

Listening to the car radio is, for me at least, the last remaining vestige of pleasure when driving in London. Ah, the soothing tomes of *The Archers*, *The World at One*, or *Brain of Britain* while searching for a non-existent parking space or snarled up between a bus and a juggernaut. Have you never found yourself being watched by the driver of the car in the next lane at traffic lights as you argue with the radio announcer or conduct the music being broadcast?

Today I was driving to West Middlesex Hospital and was temporarily stuck in road works in Isleworth. My attention was caught by a very articulate woman, with a distinctive Middle Eastern accent. She was commenting on the progress of the United Nations summit on Population and Development, currently meeting in Cairo. She was very, very angry. She castigated the interviewer and said 'Why do women have to put up with men wearing grey suits or long skirts telling us what we can and can't do with our bodies?'. Fair question, I suppose. It was neatly avoided by the interviewer who, I presume, was neither a cleric nor besuited.

But certainly this comment, brought for me, a new focus to the somewhat dull and predictable debate, as I had perceived it. Of course we know that world population is increasing much too rapidly. We know that not only does having more children produce poverty, but having more children is also an outcome of poverty. Furthermore rates of population growth are much, much higher in the Third World and in poorer sections of the Second and First World, than among richer sections.

Fuel is added to this highly flammable debate by religious pressure, particularly from the Vatican and from some Islamic leaders, who claim the conference agenda is a Western, secular and liberal threat. Yet the bottom line remains that the world cannot sustain its increasing population without a colossal shift of resources from the richest countries to the poorest. That is not something which the current world order seems keen to promote.

On the other hand we also know that the most effective reduction in population increase is achieved not by the pill, not by abortion, nor by any other form of contraception. The most effective reductions in population-increase occur when poverty is alleviated and literacy is increased. The point, of course, is that poverty alleviation and being able to read and write enables both women and men to have much greater control over their lives and bodies.

By the time this magazine arrives through your door it will almost be Harvest Festival (Supper on 8th, Service on 9th October). We celebrate God's creation and our stewardship of it - that's something we can't do selfishly or easily, if we stop to think, to consider our views about the sanctity of life. The sanctity, or holiness, of life cannot be seen in simple black and white, either-or arguments. What is more or less holy? - contraception or abortion, starvation or poverty, high infant mortality or disease, not to mention material greed. This cannot be categorised or put in neat moral boxes.

However, whether we like it or not, each of us is involved. Unlike sitting in the car at the traffic lights we cannot be casual listeners or imaginary conductors. What does our

lifestyle, our prayer and worship, our thinking suggest about being true stewards of God's creation in an increasingly over-populated world?

Brian Leathard

RIP Bishop John Hughes, Bishop of Kensington 1987 - 1994

Most parishioners will know that our Area Bishop died on 19 August. For several years Bishop John had suffered from a heart condition. He was 59 years old. Bishop John is survived by Maureen, his wife and their two sons. We remember them in our prayers.

All matters relating to the episcopal area should be communicated in the first instance, to Timothy Raphael, Archdeacon of Middlesex (tel: 071 603 0856. Fax: 071 371 1765). Do, please, be mindful of Tim's enormous workload.

Come and enjoy

THE HARVEST SUPPER

on Saturday 8th October

at 7.30pm

in the new Church Hall

Tickets from the Social Committee

and GIVE THANKS at the

HARVEST FESTIVAL

on Sunday 9th October at 9.30am

Gifts of tinned food and toiletries for single homeless people will be received.

No Excuses Sunday

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday;
we will have a No Excuses Sunday.
There will be sleeping-bags in the foyer for those who say,
"Sunday is my only day to sleep in".
Eye lotion will be available for those who have red eyes
from watching television late on Saturday night.
Blankets will be furnished for those who say,
"The Church is too cold", and fans for those who think it is too hot.
There will be hearing-aids for those who say, "The preacher speaks too softly",
and cotton wool for those who say, "He preaches too loudly".
Score cards will be available for those who wish to list all the hypocrites present.
Some relatives and friends will be in attendance
for those who must go visiting on Sundays.
There will be TV dinners for those who can't go to church
and cook the family dinner on the same day.
One section of the church grounds will be laid out with trees and grass
for those who like to seek God in nature.
Finally, the sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias
and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the Church without them.

