

From our Vicar-Designate

First let me say that we are very much looking forward to being at St. James, Hampton Hill at the beginning of September, although I don't think anyone actually relishes the thought of packing, moving and unpacking! September seems a good time to begin a new chapter both for you and for us. We hope that we shall be refreshed after a holiday and indeed that you will be ready and eager to begin again a range of activities and commitments which have slowed down over the summer to enable some space and time for re-creation.



By way of introduction let me say that we are three, by name, Brian, Ramani (Ramani) and Anusha, aged 6. Ramani and I met while undergraduates at the University of Sussex, where I read European Studies and she came from Sri Lanka to read Economics in the School of African and Asian Studies, a background which prepared her well for her present employment as Scholarships Assistant with Christian Aid. There she administers a variety of educational programmes and takes pastoral care of Christian Aid and W.C.C. students from the Third World studying in the United Kingdom.

After Sussex I taught in the University of Bonn, West Germany, before returning to Cambridge to read Theology at Selwyn College and prepare for Ordination at Westcott House and indeed to marry.

1982 saw us return to Sussex to the parish of Seaford where I served my title for three years before venturing to the midland Diocese of Leicester, where since April 1985 I have been Senior Anglican Chaplain to the University and Colleges - three Institutions with a population of about 15,000.

Anusha was born while in Seaford and, while enjoying the sea air as her birthright, she has since developed a landlocked outlook and regards glimpses of the sea as a rare treat on holiday. Since being in Loughborough Ramani has completed a Masters degree and I have struggled on with my doctorate.

Ramani and I both enjoy music, food and travelling and we value spending time together as a family. We really do find great pleasure in meeting people and being with people, our house is rarely empty and we hope that you will feel welcome to call on us at the Vicarage. I am quite sure this small piece has not answered the questions you have about us, but we look forward to answering them and learning about you, beginning in September.

Brian Leathard

The Institution of the our new Vicar will take place on Thursday 14th September.

Holy Week and Easter

Despite the interregnum, a very full programme of services and other happenings took place with the help of Canon Gordon Wilson and our Readers. The traditional procession with palms enlivened the Parish Communion on Palm Sunday and Stainer's 'Crucifixion' was presented in the evening - an inspiring interpretation of the Passion Story.

A large cast read Dorothy Sayers's 'King of Sorrows' on Wednesday evening from the front of the church with unobtrusive guitar accompaniment by Paul Revis. This account of Christ's Passion was very meaningful and moving for all involved, partakers and audience.

On Maundy Thursday we celebrated Our Lord's Institution of the Eucharist with a Parish Communion followed by an agape, and on Good Friday, after an open-air ecumenical service at Sainsbury's, we had, in our own church, the three-hours service described below.

A good number of us joined in the Easter Eve service of preparation for Easter with the Renewal of our Baptismal Vows, and Easter itself was celebrated in joyful fashion with well-known hymns and extra music.

Ron Bridges

The Three-hours Service

Good Friday's meditation and devotion was structured around Christ's words from the cross. Canon Gordon Wilson set the scene. The reading was Luke 23:33-38 and there followed an inspired examination of the thoughts engendered by Christ's first words as the nails were hammered in, 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do'. Forgiveness and reconciliation are themes very near to Gordon's life and heart. His words were powerful, moving and inspiring.

Alan Taylor talked about the penitent thief: 'Remember me when you come into your Kingdom'. Even if the words were perhaps prompted by pity or even kindly mockery as Alan suggested that they might have been, they ended in the realisation of salvation as Christ told him 'Today you shall be with me in paradise'.

As we have come to expect from Alan his words were spiritually compelling and we were kept rapt by his contribution to the worship.

Margery Orton

Hannah Stanton's reading was John 19:25-27, and although I was in the last pew but one at the back of the church I could hear every word as clearly as if I were in the front row.

The subject was 'Mary, the Mother of Jesus'. Hannah described the reactions of Mary on the occasion of the crucifixion, and her memories of incidents in our Lord's life, from the days when as a baby she brushed his hair into curls, to the moment when she stood at the foot of the cross, supported by 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'.

The address was most moving and beautiful. It was sincere, heart-warming, and full of understanding of the emotions of a mother whose child had been unjustly condemned to a horrifying death, and the fact that Hannah's diction was so clear and unforced that

her discourse could be heard without any strain or difficulty added to its impressiveness.

