

The faithful arrive very early on Sunday mornings for this activity, so religiously undertaken. Often they travel from long distances to take part and no inclement weather will put them off. They may even have to queue to gain admission and, what is more, they are prepared to pay hard cash to gain entry. By all accounts there is quite a community spirit among the adherents, a sense of the whole being more than the sum of the parts. With vigour they pursue their Sunday duty before, suitably charged and satisfied, they undertake the long trek home.

I refer, of course, not to the congregation nor the wider parish family of St. James', but to that recent Sunday devotion, the Car Boot Sale. What is it that makes people undertake this activity, so avidly, so faithfully? Is it quick profit? Is it the 'Lovejoy' factor? Is it for interest in bric-a-brac?

For myself, I must confess almost total ignorance. The only Car Boot Sales I have been to are charity events where the plot rent or a percentage of the profits goes to a charity or cause with which I am involved. But make no mistake, regular and frequent Car Boot Sales are, apparently big business - especially on Sunday mornings.

Two things though distressed me when I last was present at such a sale. First, very clearly, a couple of vendors were literally selling the family heirlooms to make ends meet. With at least three million people out of work in our country this is surely not what the gospels mean when they talk of 'selling all you possess', for it is not we, who possess so much, that are selling. It certainly makes one wonder - in what do I really invest worth and value, what is truly important for me?

Secondly, it is so often the bric-a-brac, the sentimental value as we say, that gives security, comfort and endurance to people. As I go visiting throughout the parish, time and again, people show me photographs or paintings, vases or chairs, plates or novelties which, although of little intrinsic value, are nevertheless very important reminders or symbols. One could almost say these things are icons - objects through which something of God's glory shines - be they photographs of far-flung family or the chair in which a now departed partner sat.

In November, the Church celebrates publicly such memories with All Souls' Day. It is 2nd November and all parishioners are invited to attend Parish Communion at 8 pm. The names of loved ones who have died are read out. The service can often be, especially for those recently bereaved, an important stepping stone in living with grief. On Sunday 14th November, immediately after Parish Communion, we process to the War Memorial in the Churchyard, to remember all who have died - and still die - in warfare.

Memory is a precious and powerful thing. It makes real today the experience of a previous time. And we do it every time the Last Supper is enacted - every time Communion is celebrated. Memory is something to treasure. But the Gospel speaks as much to us in Church as at a Car Boot Sale - 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also'.

The New Church Hall

(Architects - The John Deal Practice, Walton-on-Thames)

Good progress has been made with the sub-structure, despite above average rainfall which at times turned parts of the site into a mud-bath, putting the job a few days behind the programme.

Very shortly now, completion of the floor slab and erection of the steel girder framework will enable us to appreciate the dimensions of the main hall structure, and thereafter, to watch it rapidly taking shape.

Look out for the notice of the 'topping-out' ceremony!

Jack Gostling



Baptismal Party

Babies, toddlers, Mums and Dads, God-parents, Grand-parents - all were there! Where you ask? Well, in Church, of course, at the mammoth Baptismal Party hosted by the Women's Forum. Over a hundred invitations issued and about sixty baptisms represented on the day - something over a hundred people.

Everyone spread themselves around the Church to eat a splendid tea and talk to their friends and other members of the Church. It was a very informal and happy occasion and one which I feel sure will call for a repeat performance at some future date.

Helen Taylor

1,000 miles for Rick

It was Chairman Mao who once said, 'A journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step'. In my case it was a turn of the wheel! Despite the wettest September for 17 years, my body and soul, and my bike, remained in tact around 1,000 miles of the British coastline.

We have a wonderful and varied coastline and I enjoyed most of it immensely, through the climbs of North Wales, the downhill speed to the West Wales Coast, the blackness of the Preseli mountains in Pembrokeshire and the freshness of the elements around St. Davids. Onward following Tarka the Otter in Devon, through gale force winds to Weymouth, bustling South Coast resorts, the estuaries of Essex and the unique light upon the sea in North Norfolk. I received an immensely warm welcome on returning to my old home town of Rotherham, South Yorkshire (with an itinerary of the school, the pub and the Church in that order!), and the chance to recount childhood days and regain contacts. These were just a few of the delights.

I've been the 'vehicle' for a great deal of goodwill and generosity expressed by so many people, not only through sponsorship but also genuine interest, advice re physical preparation, equipment, planning the route, hospitality, etc. It's been a heart-warming experience and a big Thankyou to all.