(With thanks to whichever Magazine I saw this in. Editor)

Dick & Mary Wilde have gone to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, to teach at the University of Science and Technology.

Sunday 7th August. Yesterday Mary and I stood on the "View of the World", a huge granite boulder of a hill in the Matobo region of Matabeleland where Cecil Rhodes chose to be buried. A place of peculiar ambivalence, regarded as a shrine by the old white Rhodesians, and still given a strange respect by the new Zimbabwe people. The nearby Allan Willson monument is on the same granite hill, a memorial to a patrol of thirty-seven men who were ambushed by a reputed 30,000 Matabele under Lobengula in 1893. They fought to the death, probably sensible in the circumstances. These are the sort of monuments that a more vindictive people would have obliterated when they gained their independence. That they remain, and that people like us are welcomed with great warmth, I think is due to in a large part to the natural friendliness of the people. In part it must also be due to a tradition of respect between the races which existed in the old colonial days. It is also due, I am sure, to the formidable political skill and common sense of the President, Robert Mugabe.

It is early and rather impertinent to make judgements, but our first impressions are perhaps worth recording, probably for later qualification. The ubiquitous portraits of Robert Mugabe are at first disconcerting. On the other hand there is freedom of speech, and a free press. I saw part of a debate on television in which Mugabe took some tough criticism from black and white politicians and farmers. He gave real answers with courtesy and the debate was interactive and informative. A great deal better than the average "Any Questions?".

Administrative settling in is taking longer than I had hoped. We had expected to be installed in a University flat last week, but hitches occurred and we are still in a hotel, which although excellent is not our own place. Our "luggage in advance" has not yet arrived, (we wonder whether it will). Last week was a bit of a muddle in all sorts of ways, so we hired a car and drove out to the Matobos yesterday to relax.

I have drafted a lot more about Bulawayo itself, its wide streets, its closing in on itself after 6pm dusk, its shops and its sad number of crippled beggars. However, this piece is long enough so I will just finish by saying that the dawn really does come up like thunder here, a rich red on the horizon shading off to a beautiful blue as you look upwards. The weather begins to get hotter, though it was wonderfully cool after London when we got here. All the grass and plant life looks terribly dry, and I understand will remain so until the rains come in November.

I must finish by thanking everyone for their farewells of every sort. Mary and I were most touched by the many kindnesses.

Dick Wilde

The Opening of the New Church Hall

'Having a mind to work' and not only a mind, but heart and hands also. Many people have had all these attributes and the culmination of all that work has been the building of our new Church Hall: so long a vision, now a reality.

At the celebratory service prior to the opening ceremony the Old Testament reading was from the book of Nehemiah. It tells how Nehemiah, cup-bearer to the Persian king, Artaxerxes, requests permission to return to his native city of Jerusalem in order to rebuild it. The desolation he finds on his return is worse than he had expected, but with wood given by the king, he sets about enthusing people to share in the great task of rebuilding the city.

The story speaks to us of vision, generosity, despair, much labour and finally, triumph. The same may be said of our new hall; the vision of those in the fifties who bought 'Wayside', the hard work of the many people who maintained the old hall and who all the time dreamed of a time when we would have a hall of our own adjoining the church. The vision started into reality in the late eighties when plans were drawn up, the old hall was sold, later 'Wayside' also went, land was transferred, alterations made to the Vicarage and suddenly the whole project began to take shape. Finally, the actual building started to rise out of the ground. Progress was slow, the Foundation Stone, blessed by the Bishop of London during the St. James's Festival 1993, waited for its final resting place. The topping-out ceremony in December of the same year was another milestone on the way, but it was still another eight months before the building was eventually completed.

