inspires you?

Christ's example of love, forgiveness and humility.

What difference does being a Christian makes to your life?

It has been a consistent source of strength throughout my life, when living in Canada, Hong Kong and England and facing different challenges.

What is the most useful lesson you have learned in life so far?

To be flexible and open-minded, without losing sight of core values and beliefs.

THE JAYS

Lent - what is it all about?

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, it is a time of reflection and preparation. By observing the 40 days, we mark Jesus' sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for forty days. Lent is a time for fasting, both from food and festivities.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including his crucifixion in Jerusalem.

Lent is a time for prayer and penance. Many people give up a food to reflect Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and for self-discipline.

The colour purple

Purple is associated with mourning

and so anticipates the pain of the crucifixion, but also with royalty and celebrates Christ's resurrection.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shroving, when a person confesses their sins and receives absolution. Pancakes became associated with it as they could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house ahead of Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. We hold special services at which worshippers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality. The ashes are made by burning palm crosses from the previous Palm Sunday. As he marks them,

the minister says 'remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return', based on God's sentence on Adam.

The marking of the head with ash also reminds us that:

- Death comes to everyone
- We should be sad for our sins
- We must change for the better
- God made man by breathing life into dust. Without God we are nothing more than dust and ashes.

The ash is sometimes mixed with anointing oil, which reminds us of God's blessings and of the anointing that took place at our baptism.

The cross on the believer's forehead symbolises that through Christ's death and resurrection, all Christians can be free from sin.

Jays at large...

■ Alice Calder was awarded merit in her Grade 3 drama exam. Sister Ursula gained a Grade 4 merit in her trumpet exam.

■ Alice Coaker is performing in Twelfth Night at the Orange Tree Theatre this Sunday with her old school, Archdeacon Cambridge. She plays the part of a priest, as well as playing her flute.

■ Joshua Gould has been awarded a Yellow belt in judo.

■ Isobel Nettleton gave a tremendous performance in the Hampton Hill Junior School's Christmas Play, *Peace Child*, where she played a woman who had to give up her new born child to a rival tribe in order to create peace between them. It was a very moving performance. Her solo was beautiful and brought tears to the eyes.

Keep the faith and anything is possible

This month, we begin a series looking at key Bible characters, starting with Sarah in the Old Testament

As Abraham's wife, she was ten years his junior, but unable to have children (Genesis 11:30). Yet 35 years later, when Sarah was 90 years old she gave birth to Isaac as God had promised (21:1-7).

This remarkable woman has much to teach us about God's purposes in our lives. Abraham was 75 when God promised him a son and heir (15:4,5).

With things moving slowly, Sarah suggested that Abraham should try for a son through her maid Hagar. Ishmael, according to the laws of the time, was regarded as Abraham's son. However, this was never God's intention, as he will not allow us to manipulate him.

At Mamre, Abraham entertained three visitors, who re-affirmed God's promise of a son to arrive within the year. Sarah simply laughed to herself, as her inner unbelief found expression in incredulous laughter (18:12).

However, God's answer to her was uncompromising, 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?' (18:14). For Sarah, after 25 years of waiting, her unbelief was turned into the laughter of faith as Isaac was finally born (21:6).

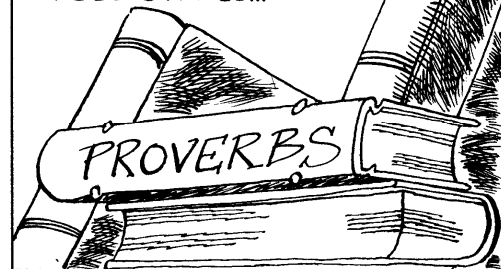
For her the impossible became reality. Sarah learned to trust God's promise and to wait upon his timing. We also need to remember that God's delays are not God's denials!

In what situations are we called to trust God's timing for our lives?

Picture Proverbs

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS IS A COLLECTION OF 'WISE' SAYINGS FROM THE HEART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS THE LORD HATES...



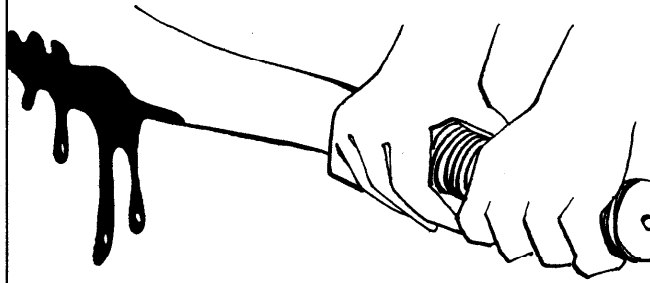
...A PROUD LOOK...



...A LYING TONGUE...



...HANDS THAT KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE...



...A MIND THAT THINKS UP WICKED PLANS...



