

A man arrived at the Vicarage door a few weeks ago asking where we would like him to erect the 'For Sale' sign. Somewhat surprised that the Parsonages Board were contemplating pulling not only the rug from under me, but also the whole house, I enquired further. With much disquiet I asked him to check whether he had the correct details. In fact he had the wrong road and the wrong house number. Did he, I wonder, think we might be taking up residence in the portakabin? His van was full of 'For Sale' signs, but very few 'Sold' signs, even though he assured me that things are 'looking up'. Looking up at the signs around our parish there are certainly plenty of properties for sale and, no doubt, many people trapped in what the Building Societies euphemistically call 'negative equity', that is living in a house on which you owe more money than the current value of the property.

Being 'at home' in a place, feeling we belong, feeling we are secure, is crucial to our human well being. We belong to this place, to this community, to this parish. For me the one argument in favour of the Church of England continuing in its established form is that every inch of England is covered by a parish and everyone in that parish is part of the ministry of the church.

There is a story near the beginning of the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, Chapter 23 about Abraham and his wife Sarah. You will remember that Abraham had left his home and family and travelled huge distances as God asked him to do. Eventually they settle in the land of Canaan, but still Abraham is not at home, he hasn't put down roots. The death of his wife Sarah brings to the surface all his rootlessness; her death emphasises that even after all these years Abraham is not at home. Out of respect and friendliness the prosperous citizens of Canaan offer Abraham one of their own burial places for Sarah. Abraham rejects this handsome offer and asks only for a burial place for Sarah. The Canaanite elders again offer him too much land. Eventually Abraham negotiates to purchase land and Sarah is buried in Canaan, the Promised Land. But it is almost as if feeling at home everywhere, means never truly being at home anywhere.

We too need our space, our plot, our place to be 'at home', to put down roots. Where are we 'at home'? Is it a house, or where families or friends reside? Is it where we work? What makes home?

Two thoughts:      In Baptism we are buried with Christ and rise with Christ. Christ's burial, like Sarah's, was in a borrowed tomb, for this man had 'nowhere to lay his head'.  
For the Body of Christ, the Church, it is at the Eucharist that we are fed, this is home where bread is shared and the wine circulated to all. What makes home?

And by the way, we have Newcomers Welcoming Cards in Church. Please deliver one personally to someone who makes their home near you.

*Brian Leathard*

## Our New Churchwarden - Ruth Mills

*At the Meeting of Parishioners on 25th April, Margaret Taylor was re-appointed Churchwarden and Ruth Mills was appointed in place of Alan Taylor who, as noted in our last issue, had completed his five years as Churchwarden. Ruth has for some long time until recently been fully occupied outside her 'working' hours caring with much devotion for her mother and many will know her only as a regular participant with her mother at Parish Communion. We therefore asked her to write about herself.*

My life at St. James's started, with the Rev. Harvey as the Vicar, when I was 3. All members of my family were involved in the church, my brother Andy joined the choir and my parents worked hard at anything that was needed. My mother, brought up a Methodist, laundered the church linen and organised the flowers.

Guiding has been very important for most of my life: I worked through all the stages of Brownie, Guide, Cadet and Guider, running 1st Hampton Hill Guides from the age of 17 until I went to Canada in 1969, returning in 1971 to run a Ranger Unit in Hampshire for a short time.

Early influences on my life as a Christian included the efforts of Hannah Stanton and Betty Stewart and the team of Sunday School Teachers who endured me as a small child, Dr. Sangster's sermons at the Methodist Central Hall and visits to the Kingsway Hall to hear Donald Soper preach. Perhaps that explains my leaning towards Christian Pacifism. The single greatest contribution to my Christian education and growth was the Young People's Fellowship. Sunday evening Bible studies, Friday evening social events and holidays together were fun, bringing rewarding and longlasting friendships.

Work and commuting now take up a great deal of my life - I work at the Middlesex Hospital as a Mould Room Radiographer. This is a special 'breed' of Radiotherapy Radiographer, involved in the preparation of patients for their cancer treatment. Briefly, I get paid for making mud pies - I never wanted to grow up anyway!

My once very active and caring mother is now too confused and unaware to look after herself and needs more help than I alone can give. She has recently gone to live in Gifford House in Twickenham, but keeps the very important contact with the church through her weekly visits. My friend Judith shares my bungalow in Teddington, and is very supportive in many ways, joining me in daily Bible study and prayer time.

