

On 12th February (or in church-speak the ninth Sunday before Easter) the Church of England celebrates Education Sunday. The bible readings in Church on that day will focus on Christ the Teacher. It is an important day to celebrate.

It might seem from the news reports that education is mainly about Tests, Inspections, Results, League Tables, the National Curriculum and Training for Jobs. All of these are significant in the education system in our country, but not to the exclusion of what we might call 'Education for Living'.

All of us have experience of education - in school or college or university. Most of us have experience of education in Church - Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, Housegroups or Lent Courses. Most of us have experience of education in our jobs - in-service training, refresher courses, extension programmes. I wonder what we would say though, if we were to try to focus our minds on how we have become as we are? Certainly many people or events will have influenced us - perhaps sub-consciously.

The Education Reform Act (1988) states that the purpose of education is in equipping of people 'for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life'. The Gospel - and we Christians - would want to go further. We would say that education is to enable people to have the abundant life of which Jesus Christ spoke. The 'abundance' is not in material things, but is about a breadth and depth to living for all people, adults and children.

Part of the way in which that Christian dimension happens is through our Church Schools - 155 of them in this London Diocese. Nationally, there are over 5,000 Anglican Schools and 13 Church Colleges of Higher Education in England and Wales which form part of the State System. Or put another way about 30% of all children in England and Wales attend a Church of England School. This is a massive commitment, and it has to work both ways. The Church needs to take seriously the commitment to our schools and our schools need to relate to their local churches. The foundations for creating that life in all its fullness are there to be cherished and built upon.

Last century, when parish schools - including Hampton Hill's - spread widely, there was considerable opposition. It was felt by many that access to full education rather than minimal training would lead to social unrest and instability. But, 'Education for Living' is what the Gospel is about - broadening our horizons, opening our eyes to see, through the created order, through relationships, through art and science, through justice and peace, God who is, and Jesus who is that window onto God.

# Sunday 12th February 9.30 am Education Sunday Parish Communion

**Preacher:** Mr. Rod Usher,  
Deputy Director,  
London Diocesan Board for Schools

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

- All who work in schools, colleges and universities
- All who study in them
- The Church's teaching ministry
- All parents and governors
- All who create teaching materials
- All who have no access to learning

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

For a little fun, a chance of getting to know others in the congregation and to raise some more money for the ever hungry church funds (will we ever have enough to make our charitable donations as planned?), I propose we have a round of dinner (or lunch) parties around the parish over the next few weeks.

It would work as follows:

Those who volunteer as HOSTS/HOSTESSES would say when they would like to hold their dinner party and how many people they would be prepared to entertain.

Those who volunteer as GUESTS would say when they would like to attend such a dinner party. I will match guests with hosts, give the guests an address and a time. As they leave, they will leave a donation to the church.

Neither hosts nor guests will be told who their dinner companions will be. You can, of course, volunteer to be both - at different times!

Anyone who would like to join in, please fill in a form. these will be available in church or ask me for one.



*Ruth Mills (977 5165)*

# Introducing the Friends of St. James's Church

If you were in Church at Christmas, I expect you saw a red leaflet describing a new venture we are launching. For those of you who saw the leaflet - and also for those of you who didn't - here is the story.

At the Stewardship Review meeting held in November 1993, we looked at how regular giving to the Church has increased significantly over the last few years. In the same period the membership of stewardship has actually decreased. So a smaller number of people are being increasingly generous.

Parishes are also needing to become more self-sufficient financially. Central financing of parishes has decreased over the years and will decrease further.

These two factors together show that unless we can broaden the base of regular giving to St. James's, there will soon come a time when the means and generosity of the existing parishioners in stewardship will not be enough. However, the hundred or so families in stewardship are drawn from the regular congregation. What about the 2,500 households within the boundary of the parish? Is there some way we can interest them in a regular giving scheme, and what can we give them in return?

The approach the Stewardship Committee proposed and which the Parochial Church Council endorsed was to launch a Friends of St. James's. This is to be aimed not at regular church goers, who would still be encouraged to join the Stewardship Scheme, but at those people who appreciate the fact that St. James's is here.

When we paused to think what we offer the local community, it is a lot. Many people come to special services (Christmas, Easter, Harvest Thanksgiving, etc.) and to baptisms, weddings and funerals. Many more are involved in the Scouts, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs. Yet more come to school concerts and other musical events in Church. Many others benefit from visits and support. And many others again like the Church as a building and as a landmark.

The idea of the Friends is that it should encourage all those who value St. James's to make a regular contribution. In return they will get information about the activities of the Church and be invited to occasional social events.

To make the Friends Scheme work will take regular promotion. The Christmas leaflet has produced two responses so far. We will hand out leaflets at future services and aim to leaflet every household in the parish in the summer.

If you would like some more information on the Friends - or better still would like to join - please contact me on 081 979 2997 or drop me a note at 16 Cranmer Road, Hampton Hill.

*Andrew Craig*  
*Stewardship Chairman*

# Women's World Day of Prayer

The two services for the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 3rd March will be at 2.30 pm and 8 pm and will be held at our own Church this year. They should be lively occasions as at both times the service put together by the women of Ghana will be used, and our own Liturgical Dancers will be taking part.

