

Thoughts of Christmas were triggered early this year as the first of the charity gift catalogues dropped onto my doormat during the last week of August. As I browsed through the pages I was attracted not so much by the goods on offer as by the graphic descriptions which prefaced or accompanied them. In the OXFAM catalogue, urging readers to purchase goods made by a project for low caste women in India, we are told: 'It hasn't rained in Ahmedabad for four years. The Sabarmati river, where Gandhi's ashes were scattered, is dry, a gash of dust dividing a city already divided by religious conflict. Drought has driven people into the city from the surrounding areas, but there is no work for them when they arrive. Sir Peter Scott, in the World Wildlife Fund catalogue, pleads for help to guarantee the future of our beautiful world: 'In times past, man used thousands of plant species for food, but we presently obtain 90% of our plant food from only 20 species. The loss to humanity of alternative food sources could be irreparable unless action is taken now to conserve endangered plants.'

Every October we take it for granted that we will celebrate harvest. We never question whether there'll be one. We sing of ploughing fields and scattering seed and thank God for all His goodness to us. But what of those parts of the world where life isn't nearly so predictable? Where the failed harvest is the norm. Where the harshness of the climate or natural catastrophe give people little to be thankful about. And what of the truth that God gave us the good things of creation to nurture and conserve, not to exploit to the point of extinction, nor to poison or pollute? God made us stewards of the whole world. Are we following the Maker's instructions?

Harvest Festival services at St. James's have always been joyous occasions. This year should be no exception and we hope that as many people as possible will make an effort to attend. It is especially important during the interregnum that we come together at these festal times to voice our common faith, to re-affirm ourselves as the Body of Christ and to demonstrate our loving support for our church and parish. We shall, of course, give thanks for the harvest and the many blessings we enjoy. But gratitude alone is not enough. We need also to remember that God demands critical and active stewardship of the resources He has given us.

Lesley Mortimer

Quiet Day

To my great joy the Rev. Peter Sils from Barnes will be with us for our Quiet Day (10am to 4pm) on Saturday 26th November in the delightful surroundings of The Close at Staines. Please book the date. More details will be given next month.

Hannah Stanton

Sunday 9th October at 9.30am

Harvest Celebration
incorporating
'CAPTAIN NOAH AND HIS
FLOATING ZOO'
A Children's Musical by
Michael Flanders and
Jospeh Horowitz



['Captain Noah' is also being performed at SS. Michael & George
at 6pm on 2nd October]

A Pilgrimage to Canterbury

The author, Canon Gordon Wilson, is Chairman of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Chairman of the UK and Ireland branch of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, and Secretary of the Week of Prayer for World Peace, which this year starts on 23rd October.

In 1978 members of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship organised what was called a 'Pilgrimage of the New Covenant' from Southwark Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral to witness to their belief that commitment to the New Covenant enshrining Christ's New Commandment of love means total renunciation of violence.

We stayed in church halls on the way (except, I'm afraid, the Chairman, who was offered bed and breakfast) firstly at Dartford then Chatham and Faversham.

Our son Laurence, who was studying drama at Manchester University, wrote a play called 'A Man Rejected' for performance en route by fellow students from Manchester. I drove a van carrying 'props', costumes and other luggage to each day's destination, whence I was driven back by car to join the marching pilgrims.

We started splendidly outside the National Theatre with a performance on the embankment on the Saturday, and then a performance in Paul Oestreicher's church in Blackheath on Sunday afternoon. But by Rochester the weather changed, and we had to forgo a beautiful site on the grassy moat of the castle, across the road from the cathedral, because of wind and rain.

We struggled on to Faversham, where we did manage a performance in strong wind in a public park, watched not too supportively by a group of the youth section of the local National Front, with cropped hair, swastikas and 'bover boots'.

At last we got to Canterbury, and the wind and rain ceased for long enough for a performance in the precincts. This was after I had nailed at the West Door, on a substantial board provided by the Dean and Chapter, a Proclamation setting out our Seven Theses (a small reminiscence of the 95 Theses nailed by Martin Luther on

Wittenberg church door in 1517, though we were aiming for an even more comprehensive Reformation) which were seven New Testament reasons why we believe that Christianity is a pacifist faith and the use of violence is contradictory to the Gospel. Again following the example of Martin Luther, we attached to our proclamation an 'Invitation to Debate' addressed to the whole Church.