So it was on a sunny morning, September the fourth, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Four some two hundred plus people stood in the new courtyard between the old church and the new hall to hear Mrs Vivienne Prentice, the oldest member of the congregation, declare the hall open. In a speech before cutting the ribbon across the doors, Mrs Prentice reminisced about events that took place during

the many years of the old hall's life, dances, bazaars, suppers and jumble sales, and looked forward to a new social life for both the church and the wider community in the near future. She spoke about the many people who had contributed so much in earlier days and how their vision had at last borne fruit. It was very fitting that the last hymn in the service had been, 'Onward, Christian Soldiers', not only the speaker's favourite hymn but also one which had been sung when the original small church was used for the first time.

In his sermon, the Vicar, the Reverend Dr. Brian Leathard, spoke about the very attractive porch which now joins the two buildings, somewhat in the style of a Lych-gate, as being a bridge between the spiritual and the secular, between the Church and the World. Now outside, he spoke again, this time to pay tribute to all the people who had made the new building possible. The benefactors of the past, the Fuel Allotment Charity who have been the recent benefactors, the Architect, John Deal, Quantity Surveyors, Builders, Stone-masons (a particular pleasure in watching him work), Roofers, Electricians and Plumbers. The Vicar thanked in particular two members of our own congregation who have worked unstintingly over the years on the church and on the hall "No job too large, no job too small", Jack Gostling and Alan Taylor. The ribbon was cut, and everyone trooped into the hall for refreshments, the first of many such happy occasions.

From the porch connecting the hall to the church, one walks down a cloister like corridor with windows on either side. The spacious downstairs room has a beautiful wooden strip floor and long windows at each corner. Each window gives a different view; the churchyard, the road and the courtyard and the overall aspect is one of light and space. Also downstairs are kitchen and toilets. Upstairs there is a smaller, carpeted room, again with long windows and a roof-light which is suitable for small groups of people. The overall effect is both modern and appealing, a building for today and for years to come.

Throughout the speeches no mention was made of the part our Vicar has played in all this activity. When he arrived here five years ago he realised immediately what was needed and set about achieving his objective. With determination and, at times, despair he gradually overcame all the obstacles that stood in the way, and remained stoical and good-humoured through all the inconveniences which it caused. There were alterations to the Vicarage, a large Portacabin in the front garden for a whole year as well as all the dust and dirt that building work always generates.

We owe our new hall as much to our present Vicar's efforts as to his predecessors, it will stand as a tribute to him as well as to them and we thank him for it.



"To him whose power working within us can do immeasurably more than we can ask or even imagine, to him be glory, in the Church, and in Jesus Christ, through all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from Ephesians 3:20-21

Creators of Peace



Mother Teresa of Calcutta was among those who sent a message to the "Creators of Peace" conference in Switzerland which my husband John and I attended in August. In it she said " Today if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other - that man, that woman, that child is my brother or my sister. God has made each one of us for greater things - to love and be loved".

We were fortunate enough to participate in this eight-day conference entitled "Creators of Peace - from Vision to Action - a woman's initiative". Although it was not solely a woman's conference there was great participation by women from many countries among the 550 people that attended.

"You have to make a decision to create peace" said Mrs. Anna Abdallah Msekwa from Tanzania, who is now Minister of State for her country. Mama Anna, as the younger participants called her, conceived the idea of the conference and asked for it to be held at Mountain House, Caux, the Moral Re-Armament world centre, as she had earlier discovered an atmosphere there "which I had missed in previous United Nations sponsored conferences". "I learned," she continued, "that an individual is a prerequisite, or a determining factor of peace".

When we talked about so many regions in the world needing to find solutions and peace, Northern Ireland and the Anglo-Irish situation were always in our minds and in our hearts. So we were grateful to meet there two ladies who work with the Women Together for Peace Movement which was started in Belfast some years ago by a Catholic and Protestant. A grass roots movement, they give support to the bereaved families although they do a wider work with children. They told us, "Together members, one Protestant and one Catholic, visit as many bereaved families as we can, simply to be with them, to listen to them, and to apologise to them for the acts carried out in our name. Many of the mothers have become our members and have transformed their suffering into positive action".

Whilst at the Conference they heard of the murder of the Catholic mother who was seven months pregnant, she was found with her five children round her body. Everyone in the Hall was deeply moved as they obtained the names of the five children and asked us to pray for each one.

