

Across its 2,000 years of life the Christian Church has used many symbols and images to describe itself. One of the earliest was the title 'The Way' - a path to be followed. It was symbolised by a fish - really a pun on the letters of the word fish and the name of Jesus. It has used the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ - for Greek was the language of the New Testament writings. The church has thought of itself as a Body - the Body of Christ with many limbs and organs, or as a bride: it has pictured itself as an army marching behind the banner of the cross, indeed we still have the Salvation Army and the Church Army.

More recently the church has used the symbol of a boat, a secure but fragile vehicle travelling the charted and uncharted waters of the world. Indeed the symbol of the World Council of Churches is a boat, of which the mast is Christ's cross. In our own country, with the increased commitment of the churches to work and worship together, there has been much talk of the Christian community as a Pilgrim People - people on the move, rather like the Old Testament people being led out of Egypt into the Promised Land. Indeed this image has been strengthened by ecumenical worship on some occasions taking place in a tent! A good symbol for a church continually prepared to move on.

For us in the Church of England on November 11th this year General Synod will debate and vote on the legal measure which will confirm that women can be ordained as priests. This is of great importance both in the church and outside it. For it is also a sign, a symbol of our willingness to be the pilgrim people, to move on in faith, discerning and following God.

The arguments for and against the ordination of women as priests have been well rehearsed (since 1987 some 1200 women in the Church of England have been ordained deacons to work in parishes, schools, hospitals, prisons, universities, industry). I don't expect to convince anyone by what I say, I can only state what I feel. I fully support the ordination of women to the priesthood on exactly the same basis as men. I feel that this decision in November, if it succeeds, could be a life-giving, hope-giving sign that all people are called to respond to God, to follow in the Way of Love irrespective of sex, sexuality, age, race, position or any other factor. The decision to ordain women as priests could have great potency as a sign of including all people in God's embrace, a sign for our times, when so many people feel left out in the cold, unheard, unnoticed; cast out of work or home, cast off from family or human contact, cast loose from hope or purpose in their lives.

I know that November is a painful month for many people, with memories of loved ones and remembrances of the loss of life in war. Equally, whichever way the vote goes there will be many people hurt or pained. Yet, I trust that this November may also prove to be a time of new hope, when women who feel called to respond to God by ordination to the priesthood can move forward toward that goal.

Signs and symbols carry more power than we realise. May the sign of the full community of women and men in the church prove a lasting symbol, a first fruit for the full communion of all God's children. That indeed would be a sign of the Kingdom of God in the kingdoms of the world.

Brian Leathard

A Prayer

On 11 November, the General Synod of the Church of England again debates the issue of the Ordination of Women. This prayer is offered for use in our own Diocese of London:

Guide, O God, the Church of England through this time of decision concerning the ministry of women;
grant that convictions strongly held may be voiced and heard with charity; give wisdom to members of the General Synod;
and when the decision is made surround with your love those of our brothers and sisters to whom it causes pain.

Give to your whole Church the Spirit of truth and peace, that celebrating your gifts in each other we may serve you in humility and joy.

We ask this for the sake of our High Priest, your Son, Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Tuesday 10 November

8 pm in church

Prayer and Meditation in advance of the General Synod debate
and vote on the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

All welcome

Crèche for 0 - 3 year-olds

We are pleased to report that the crèche is now running in church each Sunday of the month except the first (Informal Services).

If you have children under three years of age whom you wish to leave in the crèche, please come along to the vestry during the first hymn.

We would stress that children are welcome in church at all times and that use of the crèche for this age group is not compulsory.

If you would like to help out in the crèche on a rota basis or have any queries, please see either Beryl Bye or myself.

Susan Blay

Our New Organist

We are fortunate indeed to have Marcella den Boer as our new Organist and Choir Mistress. Marcella was a recital organist for twenty years in Canada and organist at Calgary Cathedral and had previously played the organ in Czechoslovakia. We welcome her most warmly to our church.

She is keen to know of all who would like to join in the music of the church, either as singers or as instrumentalists. If you would like to participate in these ways, please get in touch with her. Choir practices for Advent Sunday and Christmas are now being held on Thursday evenings at 8 pm and on Sunday mornings at about 10.45 am. If you like singing, you are welcome to either or both.

We are already indebted to Marcella's husband, Lenert, for his beautiful violin playing in church on one or two occasions, and look forward to hearing him play again from time to time.



The Promise of His Glory

From All Saints Day to Candlemas we shall be using an approved alternative selection of services and readings for this time of year, called 'The Promise of His Glory'. This complements a selection 'Lent, Holy Week and Easter' which we have already used.