The 1978 Lambeth Conference, in session at the time - though whether or not influenced by our proclamation we cannot know - passed a resolution saying: 'Jesus, by his death and resurrection, has already overcome all evil. He made evident that self-giving love, obedience to the way of the Cross, is the way to reconciliation in all relationships and conflicts. Therefore, the use of violence is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel'.

We were not planning to organise another pilgrimage to Canterbury during the 1988 Lambeth Conference. But some members of our sister organisation in America, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, were so impressed by our 1978 pilgrimage that they stated their intention of bringing over 100 people for 1988. So we had to start to organise a pilgrimage pretty quickly!

A meeting was held at our house in Hampton to plan the route. Jean and Elsie Hinkes (wife of our General Secretary, Sidney Hinkes, who joined APF after the war, having been a paratrooper in it) were roped in to help with the catering. They agreed on condition that bed and breakfast was arranged en route.

We did a reconnoitre of the route by car some weeks in advance, meeting those responsible for church halls, surveying accommodation and shopping facilities.

On Tuesday, 12 July, Jean and I set off by train from Hampton to Waterloo. There the taxi driver (we had a fair amount of luggage) had difficulty in locating the front of Southwark Cathedral. When we finally got there we found not a hundred Americans but 30, which was a good number from over the Atlantic, better than we English were able to muster. Two hired mini-buses were waiting outside the cathedral to take luggage and caterers and any tired or incapacitated pilgrims. Anthony, son of Elsie and Sidney Hinkes, was to drive one of these all the way. Others of us took turns with the other mini-bus.

We held a service of prayer in Southwark Cathedral before setting out. During this service Joyce Smith arrived from York, one of our members who had been delayed by the Queen receiving on a State Visit the President of Turkey. When she arrived I said jokingly, 'Ah, here comes the special emissary from the Archbishop of York'. The Americans, taking me literally, were most impressed!

Our first stage was to Lewisham, not the most rural or picturesque part of the ancient pilgrims' way! We were taken through one or two parks, and the grass was certainly easier on the feet than hard pavements. I was wearing a pair of 'trainers' once recommended to me by Archdeacon Gaisford (father of Giles) and after one or two practice walks in Bushy Park I decided to trust my feet to them all the way to Canterbury.

In our church hall in Lewisham we were able to make a good supper of pizzas and 'Chinese Takeaways' obtained locally. After Evensong in the adjoining church most of the walkers settled down in their sleeping bags while we elderly privileged ones made off to our resting places, where we found showers and baths and comfortable beds. (I now know the true significance of our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet!)

The next day some of us took the train to Swanley, the others having been taken there by mini-bus. Soon after we began walking we picked up the North Downs Way, which, with the Pilgrims' Way, took us all the way to Canterbury. On our reconnoitre earlier, in the village of Otford, we picked up copies of a booklet about the North Downs Way which gave some interesting information, which we were able to check on our walk.

(To be concluded)

Gordon Wilson

An Early Christian Shrine

One July weekend I was staying with cousins in Essex. On the Sunday they suggested driving me around the peaceful, uncluttered and green county with a picnic lunch and a visit to an ancient chapel if I could walk the distance from the main road. This distance turned out to be only half a mile along the path which had been trodden by many thousands of pilgrims and visitors - and Romans.

Known as the chapel of St. Peter-on-the-Wall because it was built into the Roman fort of Othona, which is now underground, it has had a varied history. In 653AD, St. Cedd came here and built the chapel dedicated to St. Peter. St. Cedd was consecrated Bishop in 654 and the chapel became his cathedral. After his death it continued to be used and in Elizabethan times the small tower, no longer there, was a beacon for ships. In the seventeenth century the chapel became a barn used by the local farmer to store grain until it was handed back to the diocese in 1920 and restored and re-dedicated.

