

*Change and decay in all around I see,  
O thou who changest not abide with me.*

I can't say that the hymn *Abide with me* is one of my all-time favourites, even if it is one of the few hymns which everyone knows, at least in part, from the Wembley terraces or Auntie Gertrude's cremation. I do try to take great care over the hymns we sing in church, for it would be so easy to mouth banal ditties or lines which are simply not true - both in ancient and modern hymns. But these words from *Abide with me* do seem to be particularly pertinent today.

Change and decay is certainly around us in many things. Look for instance, at the realm of human behaviour both in individuals and groups - be it rioting in desperately deprived parts of our inner cities, in the rapidly rising crime rate, in domestic abuse of children and adults. Or think of the way societies behave towards each other; Yugoslavia is tearing itself apart, continued threat and violence in Northern Ireland, or the way in which we ignore the plight of the homeless even in our city. The very institutions of our common life, the Health Service, the Prison Service, seem to be operating perilously close to breaking point and pose a great threat of rapid decay in our community's life and care.

The danger is, however, that we all too easily come to equate change with decay, although we must constantly be alert to that particular heresy. Those of us who were able to be present at the Enthronement Eucharist of David, Bishop of London, in St. Paul's Cathedral recently, were thrilled to be involved in an act of worship, which in itself was quite a change for our diocese and which, perhaps even more importantly, heralded the prospect of a great change in the manner and style of our Christian witness in this vast diocese - Rejoicing, Reconciling, Renewing were Bishop David's watchwords. On the world stage the new freedom of the Baltic States, the signing of the Peace Treaty in South Africa, the advent of 1992 are not signs of decay. Far from it, but they are signs of great change and much hope.

In our church life at St. James' there are changes too - our commitment to the community, our striving to share more and more ecumenically, the contacts we are developing with the schools, trying to create greater involvement and diversity in worship are positive changes in which we delight. Even the physical changes - our redecoration, the future disposal of Wayside and the plans for our new hall are designed to improve the quality of our common life and witness. This is the Decade of Evangelism at work - not change and decay, but rejoicing, reconciling, renewing change.

But what about the line we haven't considered? *O thou who changest not, abide with me.* Can it be that with all our change we are leaving God behind, if our God never changes? No - for the Kingdom of God is not just about eternity it is also about today. The changes we strive for are those which, we believe, better reflect the Kingdom of God in our world today - indeed, we would even claim that they usher in a little bit more of the Kingdom, in our selves, in our community and in our world. It is you and I who need to change our hearts, minds and deeds to the changeless demands of God. And what does God demand? Love.

*Brian Leathard*



## A Harvest Prayer

O God,  
you have created us,  
hands and mind and heart,  
to find our satisfaction  
in hard and skilful work,  
and to delight in sharing its harvest.  
With all who labour,  
we offer ourselves  
to be the work of your hands  
in making a world  
where no-one will be exhausted  
by toil that is fruitless;  
but all may enjoy to the full  
what their own hands have produced.  
In the name of Christ, Amen.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Canon Gordon Wilson

The "Guardian" in its obituary of Gordon head-lined the article "The Peace of God".

Gordon was a loving parish priest, and we at St. James's realised this with gratitude when he undertook priest's duties during the last interregnum. He came to live in the parish in 1984, having retired after serving St. John's Church in Crewe for 25 years. Everyone appreciated his love and interest, and he and his wife Jean became integral parts of St. James's; he himself had great joy in baptising his first two grandchildren at the church where he felt very much at home. He was a great family man.

He had not only been a parish priest; he was a man of peace. He had been a pacifist since an early age, was a conscientious objector in the last war, and devoted much time to peace issues. He was Chairman of the Anglican pacifist Fellowship from 1973 - 1988

when he became President of the Fellowship. "He wrote, spoke and preached clearly. Always he based his arguments upon the person of Jesus; upon the victory of the cross, where evil was defeated by self-sacrifice; upon the new covenant, where violence was both inappropriate and mistaken; upon the cross and resurrection, which he took to be the pattern for all believers. What should we put our trust in, he would ask: the victory of Jesus or the destructive power of weapons?". It was during his Chairmanship that he headed a pilgrimage to Canterbury during the 1978 Lambeth Conference and, with the Dean's permission, hammered onto the door of the Cathedral a statement of seven reasons why war was incompatible with the Christian Faith. Although peace had not been on the Conference agenda the Bishops proclaimed that "the use of violence is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel". The inclusion of the word ultimately greatly disappointed Gordon.

