

Why are dinosaurs so fascinating? I don't know the answer, but certainly they exert enormous influence on the minds and imaginations of children in particular. We went to see 'Jurassic Park' in the school holidays, along with thousands of other children who dragged reluctant parents, grannies and sundry other gullible adults along with them. I must say I was very wary - I tried every excuse to avoid it, but to no avail. Even a plea to the fact that the film had been classified PG (Parental Guidance) provided no hiding place. In fact, as with many PG films, it seems more like the parents being guided by their children, rather than children receiving guidance.

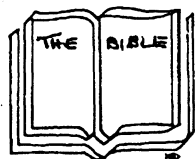
Anyway, armed with Coke and popcorn we entered the dark recess of the Odeon to be entertained. The plot proved simple (what plot I hear you ask?). The whole film is totally predictable - a rich, eccentric Scotsman (alias Richard Attenborough) funds the development of the ultimate theme park. From fossilised mosquitoes, which fed on dinosaurs, genetic material is extracted and grown. Full scale dinosaurs of every ilk appear on the screen - until something goes wrong. Man's greed overtakes security and a series of technological blunders ensue which result in a party of VIP's (including dinosaur experts and the owner's grandchildren) being stranded out in the open among marauding monsters. The rest is obvious - massive struggle to safety and eventually a happy ending.

But the trouble really is that there is no plot - the whole point of the film is the special effects - and they really are tremendous. It was difficult to decide whether to watch the film or the faces of the children around us in the cinema - at once both terrified and entranced. Can't watch it but can't not watch it syndrome - like hiding behind the sofa or watching through your fingers with your hands over your eyes. The special effects were truly riveting and deserve every Oscar going.

But in a strange sort of way it did just remind me of the church - these dinosaurs lumbering around triumphally but ignoring each other, sometimes threatening, sometimes doomed. And yet, of course, the church is not only like that - it can also be creative, sensitive, a community of love, of generosity, of joy and hope. The key is in the plot. All too often the structures and images of the church seem overwhelming. The church can so easily be portrayed as dinosaur like - out of date, lumbering along, or else irrelevant but providing atmosphere for national events, weddings or baptisms. The church can so easily become the religious special effects department.

In the end, however, it's the plot, the story that matters - and the church's story, God's story, is told through you and me. It may not win Oscars, but it does win the Kingdom of God - right now.

Brian Leathard



A Lighthearted Guide to the Housewives' Day

- 1) Awake (Job 44:23) Why tarriest thou? (Acts 22:16)
- 2) Get up and pray (Luke 22:46)
- 3) Go wash (John 9:7)
- 4) Clothe thee (Is. 49:18)
- 5) Put on the garment of praise (Is. 61:3)
- 6) Salute the children (2 Kings 10:13)
- 7) Suffer little children (Mark 10:14)
- 8) Say, Peace, be still (Mark 4:39)
- 9) Go, call thy husband (John 4:16)
- 10) Feed everyone (Jer. 6:3)
- 11) Bid them farewell (Luke 9:61) Give thanks (Rev. 4:9)
- 12) Be not slothful (Jude 18:9)
- 13) Clean the inside of the cup and dish (1 Kings 18:49)
- 14) Sweep out the house (Luke 13:8)
- 15) Smite the dust (Ex. 8:16)
- 16) Polish the brass (Dan. 18:6)
- 17) Wash clothes (Numbers 19:7)
- 18) Go quickly into the streets (Luke 14:21)
- 19) Love greetings in the markets (Mat. 23:7)
- 20) Speaking that which is good (1 Kings 22:13)
- 21) Return to thine own house (Luke 8:39)
- 22) Eat bread by weight! (Ezek. 4.10, 4.16) with care! (Ezek. 4:19)
- 23) Come into the garden (Song of Songs)
- 24) Gather up the weeds (Mat. 13:39)
- 25) Burn up the chaff with fire (Mat. 3:12)
- 26) Fill water pots (John 2:7)
- 27) Gird thyself (Luke 17:8)
- 28) Prepare the chariot and get . . . (1 Kings 18:44) the children (Joel 2:16)
- 29) Teach them the good way (1 Kings 8:36)
- 30) Prepare the table (Is. 21:5)
- 31) Give bread to thy . . . folk (Jude 8:15)
- 32) Say to them (Deut. 1:42) "Behold I have prepared a feast (Mat. 22:4) Come thou and eat (Ruth 2:14)
- 33) Eat and be merry
- 34) Repeat No. 13 (1 Kings 18:49)
- 35) Close the doors and lock them (Jude 3:25)
- 36) Put out the lamps (2 Chron. 29:7)
- 37) Praise the Lord (Too many references to quote)
- 38) Sleep and take your rest (Mat. 14:16)

