

St. James's tall white spire stands so proudly above the trees of Hampton Hill that it can be seen clearly from as far away as Kingston Hospital, representing a kind of challenge. St. James himself was in some ways the most challenging of the apostles. He was certainly a plain speaker, even blunt. Perhaps that is his attraction for a Yorkshireman!

I shall always remember a sermon preached in Westminster Abbey by Michael Ramsey, then Archbishop of Canterbury, at the first Inaugural Service of the Week of Prayer for World Peace in October 1974.

The text of the sermon was from the Letter of James, chapter 4, verses 1 and 2: 'Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly fighting within you. You desire things, but you cannot have them, so you are ready to kill; you strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it.'

Michael Ramsey had one of the clearest theological brains of our age, as well as the purest faith. I learned a great deal from him when he was my Professor of Theology at Durham University. So, naturally, I took careful note of his text when he preached the sermon which was to give us such an encouraging start on our great venture in launching the Week of Prayer for World Peace.

Michael Ramsey was helping us to understand that if we truly want peace we must ask God for it. The New Testament reading set for the Transfiguration, following so soon after St. James's Day, starts: 'We say this because we have confidence in God through Christ' (2 Corin- thians 3.4). If we want peace we must have confidence in God and the Gospel.

It seems to me that St. James, in his down-to-earth way, was really saying in that chapter 4 of his Letter that we are justified by our faith.

That is quite strange, because in the great controversies which once raged through the Church between the mainly Protestant adherents of 'Justified by Faith' (St. Paul) and the mainly Catholic believers in 'Justified by Works' it was St. James who inspired the latter. Yet here we have St. James telling us that we should above all have confidence in God, and thus be justified by faith. It rather indicates how falsely based some of these bitter controversies have been!

The Old Testament reading for the Transfiguration tells of the inauguration of the Old Covenant, with Moses coming down from Mount Sinai with two tablets of stone containing the Law. The New Testament reading, on the other hand, is about our solemn commitment through the New Covenant to the New Law of Christ, which is the Law of Love. Through the New Covenant, St. Paul says, the Spirit bestows upon us a greater glory than that which could be seen shining from the face of Moses. It also gives us a greater confidence and boldness than that known by Moses of old.

That glory of the New Covenant is symbolised by the Transfiguration of Christ. How very deeply significant it is that the Feast of the Transfiguration itself falls on 6 August. In our lifetime that date is for ever imprinted on our minds by the occasion in 1945 when a different and more terrible unearthly light shone in the world, a kind of devilish reversal of the glory of the Transfiguration; a baleful evil light which revealed not God's glory but man's utter depravity and sin.

In a sense, the Transfiguration on 6 August presents us with a stark choice between the bright light of God's glory and the eternal salvation through love, on the one hand, and the hellish glare of utter evil and hellish doom through the rejection of love, on the other.

St. James would have appreciated the starkness of that choice. Indeed, it illustrates with brutal clarity what he was saying in that text chosen by Michael Ramsey in 1974.

It will be a privilege to welcome Rupert back to St. James's for the Festival on 24 July. Before then, Jean and I will have been walking to Canterbury on a pilgrimage to call upon the bishops at the 1988 Lambeth Conference to inspire us to have such confidence in the Gospel, symbolised on 6 August by the Glory of the Transfiguration, that we can all reject the evil of violence, epitomised on that same date by the baleful glare of the evil destructive force which is the culmination of all the fighting and quarrelling which St. James tells us results from our failure to ask God for the peace we need.

Gordon Wilson (Early July)

Churches Urban Fund - Pilgrimage to St. Paul's

What a marvellous day Sunday 19th June turned out to be for this pilgrimage, the launch, in London, of the fund to provide £18m now, nationwide, and £80m over the next twenty years. The main concern of the fund is to restore the quality of life to people of the inner cities and to change their despair into hope. The fund will allocate money to practical projects, not conventional ones that should be undertaken by government, but church-based, locally organised schemes for counselling and training.

Clouds appeared as three of us from St. James's set off, but with faith in our hearts we left our wet-weather gear behind and prayed that the sun would continue to shine - and we were not disappointed. At about 2pm we arrived at St. Luke's, Chelsea, to join the many others from all over the Kensington Area - old people with walking sticks, babies in pushchairs, in all sorts of gear, many sporting 'Faith in our City' Tee-shirts - all gathered for this momentous occasion to demonstrate their faith in a just and loving Father who loves and cares for us all and requires each of us, in his name, to love and care for each other.