In 1973 the Rev. Jack Jenner of the APF suggested that there should be a Week of Prayer for World Peace celebrated annually in the week in October when United Nations day is also remembered. Gordon enthusiastically became its Organising Secretary, with Dean Edward Carpenter as Chairman. A WPWP leaflet was annually published and circulated widely; although a Christian inspiration, care was taken that statements and prayers about peace from all Faiths were included in the leaflet. This has now become a world-wide distribution, the latest translation being into Japanese. The 1991 leaflet has been prepared by Rabbi Albert Friedlander, who also attended Gordon's funeral. The Hampton Council of Churches has always included a WPWP service as one of its United Services.

In 1974 after the World Conference of Religion and Peace had held its Second Assembly at Leuven in Belgium it was decided to start a WCRP/UK group. Gordon was immediately chosen as Chairman, with Bruce Kent as Secretary.

Hans Kung the famous German Theologian has said: "There can be no peace among the nations without dialogue and peace among the religions". We have had a man among us who has done more than most people in striving towards making these words a reality. Friends have called him a prophet. This world-wide effort to harness religions to peace-making was a very cherished aim in Gordon's life.

Gordon was chairman of WCRP/UK until 1990 when the Chairmanship was taken over jointly by Rabbi Albert Friedlander and Dr. Pauline Webb. Our Vice Chairman is Professor Harmindar Singh, a Sikh, and the Executive Committee includes members of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian Faiths. Gordon was loved by all. When I joined the group as Secretary in 1979, I felt as if I had entered a new world where I got to know members of other Faiths as friends and as dearly loved companions in this search for world peace.

Gordon was an enthusiastic golfer in earlier days, a great music lover and a great traveller. His readiness to travel led him to all the WCRP Assemblies: to Belgium, to the USA, to Kenya, to Australia, and with the WCRP International Council to China on two occasions. He always attended WCRP/Europe meetings when possible, and attended the last mini International Assembly only a few weeks ago in Rovereto, Italy.

We shall miss this man of peace greatly.

*Hannah Stanton*

# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

20-27 OCTOBER 1991



Use these brief thoughts for meditation  
and action

DAY 1, SUNDAY OCTOBER 20

## SEEKING PEACE: IN THE WORLD

### Teachings

"Blessed are the peacemakers, God shall call them His children."

*Jesus, Sermon on the Mount (Matth. 5.9)*

DAY 2, MONDAY OCTOBER 21

## SEEKING PEACE: AT HOME

### Teachings

"All of God's creatures are His family. He is most beloved of God who does good and creates peace to the members of God's family."

*Islamic teaching*

DAY 3, TUESDAY OCTOBER 22

## SEEKING PEACE: IN OUR HEARTS

### Teachings

"Behind the desires and worldly passions, which the mind entertains, there abides, clear and undefiled, the fundamental and true essence of mind."

*Buddha*

DAY 4, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23

## SEEKING PEACE: IN SUFFERING

### Teachings

The world is full of suffering. Birth is suffering, decrepitude is suffering, sickness and death are suffering. To face a man of hatred is suffering, to be separated from a beloved one is suffering, to be vainly struggling to satisfy one's need is suffering. In fact, life that is not free from desire and passion is always involved in suffering. This is called the Truth of suffering.

*Buddha's Noble Truth*

DAY 5, THURSDAY OCTOBER 24

## SEEKING PEACE: AMONG THE NATIONS (United Nations Day)

### Teachings

"Arms are instruments of evil omen, hateful, it may be said, to all creatures, and one who has the Way avoids them."

*The Book of Tao*

DAY 6, FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

## SEEKING PEACE: IN NATURE

### Teachings

To see a world in a grain of sand,  
And heaven in a wild flower;  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,  
And eternity in an hour.

*Blake "Auguries of Innocence"*

DAY 7, SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

## SEEKING PEACE: IN SCIENCE

### Teachings

"God does not play dice with the universe."

*Albert Einstein*

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks."

*Isaiah*

DAY 8, SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

## SEEKING PEACE: IN GOD

### Teachings

"Peace that surpasseth understanding."  
"Blessed is the one who puts his trust in God, with the Lord as his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in the year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit."

*Jeremiah 17, 17-18*

# Enthronement of the new Bishop of London

We are all familiar with the phrase 'a glittering occasion' and the enthronement of the new Bishop of London, David Hope was certainly one such event, from the golden cross on the summit of St. Paul's to the Lord Mayor's mace carried in procession down the nave aisle, gold and glitter were much in evidence.

After all the various representatives of church and state had processed to their appointed places the installation of the new Bishop really began by him knocking loudly on the huge wooden doors at the west end three times. Once inside, and after some wonderful singing by the joint choirs of St. Paul's and Wakefield Cathedral (the Bishop's previous appointment), the mandate was read which made the Bishop the legal holder of his new position.