Billie Williams

Don Rawlins spoke with deep feeling of Jesus's cry 'I thirst' (John 19:28f), recalling that Jesus had earlier refused a cup of drugged wine. As on still earlier occasions in his ministry, he had been unwilling to take an easy way out. We are often tempted to do just that in our own lives but should remember that we are called to serve and to stand up for Christ. Jesus finally accepted the act of service of the on-looker who moistened Jesus's lips in response to his anguished cry.

Jesus's suffering on the cross is a part of the wider problem of pain and suffering. God is not indifferent to this - he suffers in the suffering of his people.

In conclusion, Don recalled John 7:38: 'If anyone is thirsty let him come to me', and stressed the need to bring others to Jesus, and of our own need, to drink of his living water.

Ron Bridges

David Dore took our imaginations to the heart-break implicit in 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me' (Mark 15:34), dealing movingly with the agony of suffering, mental and physical, which rent that cry from our Lord. Christ was not forsaken - we are not forsaken.

The last half-hour was filled with Gordon's thoughts on 'It is accomplished' (John 19:30). Not merely finished, coming to an end, but accomplished, victoriously by the commitment of Christ's spirit into his Father's outstretched hands. Gordon's words drew us out of ourselves, even away from Calvary, into another dimension - a spiritual dimension of worship, wonder and gratitude. I echoed the disciple's thought at another time, 'How good it was to have been there' and to have shared the experience of these deeply worshipful hours.

We have been truly blessed in the heights to which Gordon and our four remarkable Readers can rise when the occasion demands it and the Spirit moves them, as it certainly did this Good Friday. I was mentally on my way to Easter Day even before I left the church.

Margery Orton

A Visit to India

In February we spent two and a half weeks in India. Some friends of ours, also with children, have been living in New Delhi for the last two and a half years and have long been urging us to visit them. So we went, with some qualms about the bugs we might bring home with us, and whether this was 'fair' to the children and so on.

My first feeling when we emerged from New Delhi airport, to be met by a sea of dark faces, was that I had never before felt so foreign in a country. That feeling remained, for India is utterly different from anywhere I have previously visited. The most obvious difference, of course, is that it is a Third World country, where poverty is normal. There are people everywhere, but many of them look undernourished, some look ill, many have no shoes and many of them are beggars. Many of the houses and shops we saw outside (and inside) New Delhi reinforce this impression. Shacks of mud or corrugated

iron, with tarpaulin roofs, flimsy, insubstantial and tiny, but with children running in and out. Outside the smarter, or the older, parts of the big towns (we visited New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur), it was rare to find any two-storey house, or a single-storey house of any substance.

In contrast, New Delhi has some extremely elegant roads and houses; these are the houses of the few disproportionately well-paid top government officials, or of expatriots. Edward Lutyens was commissioned by the Raj to design the central squares, buildings and avenues of New Delhi, in the 1920's, which he did with great grandeur and effectiveness. But ordinary Indians do not live there, apart from the President, in his British-designed palace.

Contrasts between rich and poor have always been a fact of life in India. Before the British, India was ruled for three and a half centuries by the Mogul Emperors. These were originally Islamic invaders who came from north of Afghanistan. They were vandals in that they destroyed much of the Hindu architecture that they found, but they built magnificent cities, palaces and tombs of their own, of which the most famous is the Taj Mahal. This was built as a tomb for a much-loved wife, when she died after producing some amazing number of children. It is every bit as beautiful as one is led to expect, with minarets and dome of white marble whose colour really does change with the time of day. Even the children were impressed.

We spent a weekend near a tiger reserve, going out before dawn; bumping along the dreadful roads at a crazy pace until we reached the Reserve itself. Then we crawled along, looking and listening for tigers. All this in open-topped jeeps, which we were assured were perfectly safe.... We didn't see any tigers, though we saw their pug-marks (foot-prints), but we saw plenty of crocodiles, peacocks, sambar, deer, monkeys, and even, dimly through the trees, three bears.

We all have most vivid memories of the animals. Monkeys everywhere, in towns and outside. Cows lounging on crowded pavements or lazily crossing a chaotic road. Elephants, of course, and camels by the dozen - in fact we counted over three hundred of them on one four-hour car journey. Buffaloes (and camels) worked in the fields. There is little mechanisation anywhere; just human and animal labour.

We had a long flight home, and now our holiday seems a long time ago. But it was an unforgettable experience.