So far £10,000 has been raised, which is wonderful. This will go to Young Arthritis Care and Liverpool University (to fund a memorial prize for the best maritime student of each year). This is in memory of my twin brother Rick who, as some of you may know, sadly died in November 1992. Rick was a Civil Maritime Engineer and had suffered from a complex rheumatological illness.

Apart from the noticeable gains, ie fund raising and physical fitness, this sojourn gave me the time for reflection which is so important in our busy lives. I can confirm that cycling is good for your body and your soul!

(Dr.) Jim Brockbank



Peace within Education

Many will remember with great affection and admiration Canon Gordon Wilson who 'retired' to this parish with his wife, Jean, nearly ten years ago and who died in 1991. We remember his tireless work for peace, especially his work for the Week of Prayer for World Peace (of which he was a joint founder) and the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

The first Gordon Wilson Memorial Lecture was held on 12th October under the auspices of those two international and inter-faith movements. The lecture was at the impressive Westminster Synagogue and was attended by people of many faiths, including friends of Gordon and Jean from many different periods of their lives. A message from Hannah Stanton, a long time associate of Gordon in his inter-faith work, was read, regretting that she was unable to be present, and Rabbi Albert Friedlander of the Synagogue watched over the evening in a delightful and charming way.



The speaker was Mrs. Charanjit Singh, Senior Education Officer for the Borough of Ealing. She had first encountered Gordon in the days when the National Front offices were in Teddington and there were racial troubles in Kingston. She spoke very forcefully from her memories of the consequences of the Partition of India, and from her experiences in a borough where 86 different languages are spoken, and where, in many schools, Christians are in a minority. A Sikh herself, she pleaded for broadly based spiritual teaching in our schools and was not happy with the currently proposed moves towards more specifically Christian teaching. Such a broad teaching would not, in any sense, try to diminish the teachings of particular faiths but would encourage all to dig deep into the bases of their own faiths.

She asked, 'What is Peace?' and said that we must not be content with such negative definitions as 'the absence of war' or 'the solitude of the graveyard'. We must stress the interdependence of man, animals and plants, try to overcome the problems of the underclasses of urbanisation and the baggage of nation states. Wars were fought with the blessing of the faiths: history was the history of wars. She said we needed to emphasise in our schools what is common to our faiths, and to help our children to develop relationships, not just to learn from books about other faiths but to have shared experiences with those of other faiths. We must teach, not religions but religiousness. We must 'go underneath' such words as *Shalom*.

Peacemaking is a long and hard task. Much has to be done. She concluded with a Sikh prayer:

Pray, pray, pray and be at peace.

Ron Bridges

Christ Church, Nazareth

We recently received a Newsletter from Canon Riah, the Archdeacon of Galilee, Vicar of Christ Evangelical Episcopal Church in Nazareth and Head of the Church School. Those people who have been on the Holy Land holidays have been to Christ Church and some of them have also met Canon Riah, himself a Palestinian. We have supported them financially over the last two or three years, so it is good to know what is going on there.

Some of the young people have been on a visit to Germany during the summer holidays and have been well received. They are now looking forward to a visit by the Germans to them.

Building work is also under way to provide new laboratories for science work and computers as well as a new library and reading room. Work on a new Secondary School, although approved in principle, has been delayed for lack of funds from the Education Ministry. Some small amount of subsidy, much less than was promised, has been provided for the Kindergarten Service but the pay rise for the teachers has had to be postponed.

The Canon's letter is full of hope for the future, good wishes for us and the promise of a warm welcome for any visitors who may make the journey to Nazareth. May we support them in our prayers as well as with our money.

Helen Taylor

Noah's Ark



Starting on 5 November

Fridays

Parents and Under- 5's

10.30 to 11.30

In the Portacabin (next to the Church)

DO COME TO PRAISE AND PLAY

* * * * *

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 for certain other charitable purposes.

Single-parent Families

There has been a lot of very adverse publicity about single-parent families in the press and on TV recently. Richmond-upon-Thames Welcare, which is your Deanery Social Responsibility project, works exclusively with one-parent families and we are becoming increasingly concerned at what appears to be a concerted effort to scapegoat these vulnerable members of our society and their children.

The media and politicians have been depicting single parents as young, irresponsible scroungers, often teenagers who become pregnant to get their own permanent accommodation. The implication is that they do not deserve to be parents, or to receive state benefits, including the right to housing.

A significant proportion of the single parents we work with in Richmond have been married, or have been in long-term relationships which have broken up, leaving them alone with their children.

Suggestions that single parents should stay within their parental homes do not take into account the number of women we work with who have been living and working independently. Many of our clients would like to train or return to work but are prevented from doing so by lack of subsidised childcare and they cannot break out of the benefits system.

