

I can hardly bring myself to do it. Yet, somehow, for some reason I need to find out; I dare to retain a glimmer of hope that this time, at last, the Test Match scores may just show the slightest possibility of England avoiding yet another dismal defeat. Perhaps the Prayer Book collect for rain has after all got a place in late twentieth century culture - a celestial downpour to avoid the pain of yet another inning's defeat. What glee!

But in the last few days cricket has reclaimed its rightful place on the front pages of our newspapers, not because of an unexpected victory, but because of something more profound. Parishioners of St. James's and our friends will be well aware of the great concern we have here for the abolition of the evil of apartheid in South Africa. How we have rejoiced and wept with Hannah Stanton, have received Tom, her brother, with delight, how we have been overjoyed to watch and listen to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to hear the Khotso trio from Soweto sing at the Eucharist. And now, at least in the area of sport South Africa is being received back into the family of nations. Soon we can look forward, as never before, to a Test Match where the teams of both England and South Africa represent the ethnic mixes which are representative of our societies today. South Africa will participate in the next Olympic Games, in the Rugby Football World Cup series in Australia and New Zealand, Hurrah!

But - and there is a big 'But'. We cannot be lulled into thinking just because we see black South Africans representing their country in a Test side that apartheid has been defeated. Far from it. The international community, the churches, industry, Amnesty International, professional organisations and individuals must maintain pressure on South Africa until we hear from our friends there of every race, 'Now is enough; Justice has returned'; until both the legal framework and attitudes reflect that we are all equal in the eyes of our Creator. For the day is surely coming when we shall recognise that our human diversity, in colour, language, ethnic group, is a reflection of the infinite depth of God.

The sting in the tail is of course how we live out our belief that human diversity reflects the richness of God, not just with regard to South Africa, but with regard to Hampton Hill or Hounslow, Southall or the City. I long for the time when it no longer strikes me as positive, let alone unusual, that my dentist or airline pilot, my member of parliament or bank manager, my priest or cricket captain is a different skin colour to me. For it is of little use to strive for the values of God's kingdom in South Africa in justice, peace and social responsibility if we do not strive for the same values in our own street or town, in our own families, in our minds and hearts. When that happens then perhaps I will turn to the scores with expectation justly rewarded and cricket will, once again, have taught us something about life in God.

The Rainbow

When you are born, you are pink.
When you grow up, you are white.
When you are sick, you turn green.
When you're afraid, you go yellow.
When you go out in the sun, you are red.
When you are cold, you are blue.
When you die, you go purple.

When I am born, I am black.
When I grow up, I am black.
When I am sick, I am black.
When I'm afraid, I am black.
When I go out in the sun, I am black.
When I am cold, I am black.
When I die, I stay black.

And you have the nerve
to call me coloured!

(From a popular verse of South Africa)

New Look in Church

During August we hope to make a start on some exciting improvements to the interior of the church. Most of you will be aware of the deteriorating condition of the interior and the poor standard of lighting. You will also be aware of the stone cleaning that has taken place during the so-called 'spring cleaning' before Easter. This work was undertaken by church members themselves but we feel unable to complete the work with voluntary help alone.

Tenders have been received for the complete re-decoration of the walls and ceiling, the cleaning of the remainder of the stone-work and the staining of the roof trusses together with the installation of a much improved lighting system.

The total cost of this work is in the order of £25,000. The necessary Diocesan Advisory Committee permission and faculty have been received. Within this approval is included the removal of the pews in the north aisle and we are currently investigating the refurbishment of this area. This will improve its use for families and special-occasion worship.

The Church Fabric Loan Scheme (see below) is one way of helping to finance this work.

Alan Taylor

Transfiguration

'If I were asked to name the most important date in the history of the human race, I would answer without hesitation, 6th August 1945. From the dawn of consciousness until 6th August 1945, man had to live with the prospect of his death as an individual; since the day when the first atomic bomb outshone the sun over Hiroshima, he has had to live with the prospect of his extinction as a species.'

Arthur Koestler, The Observer, 1 January 1978

It is ironic that 6 August is also the day each year when Christians celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. The Hiroshima experience, as that of Nagasaki three days later, was a transfiguration as well, shining 'brighter than a thousand suns', but its transfiguration was the opposite of the healing and redemptive light of Christ - a disfiguration.