Speaking at the plenary called "Transforming suffering" one of them said, "If I do something it is because of my love for my children, and my love for all the children of my country. I am as responsible as anyone else for the Ireland that we will leave to our children". Later she said the biggest problem to be overcome was apathy. "A whole generation has grown up in an atmosphere of violence and feel that it is normal. We blame the terrorists, the politicians, the bigots. I often hear people say: if only someone would do something. I say to them: and what if the someone is you."

"We know that there is no other way to find peace than to look into ourselves, to face our own feelings of hatred and prejudices, to forgive and to work together in our families, our cities, and in our country to build a society where our children can have a future".

The Northern Ireland friends took encouragement from others who were also facing difficult situations in other lands: Aboriginal women from Australia, people from Croatia, Bosnia and many parts of the former Soviet Union, Venezuela and Columbia in South America.

The conference produced a simple charter of six points entitled "Creating Peace", underlying the fact that peace begins within each one of us.

Betty Rainbow.

Around the Spire

On a perfect Summer's day at the end of August many people filled the church for the wedding of Ruth Taylor to Daniel Clarke. The church had been beautifully decorated with cream and ivory flowers and the whole atmosphere was one of happiness and joy.

In the new church hall, in use for the very first time, immediately after the wedding everyone present enjoyed a glass of Champagne and a piece of wedding cake. It was a truly memorable occasion.

To all those people who did anything towards making the day so special a very big 'thank you'. To all the people who came to the service and to all those that sent cards or gifts, many, many thanks, your kindness has been overwhelming.

Congratulations to all the young people who have passed their examinations lately; David Revis, Geoffrey Nunn, Emily Ormerod and Sanaz Sazegar. We hope they will continue the good work as they and many others pursue their studies.

A notable member of our congregation will have celebrated her ninetieth birthday by the time this magazine is published. Unfortunately Olive Wright is now no longer a worshipper among us as she lives in a home in Teddington. She is very well and was for many years a regular and faithful member of St. James's and often regaled us with her poetry renditions. We hope, Olive, that you had a very Happy Birthday, our love to you.

When this magazine comes out we expect our Editor, Ron Bridges, to be in hospital having an operation. Get well soon Ron - the magazine (and many other things) need you. In a recent letter Ron received from Tom Stanton in South Africa, Tom says how much pleasure he gets from reading our magazine each month 'the best Parish magazine I know - full of interesting things'. He is well and is looking forward to spring. He also wishes his thanks for sending the magazine to be passed on to Jennifer Lloyd who sends them out to all sorts of people who like to be kept in touch with what is going on here.

The Early Church 12 - Constantine the Great part 1

In about 300AD, there were problems with the loyalty of the Imperial Army, most of whose soldiers came from various nations in the empire, and were not Romans. Diocletian, emperor of the East, consulted the Oracle of Apollo, which gave the reply that false oracles were being caused by christians crossing themselves at sacrifices.

A great persecution commenced in the Eastern part of the empire. In 303 the cathedral at Nicomedia was destroyed, and an edict given out that all churches should be pulled down, all bibles and other religious books confiscated, and all christian meetings forbidden. So many were arrested that an amnesty had to be granted, on condition that sacrifices were made to the gods. In 304 the death penalty was introduced for non-compliance.

Constantius, 'Caesar' or assistant Emperor of the West, died at York on July 25, 306. The soldiers proclaimed his son Constantine as Emperor. Although there were christian influences in his household, at that time Constantine, like his father, worshipped the Unconquered Sun.

In 305 the Eastern Emperor Diocletian abdicated, and retired to Split in Dalmatia. Galerius redoubled the ferocity of the persecution. However, when he was dying in great pain in 311, he granted toleration and right of assembly to the christians, in return for which he asked them to pray for him and the state.

In 312 two powerful figures emerged - Constantine in the West and Licinius in the East. In 313 at Milan they both agreed on a policy of religious freedom for all.