The people of St. James's are, I feel, our greatest asset. I am concerned that God's love should be demonstrated in our love for each other. I want people to be involved, to feel needed - as indeed they are. One does not have to be a vicar, churchwarden, bellringer or church cleaner to be important, but many find it easier to feel included and responsible for their church if they have a defined job to do. My own jobs have included 25 years of choir membership, singing alto, tenor and, most recently, soprano (!), bellringing, the readers' rota and I even became a lay reader (by accident) when I lived in Canada.

I am aware of being a very lucky person and delight in the love and support of my friends, family and church. I want to share it.

# A Report from the Vicar

*The Vicar's report at the APCM included a statement on the current situation in the Church of England arising from the decision to ordain women as priests. In view of the importance of this matter, he was asked to repeat his view of the situation here.*

People have expressed to me dismay, concern and disbelief at the way in which some members of the Church of England, angered by the decision of the General Synod to ordain women to the priesthood, are organising and attempting to have the Synod's decision revoked. I too am among those deeply saddened by people who feel they can no longer remain in the Church of England. I have, since before my ordination in 1982, supported the ordination of women to the priesthood.

With the very public demonstration of prominent persons, lay and clerical, declaring their intention to enter the Roman Catholic Church it has become all the more important for those of us who support the General Synod's clear decision, to say that we wish to make sure the legislation will work and work well.

Each Diocesan Bishop - for us the Bishop of London - has the right, under the legislation, to refuse to ordain women as priests and to refuse to appoint them in his diocese.

As I said at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, I want the legislation to work and will do all I can to ensure that it does. I know that the PCC supports me fully in this. However, I do not know if I could remain as an incumbent in this diocese, should the Bishop of London decide that there should be no women working as priests in his diocese. I realise that you may see this as a threat of desertion on my part. It isn't. I don't wish to be melodramatic, nor do I wish to hide from you my great disquiet at the current situation. I certainly don't wish people to feel that I may abandon St. James's - I certainly will not do that.

At the same time as much publicity is given to those who feel they must leave the Church of England, there is also much pain for the vast majority of our Church's faithful members who remain, especially those of us who remain in dioceses where we may find ourselves in disagreement with our Bishops.

The Psalmist reminds me:

'The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:  
and a fair land is my inheritance.'

I trust it will remain so, in our church, our diocese and our parish.

*Brian Leathard*

\* \* \* \* \*

- Women do two-thirds of the world's work for 10 per cent of its income and own only 1 per cent of its assets.

*United Nations*

# The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the meeting on 25 April, the following were elected to the Parochial Church Council:

Lynn Cox  
Mona Gow  
Margaret Hobbs  
Rachel Lloyd  
Moya Meredith-Smith  
Margaret Revis  
Coryn Robinson  
Marion Nevill  
Eila Severn

Terry Baldwin  
Andrew Craig  
Jack Gostling  
David Lloyd  
Richard Melville  
John Meredith-Smith  
David Robottom  
David Taylor  
Dick Wilde

The Vicar is, of course, Chairman, and the PCC also comprises the Churchwardens (Margaret Taylor and Ruth Mills), the Readers (Hannah Stanton and Alan Taylor), the Deanery Synod representatives Sue Blay, Lesley Mortimer and Pip Rowett (who were elected at the meeting) and Corinne Evans, our Welfare representative.

## A Sporting Challenge

As part of our 130th Festival Celebrations, a Victorian cricket match has been arranged for the evening of Wednesday 14th July, between Hampton Hill Cricket Club and a 'Fitzwygram XI' representing St. James's.

We hope that it will be possible for players to be dressed in the appropriate garb and also to sport facial hair: further guidance or inspiration may be gained from photographs on display in the Hampton Hill Cricket Club pavilion, taken at their Centenary Match in 1955.

Men of St. James's, be not modest or timid! Whatever your cricketing skills, your Captain (Brian!) has need of you for the honour of St. James's. Do not disappoint him! Ladies of St. James's! Encourage your menfolk - and support them as they train and practise for his memorable match!