Miraculously, at 2.30pm the chaos managed to sort itself out and everyone gathered three-abreast behind the Bishop of Kensington for the four-mile walk to St. Paul's. Flanked by policemen, we were stared at curiously by the citizens of London and the thousands of tourists out for a stroll or sightseeing on that lovely sunny afternoon. We wonder how many realised what we were all about.

After a welcome break for refreshment at St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, we set off on the last lap with banners and flags and 'Faith in our City' balloons, accompanied by (rather loud) live rock music. What an impressive sight it was as, on a given signal, all our balloons went swirling into the sky! The other Area Bishops led their flocks up the steps of St. Paul's too, and all crowded in for the service at 6pm.

The cathedral was packed with ordinary people of London, every shape, size and colour, from babies to the elderly, all happy to join in the praise and worship. The atmosphere cannot be described, it had to be experienced. What a pity that more members of St. James's were not able to be there, but the three of us who were will remember it for a very long time. Such experiences do not occur very often.

We were there to collect the £100 that is to come to St. James's so that we can multiply its value within a year by any means we can devise. London aims to raise £800,000. The three of us, (Mona, Moya and Ruth Mills) had also been sponsored for the walk itself to the sum of £140 - thanks to those who supported us. We hope that our small effort will be the first of many.

Mona Gow and Moya Smith

Churches Urban Fund: One Idea

There are several ways in which we are planning to raise money for this important project. When looking at how people could use their own 'talents' directly in using money to make money, I offered my expertise in stamp collecting to buy and sell stamps. This offer has been accepted and I have just bought an accumulation of stamps which I plan to sell - at a profit! (I have been buying and selling stamps for several years at a profit in order to pay for the stamps in my own collection).

Clearly the more stamps I get - especially if I don't need to buy them! - the more I will be able to contribute to this fund. So please dig out that forgotten 'school age' collection. You know, the one with stamps stuck in sideways, upside down or just left loose, and those pages of miscellaneous stamps from strange countries that you could never find in an Atlas! Or if you have been 'left' a collection, have no one in mind to whom to give it, and are not certain whether it is worth anything, may I offer my expertise to give you an approximate valuation. Clearly this would be without charge or any obligation! However, should you then want me to sell this, I would use my knowledge to break down and dispose of the collection. I have previously done this for number of people, charging a commission of 10-20% (depending on the work involved). This commission would of course be donated to the fund.

You can see me on Sunday mornings after the 09.30 service or contact me at home. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing your stamps!

Pip Rowett (892 4736)

The Jays

Sunday school is about to change. We have been very carefully considering the needs of young people within the Parish. A new book 'Children in the Way' produced by the Diocese coincides with our feelings that the time is now right for the Sunday School to become more of a place to worship, a place to pass on our faith to our children - for they are all our children: they are the church of the future, the Christians of the future. The Sunday School has a place which is not inferior or secondary to that which takes place in church on a Sunday. It is different and is of equal value. Our worry is that the children, whose parents often have little if any connection with the church, all too often outgrow Sunday School and disappear, losing any connection with the church themselves.

It is time to change our approach - the Diocese's book talks about the importance of children, the importance of teaching, the crossing of parish boundaries and of cooperation across the board for the passing on of our faith.

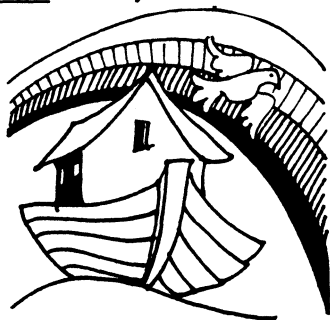
In October we plan to re-open the Sunday School under the title of 'The Jays' - J for Jesus and J for St. James. We are not a school in the sense of direct teaching. We hope to be place of worship, of joy, of fun - a place where children want to be. A place of welcome; a place to discover the joy and good news of Christianity and its power to change people's lives.

We pray that it will become a place of witness to both the children and their parents to show them that worship is an everyday thing, that the home has a special place in the passing on of faith to children - around a family table, eating and breaking bread together, praying together, reading and exploring the Bible, bringing the true meaning of Easter, Christmas and Pentecost into our family lives.