Jane Dobson

PENTECOST 1989

**Local Councils of Churches
Festival of Praise
7.30 pm, Saturday 13th May
St. Mary's Parish Church
Twickenham**

**Special Prayer 'n' Praise
6.30 pm, Sunday 14th May
St. James's Church
Hampton Hill**

Liturgical Dance Workshop



Whenever an invitation arrives for our St. James's Liturgical Dancers to attend a Dance Workshop, I am always eager to participate. There is a small charge of £5 per person for a really rewarding and enriching day of dance and good fellowship. This is one of the few opportunities we have of meeting and joining many of the various dance groups which belong to different churches all over the country. It was exciting to find just how many other groups were still in existence and flourishing since our previous 'get-togethers'.

We were invited to attend a workshop to be held at the U.R.C. in Kingston on Saturday 18th March. Unfortunately only 3 representatives could go from St. James's, Eila Severn, Coryn Robinson and me. Nevertheless we went along full of anticipation of a good day's fellowship and hopeful of getting some new ideas to inspire and enrich our own future productions.

We all assembled (60/70 women) in the large hall of the church to be greeted by our very experienced organizer, Honor Avis. There were dancers of a wide range of ages and abilities. It was slightly disappointing to find that there were no men present. There followed a physical warm up and a practising of various kinds of movements. We danced in pairs with strangers doing 'mirror movement', a good way of breaking down barriers. To lead and follow needs great sensitivity and concentration, and as a result many unusual tableaux take shape.

However, the purpose of the day was to present a service of worship at 5pm in the church which the public were to attend and which was to be video-recorded. The theme of the service was EASTER. We had to prepare several items of dance depicting the suffering, crucifixion and death of Jesus - the mourning of his friends and the wonder and joy of the resurrection. There were two set dances for all the dancers to learn and to participate in for the service. The beautiful and moving 'Nailed to the Cross' and a joyous finale 'Alleluia'. As soon as we had learned these dances we all had to go into about 7 smaller groups to prepare new dance/mime items lasting about 5 minutes each, depicting all the aspects of the Easter story. But before embarking on this, came the very welcome respite of lunch. Hot soups and croutons were served for us to enjoy with the packed lunches we had brought and we all relaxed and chatted.

After lunch the groups went off to separate rooms all over the church to work on their contributions in preparation for the service. There were some group leaders with ready-prepared dances which they merely had to teach their dancers, but other groups had to make a creditable performance from 'scratch' in an extremely short time. This was a very tough challenge. The group I joined depicted Easter morning at the tomb. The women had come to anoint the body of Jesus, only to find the tomb was empty. All too soon Honor came to call us and our preparation time was up. Now it was time for tea and cakes and a well-earned rest. We all felt quite tired, but it was time to go into the church for a final run through. At 5pm, with audience and video camera installed, we began the service. There were some memorable moments in the various dances and I thought once again, what a great contribution Liturgical Dance can make to enhance worship in church.

Rosalie Meyerowitz

The History of Hampton Hill

I shall not attempt to write about the exciting and interesting content of Margery Orton's talk on the Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill because I'm sure all those really interested must have turned up to look and listen.

It is fascinating to think that anyone can amass such a wealth of knowledge and detail about a small area of our land. Margery spoke with such easy familiarity of all the little roads and bits of water and interesting houses, either architecturally or by association, present and past, and wove it into a verbal cloth of such colour and detail, remembering so many dates and so many names.

Of special interest to all of us were the drawings and slides depicting the development of St. James's Church from a 'barn of a place' to its present beauty.

As I have said about others in the past, how lucky we are to have her.

Although still not quite recovered from an attack of laryngitis Margery managed to make herself heard, with the aid of a clip-on microphone supplied by Paul, by those sitting at the back of the Hall, and seemed not to have suffered too much.

A little of the reading was passed over to Helen Taylor and to Jack Gostling to ease the situation and I thank them along with our thanks and appreciation to Margery.

I must not forget the part played by Ron Bridges in charge of the slides and projector. It is an art in itself to make the slide-changing so smooth and on time that one scarcely realises that it is man-manipulated. Thank you Ron.

The proceeds to the Spire Appeal Fund equalled £129.

Alison Thompson

Church's Urban Fund

The target we set ourselves a year ago was £1,000.

Early in April we had accumulated some £850. This included about £175 generated by Pip Rowett from sales of stamps. We are very grateful for his work on our behalf which is likely to produce a further considerable sum before we are called upon to hand over the amount we have collected to the Diocese. As we go to print the concert on April 21st is still to come. We are therefore within sight of our target. A final report will be made next month.