About four million Jews lived in the Roman Empire during the New Testament period. They were widely dispersed; there were more Jews in Egyptian Alexandria than in Jerusalem. In Galilee, where Jesus grew up, Gentiles outnumbered Jews. The common language of the Eastern part of the Empire was Greek. Latin was more used in the west. Jesus and His disciples may well have spoken three tongues - Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew.

The system of roads throughout much of the Roman Empire was justly famous, but Palestine was comparatively poorly provided. There were several main roads; one led south-west from Jerusalem - Bethlehem - Hebron - Gaza, and north-east to Bethany - Jericho - Philadelphia - Damascus. Paul was on this road when he had his vision. The second main road branched off the first at Jericho, and led through Decapolis to Capernaum. Jews sometimes used these two roads when going between Galilee and Judaea, in order to avoid passing through Samaria. A third road went from Joppa on the coast through Emmaus to Jerusalem. This is the road on which the risen Christ spoke with the disciples. A fourth road went from Jerusalem straight through Samaria to Capernaum. Jesus was on this road when He talked with the Samaritan woman by Jacob's Well.

Early Christian missionaries took full advantage of the Empire's excellent roads, over which the imperial post carried government dispatches. Private businesses employed their own couriers. People travelled by foot or on horseback, donkey, or mule, and if well off, by carriage or litter. Roadside inns were usually dirty, and the wealthy would arrange to stay with friends. Tourist maps and guidebooks (in manuscript form) could be bought.

Egypt was the Roman Empire's granary. Alexandrian merchant ships could be nearly two hundred feet long, with square sails and oars. Such ships could carry one or two hundred passengers, as well as cargo. Paul was on a (smaller) Alexandrian ship when he was shipwrecked.

Writing materials were papyrus (reeds beaten flat to make a form of paper), bits of broken pottery (ostraka), and wax tablets and stylus. For important documents parchment (skins) were used. News was spread by town criers, and public notices posted up. Alexandria had a library of half a million books, and a good school system. Antioch in Syria had over two miles of colonnaded streets paved with marble, and lit by night. The main cities of the Empire had public baths and underground sewage disposal.

In the western Roman Empire houses for the well-off were of brick or concrete; in the east stucco and sun-dried brick was more usual. There were no windows on to the street, because the cities lacked proper policing. In wealthy homes plumbing and heating were well-developed, with running water for the lavatories. Middle class people often rented flats in apartment houses. But Palestine was a backward part of the Empire. Houses were flat roofed, sometimes with a guest chamber on top. A typical low-class Palestinian had one of many apartments in a large one-floored building, sometimes only one room, at two levels - one for clothes chest, cooking, and beds, the other for livestock. The roofs were often branches laid across rafters, plastered with mud. If it rained, such roofs leaked, and had to be re-rolled.

To be continued

United Nations
Civic Service
at
St. James's Church,
October 24
at
3pm



This year United Nations Day falls on a Sunday and for the first time we are to host the UN Civic Service.