What is more, we wish to involve all members of the Parish in this venture and would humbly remind you and ourselves of our responsibility to help pass on our faith to the children. It also means many other things will need to change. We will need people from our church and from other churches, parents, families, young people, older people, servers, lay readers and priests to join us periodically to explain what Christianity means to them and why they believe. We also want the children to play a bigger part within the worship of St. James's. We will want to challenge people throughout the Parish to become leaders, teachers, helpers for children of all ages - so they will be unable to outgrow the place we make for them.

Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo

This summer's workshops for children aged 5+ will be starting on Monday 1st August. This is part of an initiative across parish boundaries within the Diocese. We are combining at St.



James's with S.S. Michael and George and S.S. Peter and Paul to produce 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo'. Last year we had over 70 children participating - so we will need lots of help - your help - to make music, scenery or costumes, to sing or help with the children, to work the lights, to help with the mysteries of the P.A. system.

The Rebels

Once again crossing Parish boundaries and recognising the need for a place to be created for our young people, we have opened a Youth Fellowship. This is for children aged 10 - 14 years and is held temporarily at the Vicarage of S.S. Michael and George on Tuesdays during term time between 6.30 and 7.30pm. Already comprising children from St. James's and S.S. Michael and George though open to all comers, we have had a barbeque with over 20 children and a visit to the Hampton Pool.

The children have named themselves 'The Rebels' - rebels against the conventions of the world, a little like the first disciples. They want to know the why's of Christianity, the why's of the Liturgy, and what it means to be a Christian in the modern world. We need your help. We also want more and more children to discover for themselves the joys of Christianity - so please make sure that all children, whether they are connected with the church or not, are made aware of the warm welcome that awaits them.

Help!

Can you find it within yourselves to help Children 88. These three works - 'The Jays', 'Noah' and 'The Rebels' are all works of the Spirit. The challenge is to you to respond.

Pam Atkinson

Time and Talents

An article on this subject will be appearing in the next issue. In the meantime, help is needed now:

- if you have time and your only gift is being prepared to spend it having fun with children - see above and contact Pam Atkinson (979 6166).
- if you can stand, read and write and have an interest in churchyard inscriptions - see below and contact Helen Taylor (979 7042).
- if you have a good ear for music and an enjoyment and understanding of the style of music used at 'Prayer 'n' Praise', why not help as a sound engineer (and there has still been no response to the request for a trainee to operate the sound system); or if you are a guitarist (especially a bass guitarist), 'The Travellers' need your help - contact Paul Revis (979 4858).



Ruth Mills

Christian Aid Week

All our collectors worked very hard as usual and, thanks to their efforts, we raised a total of £896 for Christian Aid this year. This represents a lot of knocking on doors and both we and Ruth Marler from St. Theodore's, the local organiser, appreciate all the efforts made by the collectors. If we could have a few more volunteers, who knows what next year might bring? Thank you again. *Margaret and David Taylor*

Celebrations at Ninety!

On a lovely June day Vivienne Prentice celebrated her ninetieth birthday in the best possible way - among all her family and friends. The day started in church with a service conducted by Canon Gordon Wilson, helped by Vivienne's brother, the Rev. Fulljames, who also preached. The set readings for Pentecost 5 were so appropriate to the occasion that Mr. Fulljames told me afterwards that when he saw the readings he abandoned his prepared sermon and launched out afresh - and we in the congregation appreciated his efforts very much because he gave us an excellent sermon. The first Reading from the Old Testament was that lovely story from the Book of Ruth (Ruth 1, 8-17) of Ruth's decision to stay with her mother-in-law, even though her husband had died, and to go with her wherever it might be.

The other two passages (Acts 11, 4-18 and Luke 10, 1-12) concern the bringing of the Gospel to people outside the normal run, in this case, Gentiles, but in our case anyone who has not heard the Good News. What marvellous Readings to have on such a day combining the family with the outside world. Mr. Fulljames paid tribute to his sister and her unswerving faith, and to all her family for whom she had done so much.

The church was well filled for the service and afterwards a beautiful birthday cake was cut to the sound of 'Happy Birthday' and a piece given to everyone present. Eila, Coryn and Jean Wilson had filled the church with summer flowers and it looked lovely (and smelt lovely too).

The family all went on to enjoy a very happy day, Dick Waltham took the photographs and it was certainly a day to remember, especially for Vivienne! *Helen Taylor*

Box-Opening Evening

Once again the supporters of the Children's Society have excelled themselves. The Annual Box-Opening Evening revealed that the amount raised was £350, an increase of nearly £50 over last year's total. This is the highest amount we have ever raised, so congratulations to everyone who contributed to this magnificent sum.