All of the amounts raised in the parishes of the Diocese will be taken to St. Paul's Cathedral at Pentecost for a special service at 6.30pm on May 14th.

Spire Appeal

As we go to press, some six weeks after the Appeal launch, the fund has just topped £5,000.

To reach this total in such a relatively short time is most heart-warming, reflecting as it does, a most generous response not only from our congregation, but also from the wider local community. **THANK YOU ALL.**

There is at present no firm news of when the work will start, but in the meantime we must in every sense keep our feet on the ground, remembering that with the final bill probably being nearer £15,000 than £10,000, we still have a long way to go.

By the time you read this, Emily-Jane Ormerod, Sally Sazegar and Davinia Warrington will have run the 5,000 metres ADT Mini-Marathon, spurred on by sponsorship, to help swell the total - a wonderful effort!

Our next major event is our Open Day on 17 June: there will be much of interest going on. In the church itself, a varied programme of music, including organ recitals (and a chance to sing!), plus an exhibition of local history over the last 150 years. (Margery Orton will welcome any photographs you may have of Nicholas and Susan Chubb for possible inclusion in this exhibition.)

There will be guided tours of the spire to see the workings of the clock and to see the bells, as well as to ring them, and for the braver hearts, the ascent of the wooden staircase to the viewing platform some 90 feet above the ground. Splendid for photography, and we hope possibly to arrange for souvenir videos too.

At ground level, there will be afternoon teas on the lawn, and in the evening, a barbecue with folk music and dancing. We hope also to have souvenir pottery and other items for sale.

Later in the year, we are hoping too that the local schools will help us by participating in a concert, and also with an art exhibition, but plans are in a very preliminary stage.

Another report next month - **WATCH THIS SPACE.**

Jack Gostling

SOS



ST JAMES'S

SPIRE APPEAL

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION

with Training Talks, Music and Worship

Sandown Park, Esher

Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th May

£2.50 (OAP/Children £1.50)

Free Car Parking

Christian Aid Week

May 15 - 20

It's that time of the year again, when Christian Aid Week envelopes come through the door, and on the hoardings you see those distinctive stark black and white posters reminding you about the troubles facing developing countries.



This year the main message Christian Aid wants to get across is that of people's rights - 'The right idea about poverty' as they put it.

We are to be asked to 'tick-in', at public sites, the following:

'Millions struggle for land to grow food, access to clean water, basic health care, a permanent home and the means to read, write and count. I support Christian Aid's work to strengthen the poor and to bring an end to world poverty. It's time to right wrongs'.

The financial need is as great as ever. Please welcome our voluntary callers and give generously.

* * * * *

The recently opened collecting boxes for the Missions to Seamen produced £33.39. Thank you to all who contributed.

Violet Clark, Hon.Sec.

Thanksgiving at St. Mary's

St. Mary's Church, Twickenham is a pretty church and recently it has been redecorated internally so, being invited, I went along for the musical celebration of their Thanksgiving for the completion of the work. This took place on the afternoon of Saturday 18th March when the Trinity Choristers came to sing to us.

We waited expectantly until the vestry door opened and about 25 boys and young men processed around to the back of the church and up the nave singing gloriously and so into their places in the choir stalls. They looked so young and so fresh and earnest in their beautiful blue cassocks and whiter than white surplices, fitting in well with the new paint of the church.

They then proceeded to sing some lovely hymns and psalms with a first lesson read by, I think, the most senior singer, a tall young man, and a second lesson by perhaps the youngest of the boys; both read well in their trained diction.

The Trinity choristers are all members of Trinity School, Croydon who are actively interested in the work of church choirs. They aim to stimulate the work by providing facilities through the school whereby keen singers can take part in special services and recitals in Croydon and further afield. Their aim is to complement church choirs and not to compete against them.

I thought it a most enjoyable afternoon and I hope that they come again.

Alison Thompson

The Magazine Appeal Donations have so far reached just over £300 (by mid-April). Thank you to all who have contributed. Hopefully donations will continue to come in (despite the many other calls on our pockets at the present time) as we have a long way to go to reach the £800 or £900 we need to supplement the considerable income from advertisers so as to balance the printing costs.

Stewardship Contributions during the year from April 1988 to March 1989 totalled £19,700, an increase of rather less than 3% on the previous financial year.