As Mr. Derek Smith, the Secretary of the Twickenham United Nations Association recalls, St. James's became a corporate member of the UNA not long after he took up the office of Chairman in the first half of 1980. He also remembers that since we joined, all the representatives that our church has sent to the UNA have been very active participants in all of its programmes.

In previous years, the Civic Service has taken place in other local churches that are also corporate members of the UNA in Richmond and Twickenham. It has been decided that for this year the Civic Service should take place in the Hampton/Hampton Hill area. St. James's enjoys a very good reputation for undertaking different activities well. A recent example is the musical pageant, "Song of the Hill", which was a great success.

The UN Association (an all party organisation) was established to strengthen and support the ideals and principles of the United Nations. A major activity has been fund raising to help provide much needed money for UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNHCR, (which deals with refugees). St. James's has always made a positive and significant contribution to the work of the UN Association. As a congregation, we have frequently remembered the work of the UN in our prayers.

In recent years, and particularly in recent months, because of the conflicts throughout the world (Bosnia, Somalia, Angola etc.) the UN has been very much in the media spotlight, sometimes attracting praise, sometimes criticism. On the 24th October, in a modest manner, St. James's will share a UN spotlight.

I am sure that we will live up to our reputation on this occasion by attending the service and giving a warm welcome to our guests. We expect the Mayor of the Borough or her deputy, our local MP, and many others who actively support the activities of the Richmond and Twickenham branches of the United Nations Association.

Margaret Hobbs

**Come and celebrate
HARVEST FESTIVAL
with
Parish Communion
on
Sunday 10th October
at
9.30 am**



Please bring gifts that can be used by the homeless and one parent families for example toiletries, soap, toothpaste., household goods, dried produce (drinking chocolate, tea, jam, packet soups etc.) instead of perishable foods and produce.

Tuesday November 2nd is **All Souls Day** when we give thanks to God for those we have loved who have died. All those who wish to remember loved ones are invited to attend Parish Communion at **8 pm**. There is a list in church upon which you are invited to write the names of the departed - this will be read out during the service. All those families for which a funeral service has been conducted by St. James's staff during past two years will also be invited.

Sunday Evening Talks Autumn 1993 6.30 pm

Sundays October 31, November 7, 14, 21

What is The Bible?

Insights into knowing and reading The Bible.

30 minutes talk, 30 minutes discussion All welcome.

Quiet Day Saturday November 6th 10.30 am - 4 pm

The Convent, Ham Common, Ham

led by the Vicar

Put the date in your diary - now.

The Ordination of Betty Stewart

On 3rd October 1993 I shall be offering myself to be made deacon to serve as a non stipendiary minister in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common, SW17, from where I shall be able to continue my hospital chaplaincy work.

During the last two years, while on the Southwark Ordination Course, struggling with lectures, essays, projects, etc. and continuing as a part time lay chaplain at Springfield Hospital, a large psychiatric hospital, I have wondered on more than one occasion how on earth I got myself into this situation! Quite simply, I believe that this is what God has called me to do. How do I know this - I can hear you asking! For a start, I know "inside me". It is something which has been developing, gradually becoming stronger over the past eight or nine years, and now I know that there is nothing else in the world that I would rather have or do.

I have been fortunate in working with a succession of priests who strongly supported women's ministry and encouraged me to go forward first as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary and later as a Reader licensed to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Springfield Hospital. Three different priests, on separate occasions, without knowing the others had suggested it, urged me to try for the diaconate, pointing out that the work I was already doing was more applicable to that of a deacon than a reader.

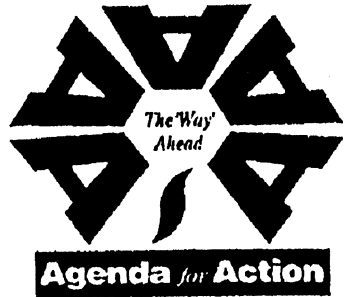
At first I was reluctant to do so, knowing that my age, as well as being a woman would be against me, but gradually I realised that this was God speaking to me through others. As I anticipated, my first application was unsuccessful, but with tremendous help and support of Tony Yeldman, who until recently was the Chaplain of the Wandsworth Mental Health Unit, I was accepted for training.