Trade for Change

'Trade for Change' is the name of Christian Aid's campaign for fairer international trading structures. In the words of Pope Paul VI 'the International trading system was devised by the rich to suit their needs; it ignores those of the poor'. OXFAM and the World Development Movement (WDM) have also launched their own campaigns on the subject of trade.

Many of the poorest countries in the world entered the international trading system as colonies of countries such as the UK and France. The colonisers organised these countries to produce raw materials and tropical products like sugar, rubber, tea, coffee and cotton. Although most of these countries are now politically independent the legacies of the colonial system remain. They still produce raw materials on the advice of the rich industrialised countries resulting in plentiful supplies which command low prices. In addition to this the introduction of synthetic substitutes like nylon and plastic has meant demand for raw materials has shrunk.

What this means is that people in Third World countries are working just as hard but are earning much less than they were ten years ago. Take the fertile island of Negros in the Philippines which is dependent on its export of sugar. In 1985 the US slashed its import of sugar overnight. This resulted in starvation for the island of Negros.

In Sri Lanka, a tea-plucker would, on a good day earn the equivalent of 70p. A kilo of tea costs about 97p when it leaves Sri Lanka and is sold here at £4.50 per kilo as tea bags. Would you not agree that this is a raw deal for workers in the Third World?

You can help change things for the sugar cane cutters of Negros, for the tea-pluckers of Sri Lanka and for many others in the Third World:

1. Write to your MP at the House of Commons and raise some of the issues of trading relationships that are unjust.
2. Persuade your local supermarket to stock Cafedirect and other fairly traded goods. (Cafedirect is a filter coffee launched by a consortium of fair trade organisations in the UK - Traidcraft, Equal Exchange, Oxfam Trading and TWIN trading).
3. Look out for the Fairtrade Mark on goods from the end of 1992. This mark will guarantee that the goods have been traded fairly.

A wealthier Third World does not mean the rich countries will be worse off. On the contrary, everyone would benefit. If coffee prices were higher the poor communities in Colombia may not be forced to produce cocaine to survive. A secure world is in the interests of each and every one of us and this means giving the poor the security of decent wages, education and economic self-reliance.

SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID AND ITS WORK TO MAKE TRADE BENEFIT THE POOR.

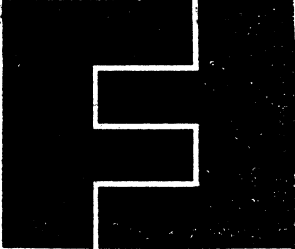
Ramani Leathard

The Good Samaritans

The reading set for Evensong on the first Sunday after our return from our holiday in Spain seemed very appropriate to us: Luke 10.25 - 37 - the story of the Good Samaritan.

Two weeks earlier Roma and I had been enjoying a sunny Sunday afternoon in Barcelona, wandering with many other visitors to the city through the streets near to the Gothic Cathedral. Suddenly, we were both thrown violently down onto the stone paving, without really knowing what had happened. But we soon realised that we had been attacked from behind, presumably by two men. One snatched Roma's handbag; the other sat astride me, one arm round my throat, while removing my body-belt from round my waist and my wallet from my back trouser pocket. Virtually everything we had on us - including camera, money and credit cards - was taken. That was the bad news.

Guarantees
a better deal
for Third World
Producers



Fairtrade

The good news was that a German couple had witnessed what had happened, and, there being nothing else they could possibly do as the muggers sped off, soon to be lost in a maze of alleyways adjoining the road we had been walking along, helped us to our feet, buckled glasses in our hands, and insisted on staying with us. We went with them a few hundred yards to the Generalitat (the Catalan Parliament building) where they had noticed police on duty, and they waited there for quite a time while we were taken to an ambulance and given First Aid. Then, they accompanied us to the Police Station in the Ramblas where we had to report the incident. There, having made sure that we were seeing the right officer, they gave us money so that we could get our car out of the expensive car park where it was awaiting us all this time, and pay the motorway tolls on the 90 mile drive back to Estartit where we were staying.

Our German friends were also in Barcelona for the day only and they had to catch a train to Tarragona. They had given up a considerable amount of time to help us - but what comfort and support it was to us to have them around!

Ron Bridges



FUND RAISING

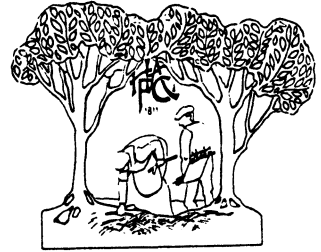
| | | |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| November 6 | Share my Music: Benjamin Britten's War Requiem | Jean Wilson 4 Byron Close |
| November 13 | Holy Land Video and Fork Supper | Mona Gow 31 Chelsea Close |
| November 17 | Share my Music: Beethoven String Quartets | Jean Wilson 4 Byron Close |
| November 26 | Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy | Hannah Stanton 30 Burton's Road |
| December 1 | Pizza Party | Margaret Revis 40 Cardinal's Walk |
| December 3 | Share my Music: Kiri Te Kanawa and Auckland Cathedral Choir | Jean Wilson 4 Byron Close |

ASK HOSTESSES FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity

Applications are invited for financial assistance for 'persons in need, hardship or distress and those sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm'. Forms, with more details of the Grant Scheme, are available from the Vicar. They should be returned to him before the end of the year.