...FEET THAT HURRY TO DO EVIL...



...A WITNESS WHO TELLS ONE LIE AFTER ANOTHER...

...AND SOMEONE WHO STIRS UP TROUBLE AMONG FRIENDS.



see Proverbs 6.16

Winning through despite struggle

Angela Mullens, USPG Mission Companion, reports from Hegongo Holy Cross Secondary School, Tanzania, on progress and the challenges ahead



A new arrival of books, in particular English and Swahili dictionaries, is enabling students to make good use of books in lessons. It is aiding their vocabulary. We have also received books for other subjects and CDs of GCSE revision notes, the Encyclopedia Britannica and an interactive atlas.

These resources can be used in the classroom as teaching aids, demonstrating mechanisms as well as clearly outlining features.

In the near future we hope to send a teacher to upgrade his English on a British Council course in Dar es Salaam. The head of science is working for his degree with the Open University. All teachers are to receive computer training from the head of computers and they will have access to a range of computer programs which they will be able to use on a laptop in the classroom.

At the end of the last year some Form 4 students received certificates for completing a computer course which included access to the internet, use of emails and a full range of computer programs. We were one of the only schools to enter Form 2 students in national exams in computing.

In September, we held our prize-giving, the first time along with Form 4 graduation. Students were

related to receive gold or silver medals for their achievements.

Cups were awarded to the winning houses for success in academic work, sport and activities. It was wonderful to experience the way students were uplifted and encouraged. The tiny medals have motivated students to work and it has changed the atmosphere to one where there is a greater emphasis on the carrot than the stick! I am looking for local people to sponsor this event.

We are aiming to raise the intake to 200. This is challenging as fees are high, prices are high

In November, the senior management team set targets for the school for 2007. We are aiming to raise the intake to 200. Currently it is 170. This is quite challenging as fees are high, prices are high and the economic situation is poor.

Parents struggle to pay the fees, which are more than at government schools, and because of limited funds, teachers' salaries are less than those who work in government schools. In November, there wasn't enough to pay their salaries. Therefore, a second target is to start some income-generating projects. We have plans to restock our farm. Our cows are not yielding enough milk and will be replaced with higher yielding animals by purchasing in-calf heifers from a community project.

We have received funding to start a broiler project for 200 chickens and we plan to sell day-old chicks. We are looking for a chicken incu-



bator. We will also plant fruit and teak trees on our annual tree planting day.

Another target is the regeneration of the school library. This has lain dormant for some time. It contains some books which were donated more than 50 years ago and are now entirely unsuitable. During the Christmas holidays staff set about cataloguing the library, so with the appointment of a young librarian and the arrival of some new books we look forward to students using the library once more.

This year has seen considerable building and renovation work. The Christian Social Service Council of Tanzania refurbished the matron's house and built an ablution block. A house for the headmaster was restored. This means that the headmaster will now be able to live on site. The roof of the administration block was renewed and a water harvesting project installed. This project has been particularly valuable during recent water shortages in supplying the kitchens with water. The classroom block has been repaired.

Constant heavy rains have meant that maintenance of our sports field has been very difficult. We invited a local farmer to graze his cows there during the long holidays in an attempt to keep down the grass, but

at the beginning of the new school year students and maintenance staff will have to make a concerted effort to restore the field. We have arranged several matches - volleyball, netball, basketball and football - with the community and we look forward to introducing our new Form 1 to these games as well as table tennis and badminton.

Students have greatly enjoyed the range of matches we played last year. They enthusiastically played matches in the community and with this new spirit of 'sportsmanship' has come a turning away from the idea of fights and retaliation.

With the start of the new school year in January we welcomed back Forms 2-4 and the new Form 1. We are working together to raise standards. We look forward to developing and expanding and becoming confidently self-sufficient.

We ask your prayers for:

- Headmaster Mr. John Mdimu
- New Entry Form 1
- Forms 2 and 4, preparing for exams

- Our self-reliance projects
- Parents and guardians who struggle to pay fees
- Our teachers and the recruitment of new ones.

This feature, together with more pictures, is on our website.

From One Extreme to the Other

Sunday 25 February
3.30pm
Church Hall

Come and enjoy tea and cake while Gwynneth Lloyd and Ann Peterken share news of their travels in Antarctica and Rwanda.

Donations for the Diocese of London Lent Appeal.

Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2007

LAYTON THOMPSON

Take the shackles off my feet so I can dance

Like William Wilberforce 200 years ago, Christians today believe that human beings should be free. Your gifts will support projects working with trafficked people and forced labourers in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Full information on the projects will be displayed in the church and hall from mid-February, together with information on how to give. For online giving and full information go to: www.london.anglican.org/LentAppeal



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Fairtrade Fortnight
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