*Jack Gostling*

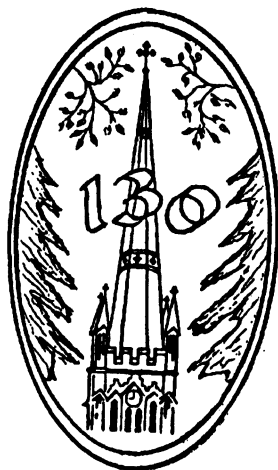
We are pleased to report that the Messiah from Scratch on 19 March raised £176 for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, and that the Soup Lunch at the end of the Lent Groups raised £70 for Christian Aid.

### An Apology

The Editor regrets that the author of the article 'Was Jesus a Zealot?' in the last issue, was not acknowledged. It was in fact Stuart Ward, and we look forward to a series of articles by him on the history of the Christian Church.

**\* \* St. James's Festival (1863 - 1993) - July 1993 \* \***

Sunday	4	09.30	David, BISHOP OF LONDON, to preside at Parish Communion and the Blessing of the Foundation Stone of our new Church Hall
Wednesday	7	14.00	Women's Forum Invitation Service and Tea
Thursday	8	19.00	Hampton Hill Junior School Summer Concert in Church
Friday	9	19.30	THE SONG OF THE HILL in Church
Saturday	10		Parish Treasure Hunt
Sunday	11	15.00	THE SONG OF THE HILL in church
Wednesday	14	18.00	Cricket Match
Friday	16	20.00	Concert in Church
Saturday	17		OPEN DAY at Church and Pig Roast
Monday	19	20.00	Looking Back, Looking Forward, in Church
Tuesday	20		Quiz Night, Hampton Hill Junior School
Wednesday	21		Women's Forum, 130 years of St. James's
Saturday	24		Parish Splash, Hampton Pool
Sunday	25	11.00	ST. JAMES'S DAY Parish Communion with the ARCHDEACON OF MIDDLESEX, followed by Lunch in Church



● ● School paintings will be on show in Church throughout ● ●

● ● ● ● ● Watch Posters for More Details ● ● ● ● ●

## Wayside: A Thumbnail Sketch

This 'commodious villa' was built in 1883 (probably by Singletons, local builders and 'pillars of the church'), one of several in St. James's Road which came into being as part of the Rev. J. Fitzwygram's efforts to attract 'gentry' into the early village to act as patrons and providers in a poverty-stricken area.

In the early 1920's, it was owned by a family named Breddenberg (formerly Brandenburg) who shared it with Col. Joseph Whiteside Boyle D.S.O., ex-patriate Canadian who was buried and rested peacefully in St. James's churchyard until his remains were disinterred at the request of a group of citizens of Woodstock, Ontario, after much, sometimes acrimonious, discussion which ended in a Consistory Court hearing in our church. The remains were flown to Canada by the Royal Canadian Air Force and reinterred in Woodstock with great pomp and ceremony on a day which was declared a Canadian National Holiday. An ancient cross and urn, the gift of Queen Marie of Romania in affectionate remembrance of the dashing colonel, were also removed to Woodstock. A commemorative stone, paid for by the Canadians, now marks the site of his original grave.

Early in the 1950's, it became apparent that Wayside could prove a great investment over and above its obvious advantages as a church house. Eventually, in 1955, Wayside was purchased by the church for £4175 and did in fact become a very useful adjunct to St. James's.

For many years it was the meeting place of the PCC, the Sunday Schools, the Young People's Fellowship and many church-related groups such as the Mothers' Union, the Young Wives and the Tuesday Club, the Young Families Group, and the Wayside Monday Centre (a counselling service), not to mention several other local Associations and groups. When Parish Breakfasts were introduced, we used to go over to Wayside on Sunday mornings and there enjoy rolls and butter and marmalade (!) organised by Margaret Leatherdale.

Wayside has meant a great deal of work for the Properties Committee under Bill Robinson and then Jack Gostling, and throughout the period of nearly forty years of church ownership, Bob Salisbury, who died recently, was Wayside Treasurer. Initially Doris and Russel Warwick were responsible for looking after it, and a number of people, including Ruth Gostling, Roma Bridges and Stella Walker have served as Wayside Supervisor, and Bill Robinson was still helping out in a practical way until quite recently.

For various reasons, the church decided a year or two ago to sell Wayside, and it was finally sold earlier this year. It is good to know that, under its original country-sounding name, Wayside has once more become a family home, and we welcome the new owners, Ann and Steve Croft, and their children Joseph and Poppy, and wish them every happiness among us.