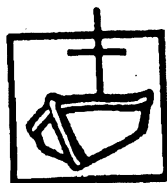
While the issue of nuclear weapons is perhaps the most obvious crisis facing us in the West, for many in the third world issues of wealth and poverty, justice and injustice are more pressing. We need reminding that 'The tree of peace has justice for its roots'. The following prayer of Helder Camara challenges us to pray and work for peace and justice:

'Are we so deaf that we do not hear a loving God warning us that humanity is in danger of committing suicide? Are we so selfish that we do not hear the just God demanding that we do all we can to stop injustice suffocating the world and driving it to war? Are we so alienated that we can worship God at our ease in luxurious temples which are often empty in spite of their liturgical pomp, and fail to see, hear and serve God where he is present and where he requires our presence, among mankind, the poor, the oppressed, the victims of injustices in which we ourselves are often involved?'

John Williams

Missions to Seamen

A little Sri Lankan girl, Mary, was bitten by a cobra, and it was feared that she would be blind unless specialised treatment - only available in Singapore - was given. She is the daughter of a seafarer who heard about this while on a ship in Dunkerque. In order to pay for the treatment, a salary advance was arranged for the seafarer and the Dunkerque chaplain tried to arrange its transfer. But in fact the Missions to Seamen stepped in and gave the money. Mary's eyesight was restored and she is resuming her studies.



We were told this story at the Missions' AGM and Service, presided over again by Princess Anne, as just one example of their work. Please give them your support, and if you have a Lent box, please let me have it so that I can send our contributions off.

Violet Clark (Honorary Secretary)

A Celebration of the Reader Ministry

A hundred and twenty-five years of Reader Ministry in the Church of England - that was what we had come to the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham to celebrate. As we looked around the auditorium the whole place was awash with white - the six thousand or so Readers in their white surplices and blue stoles. There are about nine thousand Readers countrywide so a good proportion of them were here on a rather cold and wet June day with their families and friends for a celebration organised by the Bishop of Chester.

The proceedings began in fine style with music played by an orchestra from All Souls', Langham Place, followed by an impressive procession of Diocesan Bishops with two Servers and two Readers each and the name of the diocese carried before them. The scarlet robes of the bishops added colour to the already colourful scene, and the hymn singing which followed filled the whole place - 'Let all the world in every corner sing'.

When we had all settled down a dramatic presentation showed us the beginnings of Reader Ministry in the nineteenth century when great increases in population meant that clergy were unable to cope with all the pressures, especially in urban areas. Able and willing lay people were then seen as a way of helping to relieve this pressure, and although not welcomed in every quarter, they gradually became accepted. Women were not admitted as Readers until 1969!

Some of today's Readers then spoke about the work they do among young people in urban areas, for example, and we were able to see them - and everything else that went on - on three large strategically placed video screens. Various other people then spoke about the training of Readers and their future during the Decade of Evangelism.

Just before the interval, the bishop, Readers and supporters of each diocese were asked to stand and be greeted by those from all the other dioceses - a modified 'Mexican wave'.

After the interval came a celebratory Eucharist presided over by Dr. Habgood, Archbishop of York. All around the arena were placed small tables glittering with the most wonderful silver, gold and gilt church plate. The sermon preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury contained a suggestion, much publicised by the media, that the principal morning service, whether a Eucharist or a Service of the Word, should be at a standard time, say 10am, all over the country, as a sign of solidarity. The Archbishop went on to say that he thought too much stress today was put upon the Eucharist and perhaps not enough emphasis was given to non-eucharistic services where the uninitiated feel more at ease and where there is greater freedom to use different forms of worship. Later the peace was exchanged enthusiastically with those around us, and the final rendering of 'Majesty' - unscheduled - rounded off a memorable celebration.

Here at St. James's, we know how valuable the Readers are: let us remember all Readers and their ministry in our prayers.

Helen Taylor

Lord Macleod of Fuinary

The Very Reverend Lord Macleod of Fuinary has died at the age 96. He was known to thousands as George Macleod, particularly for his work of founding the Iona Community, and reinstating the Abbey of St. Columba on the Island of Iona in Western Scotland so that it is known world-wide as a centre of spiritual richness.

Iona is a beautiful little island: white sands, clear blue seas, pink rocks, windy - yes! A few houses, an hotel, and the sixth century Benedictine Abbey, sturdy and unforgettable. The rebuilding of the living quarters and surroundings was by willing helpers, many of them Church of Scotland Ministers working during their holidays; it was started in 1938, all was completed in 1966, and the Abbey was alive all those intervening years as a vital centre of spiritual development and renewal. In 1988 the Macleod Youth and Reconciliation Centre was dedicated by Mrs. Leah Tutu from Capetown. Visitors, young and old, came from all branches of Christianity, from all faiths, from all races and nationalities, for courses, seminars, discussions, and for worship in the abbey, always by candlelight and always beautiful.