It is small, isolated and somewhat battered outside but inside it is filled with the Peace of God. I sat for a while on the front bench: there was a simple altar and a crucifix way up above, almost in the shadows.

I would like to go again now that I have read more of the history of this little chapel but I am not likely to be in Essex again this year.

As we returned along the Roman Way, not quite like the Via Appia, we met a car with a local Vicar going up to take an evening service (summer-time only) in the Chapel of St. Peter ad Murium near Bradwell-on-Sea.

Alison Thompson (your Roaming Reporter)

***You haven't begun to live until you
have found the ability to love some-
one better than you love yourself.***

Catherine Bramwell-Booth

Lambeth 'Spin-off': a Brace of Bishops

We are fortunate in this parish to have connections with some of the more remote provinces of the Anglican church. When the Bishops gather from far and wide for the Lambeth Conference, some actually come our way.

So it was that many of us were privileged to meet Bishop Rex of Mauritius - together with friends from St. Mary's, Twickenham, including a former vicar of theirs, Alan Rogers, who used to be the Bishop of Mauritius. Bishop Rex told us that he had been ordained by Bishop Alan and also married by him, so he had much to be blamed for! A Mauritian himself, Bishop Rex spoke of the different religions and Christian denominations represented in Mauritius. He had about 7,000 in his flock out of a population approaching a million. There were many more Roman Catholics, and he was on friendly terms with his R.C. opposite number. Indeed he had been invited to Rome (as he was nearby in Canterbury!) for the raising of his friend to the rank of Cardinal.

Although the official language in Mauritius is English, the most important language is French, and Bishop Rex's wife was at that time visiting their sons at university in Toulouse. He too was to visit them while in Europe. He was pleased to meet a Mauritian member of our own congregation, Soo, Terry Baldwin's wife, and said that if any of us visited Mauritius, an excellent place for a holiday, we were to look him up, the first entry in the 'phone book under Anglican!

The afternoon finished with an English downpour but, as Bishop Rex pointed out, for most of the time, the weather had been Mauritian-like and we had been able to enjoy not only the company, but also the beautiful garden of our hosts, Peg and Sylvia Boarder, to whom we were much indebted.

Ron Bridges

Hannah was entertaining as her guest, the Bishop of Lesoto, Philip Mokuku, his wife and their daughter, Faith. Alan and I, and our daughter, Ruth went to meet them and enjoyed an hour or so with them, hearing about their country and also their thoughts about the Conference itself.

Lesoto is a very small, poor, country completely surrounded and dominated by South Africa. For several years now, we at St. James's have supported in a small way the secondary girls school, St. Catherine's, in Maseru, the capital. Faith had herself just finished at the school and is hoping to become a teacher. One or two of our young people have been there in the past to work in a voluntary capacity and benefitted very much from the experience.

The Bishop and his wife had both very much enjoyed the Lambeth Conference and felt that the atmosphere was much more positive than at the previous one, and the organisation excellent. Philip, the Bishop, is an ex-student of Tom Stanton, and Tom was also at the gathering prior to his return to South Africa. Tom and the Bishop and his family gave us a different slant on the world and one for which we should be very grateful.

Helen Taylor

Parish Ramble - 10th September

We gathered at the church at 11am for the annual parish ramble. We were a small party - only seven of us this time, but some people came to see us off and wish us well. It was a glorious September day as we sped off in two cars for our destination, Blackheath, near Wonersh, in Surrey.

It is reassuring to realise that one only has to travel a relatively short distance to find oneself in beautiful countryside. Our path took us through fir trees with gorse and heather just beginning to bloom at our feet. Two of us realised that we were out of training as we began to trail behind the others. However we caught up from time to time, reformed groups and soon it was time to sit down and enjoy our packed lunches.

Onward once more, across a ploughed field and over stiles. As a result of the storm last October many fallen trees blocked our path and we found ourselves climbing over them, under them and around them - more akin to an assault course than a walk. We paused for breath while ascending one fairly steep path and I was impressed by the wonderful silence - a balm to our traffic - and plane-weary ears.