The work of the Society is changing and expanding all the time to meet to-day's new challenges. Although the Society still does run some children's homes, these tend to be of a specialised nature, for example, for handicapped or diabetic children. Their main area of work now is in supporting families in difficult circumstances and with providing accommodation in large cities for homeless youngsters.

Several of our best supporters have recently moved, so to achieve what we have done this year will be harder next year unless we all put a little extra in our boxes. If anyone would like a box please ask me. In the meantime see if you can spot the new advertising logo!. *Helen Taylor*

The Shire Horses at Maidenhead

The weather wasn't very good on the day of our outing (2nd July), but we had our picnic under umbrellas, doing our best to keep the water out of our lager, wine or coke.

Our guided tour started with a screen showing of the major events in the lives of these horses, with a commentary from a horse's point of view by Johnny Morris. In the room were brilliantly polished harnesses and hundreds of colourful rosettes, shields and cups won by these magnificent animals which weigh about a ton each.

There is a beauty parlour where the horses are groomed and shampooed for special occasions, and the guide said that when their tails and manes are being plaited the horses seem to know that they are off to a show and get excited. They have their own farrier's workshop where the farrier can sometimes be seen making and fitting the horse-shoes.

We went out into the yard and rain to look at the horses in their stables. There are 12 and a foal, the oldest being the equivalent of 100 years old. When the sun came out, another was brought out and paraded in the yard: he was huge.

We were shown a horse in hospital suffering from bad feet. Then the groom took the mare and foal out into the paddock to enjoy the sunshine as by then the rain had finished for the day. Reza was invited to feed the foal which he happily did. Suzanne Nunn and Sanz also had a turn.

After a cup of tea in the tea-room we had a look at the birds and rabbits before boarding the coach for home. We all enjoyed the outing and gained a bit of horsey knowledge! Thank you David and the Social Committee.

Violet Clark and Julie Mercer

Monumental Inscriptions

Those of us interested in genealogy or family history sooner or later find ourselves wandering round some graveyard or other in search of the elusive great-grandfather Brown or whatever. This can be a very frustrating exercise for a whole host of reasons. Lately, therefore, many local groups have undertaken to record all the graves and their inscriptions in their local churchyard and to publish them in booklet form to help anyone interested.

As you know we have a largely Victorian/Edwardian churchyard and the ravages of time are already much in evidence among the stone work, so before they disappear totally it would be a worthwhile venture to record all the graves and their inscriptions. I think we shall find some very interesting facts as we go along about the people buried here.

There are some plans of the churchyard in existence, also a burial register which will be very useful. What we want now is volunteers from among the community at large, as well as from our own number, to come to a preliminary meeting in the autumn to discuss how the task should be tackled. If you are interested in joining us, please telephone me.

Helen Taylor (979 7042)

Rev. Ann Douglas

On the 3rd July we attended the ordination of Ann Douglas (né Stuart) at St. Alban's Abbey. It was the culmination for Ann of several years' hard work. Looking back, we think the calling to become a deacon has been with her for many years, subconsciously at first and in the latter years a strong calling.

The abbey was packed for the service, part of the congregation being completely unseen and having the proceedings relayed by loud speaker. We were fortunate enough to have tickets and had good seats close to the front. The service lasted for two hours and we emerged from the abbey into a torrential rainstorm - everybody was soaked.

After the service we attended a buffet lunch back at Christchurch, Chorleywood (Ann's church) and were shown round the church. It was a nice homely church with a 'lived in' feeling - so different from St. Alban's Abbey which seemed cold and remote by comparison. It made one feel it is a pity that ordinations could not be carried out in the church where the priest or deacon is serving.

In conclusion let us remember Ann and her family in our prayers as she starts her ministry. They have already made many sacrifices to enable Ann to be ordained and doubtless will have to make many more in the years to come. God bless you Ann!

Paul and Margaret Revis

Mothers' Union

In May we had a talk from Mrs. Mary Parelli of Cruse. This group meets quite frequently for the sole purpose of helping people who have been bereaved and find it difficult to cope. They also run quite an active social programme and anyone is welcome. We were just 'at home' to ourselves in June to discuss and learn about the activities which surround Mary Sumner House.