Application may also be made, in the first place, to the Vicar for information about grants which are additionally available for certain other charitable purposes.



The Churchyard

The London Ecology Unit is preparing, at the request of the Borough Council, a booklet on 'Nature Conservation in Richmond-upon-Thames' which will include information on various sites of importance in this connection. One of them is our churchyard:

'This pleasant and peaceful Victorian churchyard delights in a mixture of the semi-formal and the wild. Even in the more intensively managed parts around the church there is cover for wildlife, and at the opposite end is a small grassland wilderness, complete with meadow flowers, and some rough corners of tall herbaceous vegetation. Large, stately trees of both native and non-native species grace all parts of the churchyard.'

The report goes on to detail the many different species of plants and trees to be found, and expresses concern that the oaks are suffering from an infestation of Knopper gall. This is apparently caused by the larva of the Knopper gall wasp which has been introduced into the country with Turkey oak.

The author of the report evidently peered over the west fence for there is a brief comment on 'the part of the vicarage garden that was once an orchard'!

St. Francis Hospital

We reported in May on the work of Heather and Richard Scott from Hampton at this hospital in rural Tanzania, and subsequently many of us saw some of their slides and met them, and their new baby Grace, in church on a Sunday evening. They were soon back at work in Tanzania and have now sent another newsletter to England. Here are some extracts:

'Over 8,000 patients passed through our outpatients department and we had a record

412 admissions. This averages out to 13 new admissions a day, 9 of whom were children and half of these needed transfusion. This indicates the terrible toll malaria takes especially affecting the under fives. We also had a great increase in the number of severely malnourished children and had to dramatically extend our nutrition project . . . funded in part by a Dutch church project.

‘Two very striking examples of people’s response to God have stuck with me recently. One is the delight and happiness of one of our male staff nurses whose wife recently delivered after a long period of "infertility". There was a service of "Shukrani" or Thanksgiving in church and two of the other staff nurses took the opportunity to publicly say "thank you" to God for success in the recent upgrading exams. They slipped out of the wards into church and then quickly back to work again! The other example was of a young 17 year old mother who had a fairly grisly labour elsewhere and arrived through mud and rain the day after her delivery with an infected, badly repaired tear below and very, very anaemic. She still managed a big smile and to say how grateful she was to God - it’s pretty humbling really.

‘Our teaching programme last year paid great dividends. We have got five students into Maternity Child Health Aide training, two into Staff Nurse training and one into Rural Medical Aide training.

‘The time of hunger is now over and the maize is ready for harvesting. The rains have been late but plentiful. To prevent wild pig from eating all the maize on their shambas local people sleep on their shambas and drive away pigs with torches, sticks, bows and arrows and occasionally ancient front loading guns. Sadly we have had two fatalities from random shooting in the dark at presumed "pigs" One brave man recently tried to see off a lion which had killed one of his cows. He was mauled and admitted to us with bite injuries to his shoulder and severe lacerations on his back. The lion was killed by his rescuer.’



There follows an account of Richard and Heather mending their Land Rover with the ribbon of Grace’s bay bonnet!

Heather and Richard suggest that, if anyone feels moved to offer financial help which really is needed currently, cheques payable to the hospital account (SZ333) could be sent to ECHO (Equipment for Charity Hospitals Overseas), Ullswater Crescent, Coulsden, Surrey.

Book Review

Child of my Love by Sue Ryder, published by Collins Harvill

I have recently been re-reading Sue Ryder's moving autobiography, describing her work among the refugees of Europe after the Second World War, the beginnings and growth of the Sue Ryder Foundation and the charitable work for the Leonard Cheshire Foundation which she shared with her husband. A friend saw me with the book and told me she thought it was the best thing she had ever read; it comes from the Library, so is available for all and I would very much recommend it.

Sue Ryder includes many prayers, some very telling and powerfully charged. Here are a few; the first from a scrap of paper found near the dead body of a child in Ravensbruck Concentration Camp:

'O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good-will, but also those of ill-will. But do not only remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us, remember the fruits we bought, thanks to this suffering, our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, generosity and greatness of heart which has grown out of all this. And when they come to judgement, let all the fruits that we have borne, be their forgiveness.'