Back to civilisation once more, we stopped to view a splendid house standing in extensive grounds. A winding path up to the house was flanked by closely packed marigolds and dahlias - a riot of colour. Well-tended lawns sloped down to a lake sporting two black swans. By this time we could all have done with a cup of tea and wondered what our reception would have been, had we knocked on the door and asked for one.

We reached the car park weary in limb, but refreshed in spirit. We had all enjoyed each other's company - grateful thanks to David Taylor for planning the walk so successfully.

Joan Sindall

SOWING AND REAPING

'THE IMAGERY OF harvest also contains a spiritual message. We can only harvest what we have sown and if we sow very little our harvest will be small. As members of the church it's our duty to sow the seed given to us, namely the good news of Christ.

Having sown the seed, the crops

need to be tended if a poor harvest is to be avoided. By daily prayers, regular worship and reading of the Bible, the seed sown in us, and others, is nourished and a good harvest can thus be achieved.

But...how many of us will suffer from crop failure?'

David Bradshaw

'Without A Doubt In The Mind': James 1, v.6

The Lord God said 'This is my beloved Son, Listen to Him'. Christ said 'I am not myself the source of the words I speak, it is the Father who dwells in me doing His work'. Christ is God's Living Word. His words are the words of life to those that truly believe them, to those who listen - not just with the outward ear - but those who plant the words of life in their innermost being that they may grow and flourish there.

Christ gives us a promise - God gives us a promise 'I tell you this, if you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask anything you will and it will be given you'. 'If thou canst believe, all things are possible for him that believeth'.

So why then isn't the world a very different place?

Because of unbelief. Because of doubt, because Man clings to his own limited understanding and does not trust in God and His Word.

Christ also said 'Happy is the man who does not find me a stumbling block'. Christ should be a mounting block, His words stepping stones by which we too can walk on water and reach the other side. Like Peter we take a few steps, like Peter doubts assail us. We take our eyes off Jesus and we begin to fail, begin to betray our Lord in fear and unbelief and doubt. Peter the shifting sand heard Jesus say 'You shall be called Cephas, that is, Peter the rock'. As Peter was, so are all men. What Peter became, so can all men become if they offer their doubts up to the Lord. Doubt is the stumbling block of Man. It is set down in God's Living Word how this stumbling block may be transformed into a mounting block, upon which man may climb higher and higher, transcending doubt and achieving glory, the glory of God. *Margery Orton*

Princess Alice Hospice

As I came out of Princess Alice Hospice a lady came up to me and asked if I knew where the nearest bus stop was. I didn't and suggested we went back into the hospice to enquire. 'Oh no, I'm not going in there - people are dying in there', she said. I did try and persuade her to go in because it is such a quiet and peaceful place with a wonderful atmosphere and not at all like she imagined.

Hospice care aims to relieve the suffering of those with terminal illness by alleviating their symptoms, especially pain. This care responds to the needs of not only the patient but family and friends and can be provided whether the patient is in the hospice or at home.

Princess Alice Hospice is light and airy, set in delightful landscaped gardens with verandahs overlooking the grounds which include trees and a lake. There are five single rooms and four five-bedded wards in the hospice; there is a family room in which married couples can stay together or parents can stay with a child.

At the heart of the hospice is a non-denominational chapel, always open for prayer and spiritual sustenance.

Naturally the up-keep of the 'Princess Alice' takes a great deal of money and they have a League of Friends whose aims include fund-raising and supporting the hospice.

Ruth Gostling

Long Service

This month we have to acknowledge the long and devoted service of two people, both of whom have had responsibilities for over twenty years in particular jobs which they undertook.

Margaret Leatherdale has decided that the time has come to hang up her rubber gloves and hand the parish breakfast organising over to others. This is an unsung task, necessitating a check each week on the provisions, providing the milk, and not least, making sure that there is someone to actually do the breakfast each Sunday, fifty odd Sundays of the year. Of course, if no one could be found, then Margaret did it herself. Everything was always done, quietly and efficiently so that one hardly noticed it being done. Any surplus money Margaret always handed over to the PCC to be given to charity. We thank Margaret for all that she has done over the years, and this of course was only one of her many activities on behalf of the parish.