The gold mosaic ceiling in the chancel gleamed, the Bishop's cope decorated with appliqued illustrations of some of the buildings found in The City worked in silver and gold glowed dully as the procession moved to the front of the cathedral from where the Bishop then preached his first sermon in his new office. As it was Holy Cross Day he started by talking about his recent visit to The Golden Cross which adorns the dome of the cathedral and from the foot of which the vast panorama of London unfolds, a London seen as Christ from the Cross. The cathedral itself is cross-shaped but reality is down on the ground. Already, he said, he had had plenty of 'advice' of the 'if I were Bishop of London' variety and he had been made forcefully aware of some of the many concerns - money, known as 'brass' further north, buildings, training, clergy and their particular problems. The job of the Bishop of London had been variously described as a 'poisoned chalice' or 'a bed of nails'. We could see his point.

He went on to talk about difficult decisions which had to be made in commerce and industry, about faith and faithfulness in many people, about working with people of other faiths and religions and he pledged himself to work for better relationships with all such people. But, he said, what do we see around us in the vibrant life of London, traffic, litter and above all homelessness, people living out their lives on the streets. Such problems are not only the government's responsibility, they are ours too. The cross is about sacrifice - that means our self-sacrifice, people are complex individuals but all are God's children.

He then touched on the explosive issue of the Ordination of Women, whatever the outcome there will be great pain but we must be compassionate towards those with whom we disagree 'forbearing one another in love'. The sermon finished with those marvellous words from Hebrews.

And I, and most of those who heard Bishop David preach on Saturday and again on Sunday felt uplifted and inspired by what they heard and hoped that this was a new beginning for the Diocese of London.

At both the enthronement and the eucharist the music and singing were quite wonderful and the gold plate shining on the altar on Sunday evening rounded off 'the glittering occasion' with, as the Bishop said, 'the Cross at the heart'.

*Helen Taylor*

# Enthronement Eucharist at St. Paul's Cathedral

On Sunday evening we joined the steady flow of people into the Cathedral where there was still plenty of room and we managed to find seats in the transept at the right hand side of the altar so had a very good view, providing we were not too small.

Seating the many thousands of people, the welcome by the Dean, and the procession of choirboys, clergy and the Bishop was rather like a military operation but everything went smoothly and on time. The service began with a greeting from the Bishop, then followed familiar hymns and easy to follow responses, led by the choir which was superb. The sheer volume of the music and singing echoed and re-echoed round the Cathedral. At the front of the nave, opposite where we were sitting, were a group of deaf people who were led through the entire service in sign language and it was beautiful to watch them as a group joining in the singing in sign language, so graceful and expressive.

The Bishop's sermon was about the three R's, but unlike the three R's learnt in school he spoke about Rejoicing, Reconciliation and Renewal. Then came the offertory with school children from the diocese being invited to bring gifts they had made in school to be placed in front of the altar.

We emerged from the cathedral just as darkness was falling to the sound of a steel band and the view of St. Paul's floodlit against the night sky as we drove past in the minibus on our way home was quite lovely. It had been a wonderful service on a wonderful evening.

*Mona Gow*

## Hampton Council of Churches

### Autumn Lectures 1991 "Decade of Evangelism"

Wednesdays at 8pm Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton

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|---------------|---|
| 30th October  | Opening Lecture<br>Rev. John Reardon, General Secretary,<br>The Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland.                                    |
| 6th November  | Evangelisation and Dialogue<br>Fr. Michael Barnes, S.J., Lecturer,<br>Heythrop College, London.   |
| 13th November | Thy Kingdom Come . . . .<br>Mrs. Marion Mort, Lay Reader,<br>Co-ordinator for the Decade of Evangelism,<br>Church of England Board for Mission. |
| 20th November | In Discussion . . . .<br>All three Speakers return for this final meeting.  |

Retiring collection to defray expenses.

# UNICEF

## Jar of Grace Appeal



A way for those of us who do "have jam on their bread" to help those who do not even have bread.

### What is UNICEF?

It is the United Nations Children's Fund working in 128 developing countries. It receives no money from the United Nations but depends entirely on voluntary donations from the public and national governments to carry out its vital work.

### What Can I do to Help?

Many of the world's problems seem so vast that we begin to wonder if our small contributions can really be effective and this can lead us to do nothing. Through the Jar of Grace Appeal - started by one north of England Church fifteen years ago and now become a large national project - it has become obvious that small contributions can and do help. 7p can pay for injection of iodised oil to protect a young child for 5 years from disabilities such as cretinism, 35p can pay for 30 vitamin A capsules to protect 30 children against nutritionally caused blindness for one year, 75p can pay for a spade for a school vegetable garden, £5.88p can stock a pond with baby fish to supply protein for a village.