During the persecutions christians argued bitterly among themselves as to what resistance they should show to the State. Mensurius, Bishop of Carthage, lay low, holding no public services, and surrendering to the police only 'heretical' volumes. He was much criticised; his archdeacon Caecilian tried to prevent food reaching the christians imprisoned for sticking firmly to their beliefs. Mensurius died, and Caecilian was rather hastily elected by three country bishops, one of whom was suspected of co-operating with the police during the persecutions. This raised again the old question of whether one who had lost the Spirit could confer the gifts of the Spirit.

The Numidian bishops consecrated instead Majorinus, who enjoyed the support of a wealthy and difficult lady called Lucilla, who disliked Caecilian. During the persecutions she had made a habit of producing at the Eucharist the bone of a martyr unknown to the Church, and fulsomely kissing it. While still archdeacon, Caecilian had rebuked her. Now she took her revenge.

Bishop Caecilian held his position with the support of Constantine. The successor to Majorinus, Donatus, appealed against the laxity of Caecilian's consecration. Constantine set up a court of appeal called the Council of Arles, which decided in Caecilian's favour.

The Donatists, supporters of Donatus and his view that one who had lost the Spirit could not confer the gifts of the Spirit, thereupon withdrew from the rest of the Catholic Church.

This schism dominated church life in Africa for the next hundred years, until both Donatist and Catholic alike were swept away by Islam.

Stuart Ward

From the Registers - August

Marriages

- 13 Colin Hall and Julia Bidgood
Lee Ronald Turner and Anne Goodwin
20 Jason Watson and Samantha Lane
27 Danny Clarke and Ruth Taylor

Marriage Blessing

- 26 David Power and Eileen Bezant

Funerals

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 3 | Lesse Mills | 3 Elmfield Avenue, Teddington | Aged 85 |
| 11 | Fran Zeidler | Oketon Nursing Home, Teddington | Aged 84 |
| 15 | Ronald Edward Baker | 17 Wordsworth Road | Aged 55 |
| | George Patrick Clifford | 63 Wolsey Road | Aged 78 |
| 30 | Doris Breedon | 2a Cross Street | Aged 67 |

Please Note:-

There is now a list in church for stall holders to sign for the Christmas Bazaar, Saturday November 26th in the hall. People to organise and run games also wanted.

The Women's Forum AGM will be held in church after the Harvest Festival Service on Sunday October 9th. Please come and make your views known.

The Hampton Council of Churches AGM will be held at St. Richard's Church in Hanworth on Monday October 10th at 8pm. This is an open meeting and anyone interested in the work of the Council of Churches is very welcome.

The United Service for the Week of Prayer for World Peace will be on Sunday October 23rd at St. Francis de Sales Church in Wellington Road at 4pm.

It is also One World Week.

The Confirmation Service arranged for Tuesday October 11th will go ahead as planned, despite the death of the Bishop of Kensington. The service will now be conducted by the Rt. Rev. Alan Rodgers.

The All Souls Day service will be on November 2nd at 8pm.

Dates to Note

Oct.	2	11.00	Betty Stewart to be ordained priest. Southwark Cathedral
		20.00	'The Physical Universe': First talk by Stuart Ward on Science and Faith, Church Hall
	3	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	5	14.30	Women's Forum
	6	20.30	Finance Committee
		18.30-21.00	Open Evening for Prospective Parents, Bishop Wand School
	8	19.30	Harvest Supper
	9	09.30	Harvest Festival
		11.00	Women's Forum AGM
	10	20.00	HCC AGM, St. Richards
	11	20.00	Confirmation at St. James's
		18.30-21.00	Open Evening for Prospective Parents, Bishop Wand School
	12	20.00	Deanery Synod
	13	20.00	PCC
	18		St. Luke the Evangelist
	19	20.00	Women's Forum
	20-30		Holy Land Pilgrimage
	28		St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles



Advance Notices

Nov.	1		All Saints
	2	14.30	Women's Forum
		20.00	All Souls Memorial Service
	6	20.00	'Beginnings and Eternity': Second talk by Stuart Ward on Science and Faith, Church Hall
	7	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	24	20.00	PCC
	26	11.30	Advent/Christmas Bazaar
	27	18.30	Advent Service with the Archdeacon



COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE: 9 OCTOBER