I started my Christian journey in earnest at the age of nine years when I began to be taken regularly to Morning Prayer at St. James's Church on Sundays by the lady who lived next door to us. You never know what might happen when you invite someone to come to Church with you! Perhaps one day it may be possible for me to return to St. James's.

Betty Stewart



**The Parochial Church Council
has made a commitment
to try to implement the following
improvements in the life
of our parish
and in the spirit of
the Bishop of London's
Agenda for Action**



Framework for Mission Action Plan for St. James's, Hampton Hill

In each are mentioned below it should be stressed that co-operation with other local churches in the Hampton Council of Churches is assumed.

Proclamation

- Short Term:**
- 1 Service Card for Holy Communion
 - 2 Improving Preparation for Reading and Prayers of Intercession
- Long Term:**
- 1 Monitor use of new hall and Church
 - 2 Space for quiet and meditation within the existing building - use of North Aisle?
 - 3 Presence of Church in "Poets Estate"

Teaching and Nurture

- Short Term:**
- 1 Encouragement of House Groups
 - a) people to attend
 - b) supplying with resource material
 - c) keeping PCC informed
 - 2 Sunday Evenings - thematic teaching Autumn/Lent
- Long Term:**
- 1 Nurture Groups
 - a) Beginners
 - b) Down our Street
 - c) Moving on from informal service attenders
 - 2 Re-instate Deanery Training Days
 - 3 Youth Worker - shared over 4 Hampton Parishes

Pastoral Ministry

- Short Term:**
- 1 Open Church on Friday Morning for Drop In/Open House
 - 2 Equipping people for pastoral care - pastoral skills
 - 3 Follow up Baptism, illness, funerals
- Long Term:**
- 1 Newcomers (street) parties
 - 2 Long Term links with Justice and Peace issues UN, Christian Aid, Missionary Societies, Liaising with Community Care Group - Encourage mutual support.

Finally a quick round-up of various other bits of good news. Congratulations to Ann Davis and Paul Peterken on their recent wedding, we hope they will enjoy a very happy and fulfilled life together. Peter Horner is off to Oxford University in October and Duncan Robinson to Loughborough, good luck to them both in their studies. Peter will be studying German and Duncan Geography and Economics. Please remember all the young people at this time starting at new schools and colleges and those looking for their first job after leaving full-time education.

After a very short but very enjoyable and productive term as our Organist and Choirmistress, Marcela, has decided that much as she loves the job it is too demanding on top of a full-time occupation as a Teacher and running a home. We have, therefore, to say a reluctant goodbye to her, although we hope that she will play for us on the odd occasion. We have listened to her playing, and that of her husband, Lennert, many times over the last few months with delight and a growing appreciation of her undoubted talent, which we shall miss very much. Thank you, Marcela and Lennert for all the pleasure you have given many people and we hope to hear you again at some future date.

From the Registers

Baptisms

August 22 Michelle Nicole Breese 29 Victor Road, Teddington

Weddings

August 8 Leonard John Harvey and Jacqueline Barbara Davis
20 John Andrew Newhouse and Vanessa Clare Lingard
21 John Michael Jenkins and Anne Elizabeth Jones
Martin Hale and Judith Margaret Longstaff
28 Colin Robert MacLeod and Tracey Linda Bush

Funerals

August 2 Stanley Malcolm Boswarva 16 Byron Close
24 Ruby Kathleen Hancke 159 High Street



10 - 17 October 1993
WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR
WORLD PEACE

"There grows the Flower of Peace,
The rose that cannot wither" *Henry Vaughan (1621-1695)*

Encouraging and inspiring all people to unite their thoughts,
prayers and aspirations for a just and peaceful world.