Now that Stan and Doris Childs have decided to join Michael and Yvonne in Devon, the task of Recorder for the Book of Remembrance became vacant. Doris gave the Book over twenty years ago to the church together with Mrs. Florence Lloyd-Williams, in memory of her mother and has been the recorder ever since. This meant collecting any entries people wanted inscribed in the Book and sending it away to be recorded. Freda Moses has taken the job on very willingly and any enquiries should be made to her. We wish Doris and Stan happiness in their new home and we thank them both for all the work they have done here, and especially we thank Doris for her job as Recorder for the Book of Remembrance over so many years.

Helen Taylor

Autumn Talks

There will be two talks on 'The Social Background to the Gospels' during October, on Mondays 17th and 24th October at All Saints Church, Hampton, at 8pm. The talks have been organised by the Hampton Council of Churches and should prove informative. Do come.

*IN OUR HASTE to deal with the things
that are wrong, let us not upset the
things that are right.*

Harvest Supper

It's Harvest Supper time again so keep 15th October free. Come and enjoy good company, good food and fun. The format will be similar to last year. Details will be available in church and tickets will be on sale from the end of September. David Lloyd, Coryn Robinson, myself and other members of the Social Committee will be selling tickets. Come and get yours early.



"There's no need for prayers.
We have a good cook." by SAX

Margaret Revis

A Need

One of the items we do not have in our not very extensive collection of vestments is a red stole for wearing mostly on feast days. If anyone would like to buy one as a gift, or make one, it would be most welcome. Please speak to Leslie Mortimer or Eila Severn.

A Reminder

Don't forget the meeting on 11th October at 8pm at Wayside for those interested in helping to collect monumental inscriptions in the churchyard.

From the Registers

Baptisms

August	14	Benjamin Glen Thomas	19 Blandford Road
	21	Luke Malcolm James Mott	35 Deacons Walk
	21	Christopher James Shields	34 River Way, Twickenham
	28	Jade Brooks	57 Pigeon Lane
September	11	Owen James Severn	104 Broad Lane

Weddings

September	10	Paul Stanley Mountford and Ann Caroline Maynard
	10	Kevin John Edgar and Amanda Elizabeth Falconer

Funeral

August	22	Jeanette Dorothy May Soden 40 Sandlands Rd., Tadworth aged 83
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COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE - 9th OCTOBER

Services and Dates to Note

October	2	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Children's Eucharist
		18.30	Parish Communion
	4	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Talk, 'Hampton Court', Wayside
	5	10.15	MU Deanery Day, SS. Philip & James, Whitton
		20.00	Healing Ministry in church
	6	19.15	Holy Communion
	9	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Harvest Celebration with 'Captain Noah'
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	11	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Monumental Inscriptions Meeting, Wayside
	12	20.15	Stewardship Committee, Vestry
	13	19.15	Holy Communion
	15	11.00	MU Jumble Sale, Parish Hall
		20.00	Harvest Supper (time to be confirmed)
	16	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Harvest Festival Evensong
	17	20.00	H.C.C. Talk, All Saints
	18	09.30	St. Luke the Evangelist Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Talk 'Victorian London', Wayside
	19	20.00	Properties Sub-Committee with Archdeacon
	20	19.15	Holy Communion
	23		Week of Prayer for World Peace starts
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise	
24	20.00	H.C.C. Talk, All Saints	
25	09.30	Holy Communion	
27	19.15	Holy Communion	
28		SS. Simon and Jude, Apostles	
30	08.00	Holy Communion	
	09.30	Parish Communion	
	17.00	Said Evening Prayer	
	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise	
November	1	09.30	All Saints Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Open Evening, Wayside
	3	19.15	Holy Communion
	5	09.30-12.30	Churchyard Working Party
	6	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
	18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry	
Advance Notices			
November	13		Remembrance Sunday, Service at Hampton Methodist
	23	20.00 ✓	Stewardship Review, Parish Hall [Church
	26	10.00 ✓	Quiet Day at The Close, Staines