*Margery Orton*

# Our New Hall - Update

The contract has been awarded for the preparatory works to the Vicarage and the work should be in progress by the time you read this. It is due to take about 6 weeks and will involve the construction of a new garage, drive and rear entrance to the house. A new boundary wall and fence will also be erected between the Vicarage and the site of the new hall.

The detailed drawings are almost fully completed for the hall. The Structural Engineer has completed his design work and the Quantity Surveyor is currently working out costings and quantities.

We hope to go out to tender during June and that should take about one month. When the contract is let then real changes on the ground will soon be apparent.

Please remember No right of way exists across the Churchyard, but parishioners are most welcome to use this area of quiet space appropriately. However, for your own safety, we will have to close the path from St. James's Road across the Churchyard during the building works. We hope you will appreciate the danger of a building site and understand why we must take this decision.

*Brian Leathard*

## Easter in Nairobi

There we were, the four of us, Alan and I, Ruth and Danny, in All Saints' Anglican Cathedral at 11 am on Easter Sunday at the Eucharist Service. We thought of our friends back at home in St. James's and felt very close to them. While very many aspects of the service were familiar, certain other things were certainly much less so. First of all the Cathedral was packed with about a thousand people, most of whom were black, and secondly it was a good deal warmer, very warm as the service progressed. We had hoped to hear some wonderful African singing, but in fact the singing was traditionally Anglican; the singers were obviously in one of the many Pentecostal churches dotted about Nairobi and not in the Cathedral! The biggest difference, however, was in the length of the sermon, about three quarters of an hour. Although the service started at a later hour than that at St. James's, because of the two-hour time difference between London and Nairobi and because the service was nearly two hours long, we were actually coming out at the same time as the congregation of St. James's!

We emerged into the sunshine outside to find lots of people milling about, the bright colours of the women's dresses vying in vividness with the nearby flame trees. The Bookstall had been set up outside and we spent a few minutes looking at the books. There was one title which caught our eye and made us smile, 'Maids - a Necessity or Nuisance?' Well that's one problem we don't have to worry about at home! Nairobi must be home to more churches of more denominations than any other city in the world, and on Easter Sunday most of them were overflowing. Everywhere we went there were crowds of people coming out after worshipping in their various traditions

and all over the Easter weekend we saw little groups of people studying their Bibles and having prayer meetings or singing together. The newspapers, too, devoted many column inches to articles on the meaning of Easter and speculation about what Christ might have thought had he visited Kenya today, all very different to our Easter Sunday papers.

By now it was definitely lunchtime, and on Easter Sunday in Nairobi there was only one place to be - the Norfolk Hotel. We ate an excellent lunch and watched the world go by, at least an African bit of it, and thought how lucky we were to be there enjoying our holiday.

*Helen Taylor*

## **Parish Summer Outing**

On Saturday 12th June, a coach will leave St. James's Church at 10.15am to visit the beautiful and spectacular Woodland Gardens at Leonardslee near Horsham in Sussex. It will arrive back at Hampton Hill at about 6pm.

Please see the poster and leaflet in church and put your name down for this very enjoyable day out.

The cost will be £7 per adult and £6 for children under 14 years of age. Bring your own picnic lunch, drinks will be provided.



*David Lloyd*

## **Dick Waltham**

Dick, who died at his home on 2nd April, had become a regular member of our congregation over the last decade or so, after devoting much time over long periods in caring for his sick wife, Joan, who died in 1980. He has also been an active member of the Hampton Hill Association, serving as its Treasurer and the Chairman of its Music Circle.

He had many hobbies and was always ready to lend his considerable skills, especially in photography (often doing his own processing) and calligraphy, for the benefit of the church. Beautiful enlargements of his photographs of the church have been given to several people who have left the area after giving long service to the church, and he was always ready to record special events with his camera. Examples of his calligraphy became a common sight in the church and around the parish and he would often produce these at short notice. The design on the cover of this magazine, celebrating our church's 130th anniversary, was one of his latest drawings for us. When Stuart Ward's Dawnlight was produced in church last year, Dick's splendid '6th century' painting of Christ was carried in procession and much admired.