Our society needs to look at the reasons behind the breakdown in family life and the lack of housing for people on low incomes before making life even more intolerable for our single parents and their children.

*David Roos, Ellen Gasper and Jennifer Allen,
Social Workers, Richmond-on-Thames Welcare*

Stewardship

Stewardship giving over the last four quarters and the corresponding period twelve months earlier has been as follows:

October - December	1992	£ 7,335	1991	£ 6,149
January - March	1993	£ 8,474	1992	£ 7,501
April - June	1993	£ 8,098	1992	£ 7,065
July - September	1993	<u>£ 7,457</u>	1992	<u>£ 6,888</u>
Total for 12 months		£31,364		£27,603

* * * * * **Stewardship Review** * * * * *

Thursday 25 November in Church

8 pm (Coffee and Biscuits) for 8.15 pm

Question and Answer Session:

the working of the Diocese and the Parish

All are welcome: Do come

The Early Church 4 - Contemporary Society (cont.)

The Romans had four daily meals, of bread, porridge, lentils, cheese, fruit, vegetables, pork, fish, and wine. The Jews had only two meals, at noon and evening, mainly fruit and vegetables; meat was reserved for feast days. Sugar was unknown, sweetening being by honey, dates, raisins. At formal meals one reclined on cushions; for informal meals one sat. The Last Supper was most probably in formal style.

Men wore tunics from the shoulders to the knees, tied with a sash round the waist, shoes or sandals, and a hat or scarf. If cold, a heavy cloak was worn. These clothes were usually white. Women wore a short undertunic, and an outer tunic extending to the feet; this could be brightly coloured. Fashionable ladies used lipstick, eyeshadow, and eyebrow paint, and wore earrings and nose ornaments. Palestinian women wore veils covering the head but not the face. Palestinian men wore their hair longer than the Romans, but not as long as is usually portrayed, and grew beards.

In Rome, and other such cities, aristocrats lived in luxury. As slaves did most of the work, a strong middle class did not exist - this was eventually to contribute to the downfall of the Empire. The middle classes of the earlier Roman Republic had become homeless and foodless mobs, ever having to be placated by games and festivals. But Judaism exercised a levelling effect, though priests and leading rabbis formed an upper class.

The Jews loathed tax collectors, sometimes called publicans, because they handled coins with pagan inscriptions and likenesses of emperors and gods (contrary to Jewish law), and because they co-operated with the Romans. The job of collecting taxes, or tolls, was auctioned to him who bid the lowest rate of commission for a five year contract, but he was expected to get more for himself by bribes from the rich, with subsequent oppression of the poor.

In Palestine large families were usual, with joy at the birth of a boy, sorrow at the birth of a girl. On the eighth day a boy was circumcised and named. The naming of a girl could wait a month. Families had no surnames, and people were distinguished as 'Simon, son of Zebedee', 'Simon the Zealot', 'Simon the Tanner', or 'Simon of Nazareth'. Scholars suppose 'Judas Iscariot' meant 'Judas of Karioth'.

In the pagan world, prostitution by women, men, and boys was accepted, often associated with service to some god. Divorce was easy, murder common. Parents sometimes abandoned girl infants on hillsides. Nevertheless, there were good people in the pagan world as well.

The Jews weren't very interested in science in New Testament times, but science was known. In the third century b.c., Eratosthenes of Alexandria taught that the earth was spherical, 24,000 miles in circumference, (only 800 miles short), and that the sun was 92,000,000 miles distant, only about a million miles out - around one per cent.

Surgery was quite advanced; a doctor such as Luke would perform operations on the skull, incisions in the windpipe, and amputations. But anaesthetics were inadequate. Dentistry flourished, and teeth could be gold-filled.

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Looking Ahead in Lay Ministry

The Quinquennial Relicensing of the Readers of the Diocese

Thursday 2 December

at 7.30 pm

The Bishop of London will preach

Come and Join the Celebrations

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To speak or not to speak

I often wish I did not possess a tongue for it has the power to inflame. If only I always said what was right, good, constructive, kind, helpful and above all loving. Oh for more quality and less quantity in my words. If only I thought before I spoke. Try it sometime - its extremely hard to do.

Speech has tremendous power. It can admonish, comfort, rouse, praise, inspire, frighten, cheer, disparage, encourage and kill. It has on the one hand a tremendous potential for evil and on the other a wonderful opportunity for good.