The membership of the scheme has dropped from 120 to 115 in the last twelve months. However individual increases in the level of giving in the last twelve months have resulted in the total stewardship giving for the first three months of this year being almost 7% up on the giving for the corresponding quarter of 1988.

Around the Spire

Congratulations to Lesse Mills on her eightieth birthday which was celebrated on April 2nd. Both Mrs. Mills and her daughter Ruth have long been worshippers at St. James's, as was Mrs. Mills's late husband, Leonard, so it was with much affection that we wished Lesse a very happy birthday.

Another lady who had a long connection with St. James's until she moved away a few years ago to be nearer her family was Mrs. Irene Milns. She died recently at the age of eighty nine, and we send our condolences to her family. Mrs. Milns was famed in the parish for her beautiful needlework, of which the church possesses several examples.

We have also heard of the death, last December, of Gwen Pile, née Ellis and formerly Mrs. Johnson. Gwen was a founder member of the Young Wives Group and, for some years, Secretary of the P.C.C.

Doris Warwick has been ill recently with shingles, a very painful and depressing illness. We wish her a complete and speedy recovery.

From the Registers

Baptisms

March	19	Chöle Lauren Wright	79 Pinetree Close, Cranford
		Kate Charlotte Robinson	6 Seymour Road
		Nicholas James Robinson	6 Seymour Road
		Christopher John Booroff	37 Burtons Road
April	2	Kaylee Adams	104 Connaught Road, Teddington
		Lawrence Michael Arnell	150 Wordsworth Road
April	9	Jonathan Patrick Hughes	197 Uxbridge Road
		Lauren Nicole Clark	159 High Street
		Amy Elizabeth Hobbs	138 Hanworth Road

Weddings

March	25	Kevin Stuart Andrew Fairman and Pauline Elizabeth Wilman
April	1	Mark Stephen Robbins and Rachel Sarah Ward
April	15	Andrew Timothy Law and Jane Elizabeth Foster

Funeral

March	9	Rena Edna Gunter	20 Fitzwygram Close	Aged 74
-------	---	------------------	---------------------	---------

Services and Dates to Note

May	6	09.30	Churchyard Working Party	
		10.30	Christian Aid Coffee Morning with Biblical 'Bring and Buy', in	
	7	08.00	Holy Communion	[church
		09.30	Informal Service	
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry	
	8		<u>Julian of Norwich</u>	
		20.00	Talk by Mrs. Ivy Guttridge, in church	
	9	09.30	Holy Communion	
	11	19.15	Holy Communion	
		20.00	P.C.C.(Provisional)	
	13	19.30	Festival of Praise, St. Mary's, Twickenham	
	14		<u>Pentecost</u>	
		08.00	Holy Communion	
		09.30	Parish Communion	
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer	
		18.30	Special Pentecost Prayer 'n' Praise	
	15		<u>St. Matthias the Apostle</u>	
		19.30	C.C.G. A.G.M. Rectory School	
	16	09.30	Holy Communion	
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Open Meeting, Wayside	
	17 to 20		Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park	
	17	20.00	Taizé Service, All Saints', Hampton	
	18	19.15	Holy Communion	
	21	08.00	Holy Communion	
		09.30	Parish Communion	
		16.30	Christian Aid United Service, United Reformed Church	
	23	09.30	Holy Communion	
	24		M.U. Prayer Sharing Day	
	25	19.15	Holy Communion	
	28	08.00	Holy Communion	
		09.30	Parish Communion	
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer	
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise	
	30	09.30	Holy Communion	
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Monica and Peter Lockyer - 'The Holiday of a Life-	
June	1	19.15	Holy Communion	[time', Wayside
	3	09.30	Churchyard Working Party	
	4	08.00	Holy Communion	
		09.30	Informal Service	
		18.30	Parish Communion	

**COPY
DATE
FOR JUNE
ISSUE: 14 MAY**

Advance Notices

June	7	20.00	Healing Ministry in church
	11		<u>St. Barnabas the Apostle</u>
	13	20.00	Tuesday Club: A.G.M. .
	14	20.00	Taizé Service, St. Francis de Sale's
	15	20.15	Properties Committee, 21 St. James's Road
	17	11.00	Open Day, Church and Spire
	18	09.30	Archdeacon to preside
	23	19.45	Diminishing Whist, 151 Uxbridge Road
	26		Hampton Council of Churches, All Saints'
July	1		Summer Outing to Peterborough