George Macleod was the inspiration behind this; the worker, the leader of worship; Celtic mystic and poet he has been called; and, as a socialist, he had a burning concern for the underprivileged; the poverty in Govan, Glasgow having made a deep impression on him in his early ministry. The Iona Community works on the mainland in Glasgow as well as on the island; its groups are everywhere.

He was well aware of South African problems; I remember meeting him in 1960, and he knew all about the situation.

In 1968 he became President of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and from this date he campaigned tirelessly for nuclear disarmament. He lived to see the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland adopt a strongly anti-nuclear stance in 1986. The Templeton Award of £250,000 in 1989 was immediately divided between work for peace and relief of poverty.

George Macleod: a great man of peace. A great man of our century.

Hannah Stanton



Bank Charges

A recent decision by the major high street clearing banks introduces bank charges for charities such as the church. We at St. James run three current accounts with Barclays Bank, one for the Magazine, one for Wayside and one for our general account. In a full year it is estimated that these charges will amount to between £400 and £500. This means that we shall spend the equivalent of the whole of our fee income from weddings, funerals, etc. on bank charges; or put another way we will spend more on bank charges than on Sunday school and nearly as much as on altar and pastoral expenses.

It seems very sad that, at a time of recession, when all churches find it more difficult to raise money, the banks find it necessary to take this kind of action. Bad debts and declining interest rates are no doubt putting greater strains on the banking industry. Curtailing the church's ability to relieve hardship both here in England and in the developing world could in fact prove counter productive.

In common with other churches and charities, we are naturally investigating alternative banking arrangements. Any such change will be an unnecessary inconvenience to many people with no ultimate beneficiary.

*John Meredith Smith,
Treasurer*



From 'Good News',
the magazine of the
Additional Curates Society

Doris Gloynes

It was very sad to hear of the 'passing' of Doris Gloynes, who had been such a loyal and hard-working member of the church. Especially Doris will be remembered by all her friends in the M.U. for she joined in all the activities - acting, singing, dancing. Being an excellent dressmaker, she started a class at the Vicarage. A sewing machine was purchased which we kept at Wayside, and garments such as pyjamas, shirts and dresses were made for under-privileged children. Also, something that will remind everyone of Doris was the making of the blue cloth kneelers in the church. She purchased the material and cut it up and we all set to, machining them and filling them with old nylon stockings. Quite a mammoth job.

When refreshments were asked for, Doris made the most delicious cakes which most of us recognised, so they disappeared very quickly.

Doris spent many years nursing her mother, her mother-in-law and her sisters. Also, she spent so much of her time visiting the old folk at Laurel Dene, until prevented from doing so by her own failing health.

Her life was spent helping others. What tremendous love she must have had: a lesson to all of us.

Our sympathy goes out to her husband, her two sons and her sister, Mrs. Ross.

Vivienne Prentice

The Church Fabric Loan Scheme

Contributions to the church fabric loan scheme now amount to £12000. Under the scheme individuals are invited to make an interest free loan of £500 or more to the church for a period of two years or longer. The church then invests the money in the deposit fund of the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England, which is tax free, offers a high return and is safer than certain banking organisations which have recently hit the headlines. In effect this amounts to a donation of the interest from the capital to the church; however by allowing the church to invest the capital we can obtain a higher return than most individuals.

Income from this fund during 1991 is, on the current level of investment, anticipated to be between £1500 and £2000. The redecoration of St. James, now underway, is a costly undertaking and we need yet more money to maintain the church.

If you would be interested in subscribing to the scheme I will be happy to provide further details; a loan of £500 could at current rates of interest provide us with an annual income of £60 to £70. If you don't have such a capital sum to lend you can of course make a simple donation to help maintain St. James Church.

John Meredith Smith,

Treasurer

Stewardship

Stewardship giving over the past four quarters, and for the preceding four quarters, was as follows:

		£		£
July - September	1990	5,436	1989	5,073
October - December	1990	5,862	1989	5,883
January - March	1991	7,052	1990	7,080
April - June	1991	<u>5,992</u>	1990	<u>5,493</u>
Twelve-month totals		24,342		23,529

The church has also recently received a refund of income tax of £7,293 in respect of covenanted contributions to the church in the year 1990/91. This is a tremendous help to our finances and we are very grateful to all who covenant their giving to make it possible.