Dates to Note

- October
- 3 11.00 Ordination of Betty Stewart, Southwark Cathedral
 - 4 14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
 - 7 20.30 Stewardship Committee, 16 Cranmer Road
 - 9 19.30 Harvest Supper, Greenwood Centre
 - 10 09.30 Harvest Festival
 - 12 18.30 onwards Open Evening at Bishop Wand C of E School,
Layton's Lane, Sunbury, for parents who are interested in
educating their children (aged 11+) at a C of E School
 - 17 United Service St. Richards, Hanworth
 - 18 **St. Luke the Evangelist**
 - 20 20.00 HCC Autumn Talk - Roger Nunn 'Together we Live'
Methodist Church
 - 24 15.00 Borough Civic Service for United Nations Day, St. James's
 - 25 20.00 HCC AGM
 - 28 **St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles**
 - 30 12.00 Save the Children 'Lunch & Buy', All Saints Hall, Hampton
 - 31 18.30 First of four Talks 'What is The Bible?'

Advance Notices

- November
- 1 **All Saints**
 - 2 20.00 **All Souls Day Parish Communion**
 - 6 Quiet Day St. Michaels Convent, Ham
 - 8 14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
 - 25 Stewardship Review, Church

Look out for 'PRAISE 93' at Teddington Methodist Church. Events include a Flower Festival, 'Messiah' from scratch, Recitation of St. John's Gospel by Paul Alexander and many other exciting activities. Details on Notice Board in Church.

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE: 10 OCTOBER

Around the Spire

Some of the people we have been thinking about and praying for over the last few weeks have improved in health, some are not so good and some sadly have died. Among those in the last category are Mike Meyerwitz, Rosalie's husband and Muriel Rawlins. Mike had been ill for just about a year with a brain tumour. For many years he played the clarinet with the BBC Orchestra and at his funeral and again at his Memorial Service, his friends spoke with much warmth about their years together in the Orchestra, and about Mike's undoubted talent when playing his clarinet, and a recording of Mike playing bore this out. Later on he developed great skill in making custom built clarinet mouth-pieces and repairing broken ones. This was a laboriously acquired talent but one which will be sorely missed. His two sons also spoke very movingly about their father whose other interests had been photography and model car racing and the whole family had gained much enjoyment in these pursuits, but the climax of the Memorial Service was undoubtedly the dance performed so exquisitely by one of his grand-daughters, Katie, for 'my Grandad'. Our love and condolences go, of course, to Rosalie, one of our 'principal' dancers and to all the family, Louis, Ruth and David.

Several people from this parish went to the funeral of Muriel Rawlins in Rustington, where Don and she had lived for the past few years very happily. Muriel had fought cancer for nearly fourteen years and in that time had kept busy with her family and friends support. Peter, her son, will shortly be running in a half-marathon on behalf of St. Barnabas Hospice, where Muriel died. If anyone would like to sponsor Peter in his efforts please contact him on 941 5153. Meanwhile we send our love and sympathy to Don and all the Rawlins family at this sad time, and remember Muriel with much affection.

Most people will know by now that Hannah Stanton is in hospital recovering from an operation. It is still early days as this is going to press but already she seems to be in good spirits and we look forward to her return in good health once more.

Les Wilder, Louise's husband is also in hospital after a similar operation and we likewise wish him a speedy recovery and send our love and best wishes to Louise and all her family. Baby Oliver Lawson has been seriously ill in Kingston hospital and as a result his baptism took place there instead of in church as arranged. The Lawson family are also therefore very much in our thoughts and we send our love to Jeannette, Andrew and Jessica, Oliver's sister.

Better news of some of our other invalids, Trevor Parry is making good progress at home after his recent spell in hospital, and Hetty Burgess is now home and would very much welcome visitors. Olive Wright, now living in Deer Lodge, Sandy Land, Teddington was 89 on the 18th September and the staff at the home held a tea-party for her on that day, but visitors anytime are always very welcome; lots of love to Olive on her Birthday.