### What is a Jar of Grace?

All you need is a jam jar to be put on your table at meal times. It becomes a Jar of Grace if a coin is placed in it every mealtime. The idea is that this will keep us constantly mindful of the many people who cannot enjoy many of the things we take for granted and it will enable us to save our money regularly so that through our giving we can offer practical help to children in desperate need.

**Margaret Hobbs** our parish organiser will supply you with UNICEF labels for your jars and will send off your contributions for you; contact her for details.

# A Thousand Pounds by Christmas !!!

For the past two or three years the money raised by our Stewardship giving has been insufficient to cover our expenses and we have had to return to fund raising. When Stewardship was first introduced it was hoped that such activities would no longer be necessary and consequently we could use our time and talents more productively and for many years this was indeed the case. Unhappily this is so no longer, unless everyone digs deeper into their pockets. In the meantime we need to raise at least £1000 between now and the New Year.

For a variety of reasons, the main one being the lack of premises, it was decided at a recent PCC meeting, and after much discussion, to ask parishioners to run a series of events or raise money in some other way. Several suggestions were made:

1. Sell cakes on Sunday Mornings after the 9.30 Service
2. Have a Cheese and Wine Party at Home
3. Hold a Coffee/Afternoon Tea with a Bring and Buy
4. Sell Preserves, Plants etc. either in Church, Wayside or at Home
5. Organise a Garage/Trash and Treasure Sale



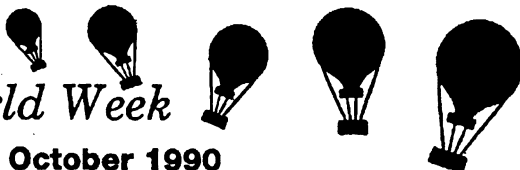
Any other ideas are welcome, we already have the offer of a Chilli and Wine Supper Party and a Punch and Mince Pie Party, dates to be arranged. To avoid overlapping and confusion Margaret Revis and Eila Severn have offered to co-ordinate these activities. Please let them know if you would like to organise any of the above or if you have any other plans.



**DON'T FORGET** Harvest Supper in Church 5th October with entertainment.  
Parish Quiet Day St. Michael's Convent, Ham November 30th.  
Hampton Council of Churches Series of Autumn Lectures.  
Clocks change 27th October.

*One World Week*

**21st – 28th October 1990**





# From the Registers

## Baptisms

August 4 Verity Rose Davies 8 Wolsey Road  
Jack George Henry Watkinson 110 Uxbridge Road

## Marriages

August 3 Michael David Robins and Nicola Marie Carolan  
10 Rupert Andrew Spurgeon and Dawn Ann Read  
31 Peter Davis and Lisa Edge

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## A Letter from Jean Wilson

Dear Friends,

You have no idea how much your love and support have helped me and my family to bear the loss of dear Gordon.

Together we have been so content and fulfilled since we started coming to St. James, and Gordon appreciated the fact that he was able to continue his ministry by helping both Nicholas and Brian and covering some of the period of the interregnum. Often when we were returning home from a meeting or a concert Gordon would say "I feel as if I am on holiday".

So thank you all very much indeed for your prayers and your sympathy, and may we all continue to practice and preach the Gospel of Peace which is the ongoing mission for all of us, the followers of Jesus our Lord.

Love and Peace,

*Jean*

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# Dates to Note

Oct.	5	Harvest Supper in Church
	6	09.30 Harvest Festival Childrens Eucharist
		18.30 Choral Evensong with Choir
	7	14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
		20.00 Launch of a New Forum for Women, Vicarage
	8	20.00 Tuesday Club: Life and Times of Mrs. Beeton, Wayside
	9	19.00 Open Evening for Parents at Bishop Wand School
	16	20.00 Hampton Council of Churches Annual General Meeting, URC



18 **St. Luke**



22 20.00 Tuesday Club: London Bridges, with slides, Wayside

28 **SS Simon and Jude**



20.00 Taizé Service, All Saints Church, Hampton  
 United Service for the Week of Prayer for World Peace ,  
 All Saints, Hampton

30 20.00 First of four Hampton Council of Churches Lectures,  
 'The Decade of Evangelism', Percy Road Methodist Church.  
 (See elsewhere for details)

Nov.	1	<b>All Saints Day</b>
	2	<b>All Souls Day</b>
	5	20.00 Tuesday Club: Open Evening, Wayside
	6	14.30 Mother's Union: Creative Christmas, Wayside
		20.00 HCC Lecture, Methodist Church
	13	20.00 HCC Lecture, Methodist Church
	20	20.00 HCC Lecture, Methodist Church
	27	20.00 Taizé Service, St. James
	30	Parish Quiet Day, St. Michael's Convent, Ham.

**COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE: 6 OCTOBER**