He was a regular and dependable participant in the House Group which met at Hannah Stanton's: they will greatly miss his thoughtful contributions, and his asides about his experiences in the war and banking.

Quiet and unassuming, he was a true gentleman and made a considerable contribution to the life of the church and parish. Our sympathy goes out to his son and daughter, Anthony and Susan.

## **Around the Spire**

Over the last few weeks more familiar faces have gone from the Hampton Hill scene. Stella Walker's husband, Bob, died suddenly and peacefully at home. A local man, he was a keen bowler and a very practical person, who for years did much for others as a member of the Old People's Welfare Committee and of a Philanthropic Society. He will be greatly missed, not only by his family. Stella wishes to thank all her friends at the church for attending Bob's Funeral Service and for the many beautiful cards and letters she received. Their kind thoughts and sympathy have greatly helped her to bear her loss.

Eddie Clifford, another local resident who has died suddenly, was born and brought up in Hampton Hill. Until not so long ago, she was always to be seen cycling around Hampton Hill. It is especially sad to record the death of Owen McEvoy, a young man who lived in St. James's Avenue.

We send our love and condolences to the families and friends of all these people.

At the other end of the scale, we welcome into this world Oliver Lawson, born in April and Chloe, granddaughter to Mary and Ron Metcalfe, born in March. Love and good wishes to all the newcomers. Among the many Baptisms lately was that of Jack Ethell, who arrived unexpectedly early at the end of last year and who has joined the family of the church. May all those received into the fellowship of the Church always find there a welcome.

Congratulations to Justine Lloyd and Richard Carter who have just become engaged. We wish them every happiness.

Several of our invalids have made good progress lately. We were recently able to welcome Jean Western back to church again and Marion Nevill too, after a nasty virus infection. Louise and Les Wilder are recovering from the consequences of an accident in which their car was badly damaged and it took the firemen over an hour to cut Louise from the wreckage. Mike Meyerowitz is also in somewhat better health at present. We remember all sick people in our prayers and hope to see them among us again in the near future.

\* \* \* \* \*

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

*Kahlil Gibran*

# From the Registers - April

## Baptisms

3	James Allison	64 Hatherop Road
	Catherine Allison	64 Hatherop Road
4	Chelsea Marie Hancke	159 High Street
11	Craig Rees Lambert	c/o 74 Uxbridge Road
	Rachel Melanie Lambert	c/o 74 Uxbridge Road
18	Thomas Alexander Goddard	21 Byron close
25	Jack Timothy Ethell	161 Waldegrave Road, Teddington

## Funerals

14	Margaret Lay	43 Laurel Road	Aged 88
14	Richard Henry Waltham	1 Sherwood Road	Aged 75
19	Owen McEvoy	36 St. James's Avenue	Aged 21
20	Elsie Edith Clifford	63 Wolsey Road	Aged 76
29	Robert Sidney Walker	42 St. James's Road	Aged 78

## Dates to Note

Jun	2	14.00	Baptism Babies' Tea Party (Women's Forum)
	7	14.00	Editorial Board, 68 Park Road
	11		<b>St. Barnabas the Apostle</b>
	16	20.00	Evening Garden Party for recently married couples
	24		<b>The Birth of St. John the Baptist</b> [(Women's Forum)]
	29		<b>St. Peter the Apostle</b>

## Advance Notices

Jul	3		<b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b>
	4	09.30	David, Bishop of London, to preside at Parish Communion and the Blessing of the Foundation Stone of our new Church Hall
		11.00	Dress Rehearsal for The Song of the Hill, Church
	7	14.00	Women's Forum Invitation Service and Tea
	8	19.00	Hampton Hill Junior School Summer Concert
	9	19.30	The Song of the Hill, Church
	10		Parish Treasure Hunt
	11	15.00	The Song of the Hill, Church
	14	18.00	Cricket Match
	16	20.00	Concert, Church
	17		Open Day at Church and Pig Roast
	19	20.00	The History of Hampton Hill, talk with slides, Church
	20		Quiz Night, Hampton Hill Junior School
	21		Women's Forum Celebration of 130 years of St. James's
	24		Parish Splash, Hampton Pool
	25	11.00	Parish Communion with the Archdeacon of Middlesex, followed by Lunch in Church

**COPY DATE FOR JULY ISSUE: 13 JUNE**