Our July meeting was the usual service in church, followed hopefully by tea on the lawn, but the weather thought otherwise. Nevertheless, we had our tea in church, in the south aisle, and everyone enjoyed the home-made cakes and sandwiches to the full. The service was conducted by Hannah Stanton and Jean Wilson, so we were in good hands, and the speaker was Kitty Platt, Deacon from St. Mary's, Hampton. The Ladies Choir sang and were much appreciated. There was a very good attendance as members from other churches had been invited, as usual.

Before the service, Jean presented a card to Doris Childs depicting her 50 years of M.U. membership, and just before the end, flowers were given to Doris and also to Vivienne Prentice who had recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

We do not meet in August, so the next 'get together' will be on 7th September when we will bring our favourite recipes and some of the results which we can exchange with one another.

Hettie Burgess

Trees and Shrubs in the Churchyard

In the past, trees and shrubs have been given by well meaning folk to the Churchyard, some in memory of the dearly-loved departed. Trees have been planted in parts of the churchyard, sometimes in most unsuitable places; for example between graves where the roots have endangered gravestones and branches have obscured the graves. Furthermore, once planted they have been largely forgotten. Some have grown into large trees which have never been pruned since they were planted while others have been almost lost in the wilderness!

The PCC has now resolved not to allow any further planting of trees or shrubs without the permission of the Properties Committee who maintain the church grounds.

Jack Gostling

Scout Group News

John Nielson is the new Group Scout Leader, and Colin Hucklesby, after five years as Leader of the Venture Scouts, has stepped down from that post to become the Cub-Scout Leader. We wish them well in their new positions.

Some 20 cubs (who came second in the Soap-box Derby), 6 scouts and a few Venture Scouts from our group were amongst the 1500 at the Twickeree in Marble Hill Park on 25th June, and on the following weekend, about 30 cubs made an interesting visit to the Chislehurst Caves which, during the war, contained living accommodation, kitchens, a hospital and a church. The Group organised a Sports Fun Day in the Holly Road Recreation Ground on Saturday 9th July which was open to all. Some 50 boys and girls and their parents joined in the fun and about £100 was raised.

Sunday Evening Services

From September, these will be:

First Sunday in month

Third Sunday in month

Other Sundays

18.30 Parish Communion

18.30 Evensong

17.00 Said Evening Prayer

18.30 Prayer 'n' Praise

Please note that the Said Evening Prayer on the other Sundays will be 17.00 and not 16.30.

From the Registers

Baptisms

June 12 Marcus David Belassie

Kevin James Clarke

James Alexander Taw

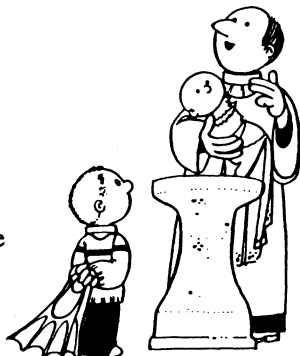
July 3 Alfred Richard Price

12 Albert Road

105 Rectory Grove

55B High Street

35 Bishop's Grove



Services and Dates to Note

August	6	Transfiguration of our Lord
	09.30-12.30	Churchyard Working Party
	7 08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Informal Service
	18.30	Parish Communion
	9 09.30	Matins
	11 19.15	Evensong
	14 08.00	Holy Communion (<i>Subject to confirmation</i>)
	09.30	Parish Communion (<i>Subject to confirmation</i>)
		No evening services
	16 09.30	Holy Communion
	18 19.15	Holy Communion
	21 08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
		No evening services
	23 09.30	Holy Communion
	24	St. Bartholomew the Apostle
	25 19.15	Holy Communion
	28 08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
	17.00	Laurel Dene Service
		No evening services in church

Advance Notices

September	3 09.30-12.30	Churchyard Working Party
	4 18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
	7 14.30	Mothers' Union Meeting with the theme "Share a Recipe"
	10	Parish Ramble (<i>Subject to confirmation</i>)
	13 20.15	Stewardship Committee, Vestry
	15 20.00	P.C.C.
	21 10.30	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning, 4 Byron Close
	25	Week of Prayer about Housing and Homelessness begins
	30	Concert (HHA) in aid of Princess Alice Hospice
October	1 9.30-12.30	Churchyard Working Party
	5 10.30	Mothers' Union Deanery Day, SS Philip and James, Whitton
	9	Sunday School re-opens Harvest Festival

Copy date for September issue: 14th August