Do you ever wish you hadn't said something? Maybe what you have said has caused distress. Once words have been spoken they cannot be retrieved. They can however be received in the correct spirit or reflected upon with love and understanding coupled with forgiveness. So often we are injured by other people's comments and likewise we injure others with our own words too. Each day I try to pray that no unloving or unthoughtful word shall pass my lips and that I may be given grace to guard my tongue. I mostly fail miserably but strongly believe that one never has ever to give up the endeavour to speak with love.

Lord, thank you for the gift of speech. Help us never to break a heart with our words. Help us to consider the effect our words might have upon others. Still our tongue when we are tempted to gossip. Show us how to build up others with our words and by so doing let us cheer the hearts of all we meet today. Give us grace to think before we speak and above all to know when to remain silent.
Amen.

Janet Jeffries

Around the Spire

After a long illness, Jane Allison, a teacher at Hampton Hill Junior School, died recently, leaving her husband and two young school children. Many, many people came to her funeral which was a simple but very moving occasion.

Both Hannah Stanton and Les Wilder are home from hospital after their recent operations and both are making a good recovery. We hope that they will maintain their progress, and look forward to seeing them out and about again. Catherine Jones has been confined to her flat lately for some while with back trouble but is beginning to get out again, and we hope she will soon be much better.

Baby Oliver Lawson is also home after a week in hospital, some of it in Intensive Care. It was lovely to see him at the Baptismal Party, looking very smart (and fast asleep) in his Christening outfit!

Another very smart outfit was worn by Ann Davis at her wedding to Paul Peterken. Unlike most brides Ann chose an ivory coloured brocade suit trimmed with lace and she carried a very pretty Victorian posy. It was a lovely service in Church made even more special in that both bride and groom had learnt the wedding vows off by heart and said them clearly for all to hear, and they signed the register in Church so that we could all be part of the ceremony. Every good wish to them in their new home in Waldegrave Road.

The money has now been sent off to Japan to pay for a new motor-cycle for Benaiah Kilwale. Benaiah is attached to the Milo Mission Hospital in Tanzania and uses the motor-bike to get around the out-lying clinics and villages where he takes necessary advice and medicines.

Congratulations and many thanks to the 7th Hampton (All Saints) Scout Group who have won a Community Service award for helping to clean up our churchyard.

From the Registers - September

Baptisms

5	Jonathan Rhys Ball	23 Oxford Road, Teddington
	Samuel David Lewis	19 Walker Close, Hampton
	Rocco Michele Pietosi	11 Templar Place, Hampton
13	Oliver George Lawson	5 Eastbank Road (at Kingston Hospital)
19	Katy Ross	55 Rectory Grove
	William Max Smith	44 Connaught Road, Teddington
	Emily Natasha Stagg	15 Holtham Close, Hurst Park

Marriages

4	Jonathan Robert Nelson Cox and Jane Elizabeth Davey
18	Lee James Howe and Fionnuala Ann Harding
25	Paul Peterken and Ann Davis
	Gary Paul Smock and Denise Martin

Marriage Blessing

25 Robert William Allison and Daphne Sebastienne Luchtenberg

Funerals

1	Michael Meyerowitz	36 Cambridge Road, Teddington	
14	Frederick Leslie Heley	219 Uxbridge Road	Aged 79
21	Ernest George Trimby Mansell	2 Hanworth Road	Aged 72
24	Norah Elizabeth Cadwell	12 Cranmer Road	Aged 88
29	Florence Margaret Coveney	22 Parkside	Aged 72
30	Phyllis May Barnet	The Studio, Strawberry Hill	Aged 82

Burial of Ashes

4 Ruby Hancke 159 High Street

Dates to Note

Oct.	31	18.30	'What is the Bible?', talk and discussion
Nov.	1		All Saints
	2	20.00	All Souls Day Parish Communion
	3	14.30	Women's Forum, Church
	5	10.30-11.30	'Noah's Ark' begins
	6	10.30-16.00	Quiet Day, St. Michael's Convent, Ham
	7	18.30	'What is the Bible?', talk and discussion
	8	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	10	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	14	18.30	'What is the Bible?', talk and discussion
	17	20.00	Women's Forum, 'Any Questions', Church
	21	18.30	'What is the Bible?', talk and discussion
	25	20.00	Stewardship Review, Church
	30		St. Andrew the Apostle

Advance Notices

Dec.	1	14.30	Women's Forum, Church
	2	19.30	Re-licensing of the Diocesan Readers, St. Paul's Cathedral
	5	09.30	Christingle Service
	6	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	15	20.00	Women's Forum, Church

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