Christina Rossetti wrote this prayer about death:

'O Lord, whose way is perfect, help us, we pray, always to trust in your goodness; that walking with you and following you in all simplicity, we may possess quiet and contented minds, and may cast all our care on you, who cares for us.'

Written by a friend, a nun:

'We have to prepare for the future and we do not yet know what it will bring. We have to find a standing ground so firm that nothing unexpected can disturb us, and so broad that it will carry any undertaking that we may have to base upon it. And so satisfying that it will take the place of all other satisfactions. There is only one thing that answers to this, and that is the will of God.'

A translation of part of Psalm 126, a particular favourite of hers and mine:

'They go out, they go out full of tears,
carrying the seed for the sowing;
They come back, they come back
full of song, carrying their sheaves.'

Leonard Cheshire has recently died and I hope that Psalm 126 has indeed brought consolation and joy to his widow, Sue Ryder.

Margaret Taylor

Around the Spire

We welcome into the world several new arrivals. Edward Lawrance Rennsman, born in Bonn, Germany, to Helen and Thilo, is grandson to Margaret and Tony Lawrance. All are doing well (including the grandparents!). Stephanie Jade Probert-Lewis, the daughter of Nicola and Gareth, is granddaughter to Mona and Ray Gow, and Helen Rebecca Williams, whom we have already seen in church, is a second daughter for Zena and David, and granddaughter to David and Elizabeth Bonner. Congratulations to all these families.

After a long gestation period we have finally been delivered of 2,000 picture postcards of the church from a photo taken by Dick Waltham. These will be on sale shortly. Please buy as many as you can - why not use them for Christmas cards? We do need to sell them quickly.

Many, many thanks to the people who organised the Harvest Supper in the new Greenwood Centre. 65 people attended and were delighted at the change of venue.

Three more celebrations to note: Olive Wright, now living at Peer Lodge, Sandy Lane, was 88 in September and Mrs. Ross was 92 in October. We send them both our best wishes. And Nicholas, the son of Margaret and David Taylor, was married to Amanda on 17 October in Cornwall. Love and congratulaions to them.

Finally, we are trying to compile a comprehensive list of all those people whose ashes have been interred in the churchyard, either in a family grave or in the Garden of Remembrance. If you know of someone whose ashes lie in the churchyard, even if you think this may already be recorded, please speak to Helen Taylor, 979 7042, so that we can make the list as complete as possible.

From the Registers - September

Baptisms

| | | |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 13 | Andrew James Paul Warrens | 5 Vincent Row |
| | Jonathan Michael David Warrens | 5 Vincent Row |
| 19 | Joanna Rachel Bernadine Robottom | 19 Park Road |
| 20 | Sophie Kay Clifford | 57 Uxbridge Road |
| | Malachi Marcus James Davis | 179 Uxbridge Road |
| | Sophie Louise Eastwood | 9 Pigeon Lane |
| | Shane Rhys Eastwood | 7 Bishops Grove |
| | Debbie Louise Ann Summers | 13 Bishops Grove |
| | Noah Joseph Eastwood | 7 Bishops Grove |
| | Stephanie Louise Tarrant | 50 Shakespeare Avenue, |
| | Feltham | |
| | Lee Mark Eastwood | 7 Bishops Grove |

Marriages

- 5 Clive Blunden and Sarah Jane English
John Paul Nielsen and Michelle Christina Fearn
19 Andrew Peter Wythe and Catherine June Sansom

Blessing of Marriage

- 26 Carl Whitehead and Alison Toal

Funeral

- 24 Eric Lance Taylor 25 Fairlight Aged 77 years

Dates to Note

- Nov. 1 **All Saints**
2 20.00 **All Souls: Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**
6 20.00 Share my Music, 4 Byron Close
7 10.30-15.30 'Fools for God'; Area Meeting for Lay Readers,
St. James's Church. All are welcome
9 14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
10 20.00 Prayer and meditation before the General Synod debate
and vote on ordination of women to the priesthood, church
13 20.00 Holy Land Video and Fork Supper, 31 Chelsea Close
16 20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
17 20.00 Share my Music, 4 Byron Close
18 20.00 Women's Forum: On Intercessions, Wayside
26 10.30 Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy, 30 Burtons Road
20.00 Taizèè Service, St. Francis de Sales
30 **St. Andrew the Apostle**

Advance Notices

- Dec. 1 20.00 Pizza Party, 40 Cardinals Walk
2 14.00 Women's Forum: Kitty Platt, Wayside
3 20.00 Share my Music, 4 Byron Close
20.00 Taizèè Service, Methodist Church, Hampton
6 09.30 Christingle Service



- 15 20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
16 20.00 Women's Forum Christmas Celebration, Wayside

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE: 13 NOVEMBER