Scout Group News

Twenty Cubs camped at 3rd Hampton Headquarters in Percy Road over the first weekend in May. Despite less than perfect weather, a good time was had by all. Scouts and Ventures camped near Dartmoor over half-term, visiting their former G.S.L. and Akela, Mike and Yvonne Childs. All sections of the Group were represented at Twickeree in Marble Hill Park at the end of June, camping and taking part in the displays. Cubs have also taken part in the District Sports and in a Cubaree near Chessington. Seven Cubs have gained their Scientist badge and six their Athlete badge. The pack will be camping at Braggers Wood in the summer and will visit Brownsea Island.

On 29 May, the Group was presented with £250 from Sainsbury's Good Neighbour Scheme, with which they have purchased a tent.

The Group again organised a Children's Race Day for all local children in July, a community event which was enjoyed by all.

Susan Horner

Hampton Hill Association Garden Barbecue

Saturday 10 August, 7.30pm

Enjoy with your friends another of our cheerful and splendid barbecue parties beside our own lovely little river - the Longford. Tickets will be sold in advance and will be strictly limited in order to provide shelter should the evening turn out damp. Tickets £2.50, not including drinks (bar available) from Dennis Dolan - 979 8641, Joyce Doughty - 979 2839 or Dorothy Weston - 979 6673. BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS!



Around the Spire

It was a great joy to many of us to celebrate the marriage of Prill Smith and Martin Hinckley and after a 'musical' service in church to adjourn to Hampton Hill Junior School to enjoy a splendid repast prepared by family and friends. The obvious happiness of Prill and Martin reflected itself in those around and 'a jolly good time was had by all'. Our love and best wishes to them.

The rapid arrival of Amy Victoria to Joy and David Scaddon caused something of a stir, especially to her Dad who had to deliver her, but all is now well and everyone, including Mum and Dad, has settled down to enjoy life together. Congratulations!

Friends of Anne Malins will be delighted to hear that she has obtained her honours degree (B.D.) in Theology at King's College, London.

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Thanks . . .

Many thanks to all the people who have so generously given money to various causes over the last few months.

Something in the region of £230 has been given as we go to press to buy flowers for the Flower Festival, which means that the church will not have to dip into its funds for this purpose, and almost half of the £700 needed for new hymn books has already been donated in a very short space of time.

Also, thanks to the many supporters of The Children's Society, those who have boxes, those who came to tea and those who brought cakes and scones for the tea, the total raised was over £400 - an increase of £50 over last year's figure.

Finally, the splendid sum of over £800 has been contributed to date to the Magazine Appeal.

Once again, thanks to you all.

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Audio Visual Maintenance Ltd. have moved to 2B Windmill Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1RH. Their telephone numbers (081 979 3198/9573) remain the same. The Directors are now Beverley Williams and Lina Williams.

G.S. Keates and Co. have asked us to state that they operate under the National Association of Funeral Directors Code of Practice and that for details of pre-payment and pre-planning one can dial 100 and ask for Freefone Family Funerals.

From the Registers

Baptisms

May	26	Holly Lorraine Coady	30 Longford Close
		Lisa Horwood	30 Longford Close
		Paul Horwood	30 Longford Close
June	2	Paul Luke Farry	71 Pigeon Lane
		Chanel Angela Farry	71 Pigeon Lane
		Lauren Elizabeth Taw	55B High Street
June	9	Clare Louise Williams	8 Parkside

Marriages

June	1	Brian John Stagg and Jodie Louise Morgan
June	15	Damon Michael Nunn and Kim Michelle Sullivan

Funerals

May	29	Robert Charles Cole	61 St. James's Avenue	Aged 56
	31	Herbert Albert Sidney Lorenz	White Farm Lodge, Whitton	Aged 82

Dates to Note

**Please Note: No Evening Services in August.
The Ministry of Healing will be included with Holy Communion
on the first Tuesday in August.**

Aug.	5	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	6		The Transfiguration of our Lord
		09.30	Holy Communion with Ministry of Healing
	10	19.30	H.H.A. Garden Barbecue by the Longford River
	24		St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Advance Notices

Sept.	11	20.00	PCC, Vestry
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COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE: 11 AUGUST