## Stewardship

The total giving under our Stewardship scheme during 1994 was almost £32,700, a good figure but only a rather modest increase on the figure for 1993 which was just under £32,000. Considering that we had hoped for a 15% increase, this was a somewhat disappointing result, but understandable in the light of losses to our membership and the difficult times we live in. We have welcomed five new families to the scheme, but despite that, our membership stands at 95, rather less than it has generally been over our thirty years or so of Stewardship.

**Sunday 26th February  
3 pm**

**St. James's Church**

**Hannah Stanton Memorial Lecture by**

**Rabbi Albert Friedlander  
of the Westminster Synagogue**

**The Gate of Perfection:  
Peace and the Religious Traditions**

**There will be a collection of donations towards  
the Hannah Stanton Memorial Fund**

**All visitors are invited to afternoon tea  
All welcome**

# The Young Church

The Young Church starts off the New Year with a flurry of activities. After the Informal Service on 5th February we shall have another stall in the Hall, selling cakes, biscuits, fudge, etc. for the Leprosy Mission. We raised £40 at our stall on 18th December, so come along ready to buy!

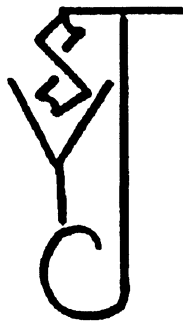
On 12th February, from 2.30 - 4.30 pm we shall be presenting a 'Biblethon' in Church - a two-hour reading of parts of the New Testament. Readers will be sponsored for the Leprosy Mission. Come and support us for part (all?) of the time.

Then a big commitment. During Lent (first Sunday 5th March) the Young Church will be presenting a short play, about 5 minutes, at the start of the 9.30 am service every Sunday, telling the story of Jesus's arrest, trial and crucifixion.

The members of the Young Church are members of St. James's congregation - we're not a separate organisation! We look forward to your support in all our activities.

In addition to the above, we continue to meet regularly, 9.30 - 10.15 am on Sundays, to learn about our faith. At present, we're studying stories in Genesis, and the story of how the Bible came to be written in English. Our motto this year is 'Outward-Looking' - new members, 11 to 14 plus, always welcome.

*Stuart Ward*



## **Westminster Abbey**

### **Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus**

**A day of prayer with  
The Rt. Rev. Rowan Williams, Bishop of Mon-  
mouth  
and  
Sister Carol CHN  
of Lee Abbey, Devon**

**Saturday 25th March**

**For further details contact Janet Jeffries, 979 7982**

# U N 50 - 50 Years Working for a Better World

The United Nations was established in the aftermath of a devastating war to help stabilize international relations and give peace a more secure foundation. Amid the threat of nuclear war and regional conflicts, peacekeeping became an overriding concern of the UN and the activities of the blue-helmeted peacekeepers the most visible role of the world organisation. The UN is more than a peacekeeper; the UN and its agencies are engaged in a vast array of work touching every aspect of people's lives. Here are a few examples of some of the other aspects of its work:

**Promoting development** - Annual disbursements of over \$10 billion.

**Promoting human rights** - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) has been followed by over 80 comprehensive agreements.

**Providing humanitarian aid to victims of conflict** - more than 30 million refugees have received aid from UNHCR.

**Aiding Palestinian refugees** - UN Relief and Works Agency has sustained four generations of Palestinians.

**Providing safe drinking water** - to 1.3 billion people.

**Reducing fertility rates** - number of families using effective methods of family planning has risen from 10 to 55%.

**Empowering the voiceless** - causing governments to recognise the needs and contributions of groups excluded from decision making.

**Establishing 'children as a zone of peace'** - UNICEF pioneered 'Days of tranquillity' in areas of armed conflict, to provide vaccines and other assistance for children.

**The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to:** UNHCR (1954), UNICEF (1965), ILO (1969), UNHCR (1981), UN Peacekeeping Forces (1988).

## Freda Moses

Freda died on 6th December, a few weeks before her 80th birthday. Her death has left a gap in many lives, for her love and kindness touched and influenced all who knew her and her memory will remain with us. It is indeed hard to realise that we will not see her again in her customary pew every Sunday and that she will not later be making her way back to Longford Close to prepare Sunday lunch for a gathering of friends. No matter how difficult and painful her breathing, she always asked 'How are you, dear, and the family?' and explained at the same time that she was quite well, thank you.

Truly, Freda was an extra-ordinary woman, one who had long ago put aside all thought and consideration of self to concentrate on the welfare of others. Since the death of her dear husband, Hugh, about thirty years ago, her house was open to many guests, long-term and short-term whom she succoured and helped and to whom she gave a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven. She was a true friend to my mother, whose last few years of life she made happier and more contented by her loving consideration.

Freda told me once of a deep sorrow in her life - that she had never brought any other person into the love of God. What a misconception - Freda brought the love of God to more people than any one else I have ever known and I shall certainly feel her influence for the rest of my life.

Her work for the local Red Cross epitomised her concerns - personal and social, and occupied her for about twenty years of her life - she was Commandant of the 88th Detachment, the Hampton Hill Branch, for about ten years, organising First Aid at various functions, training volunteers, doing welfare work, being an official hospital visitor, escorting disabled soldiers, sailors and airmen on holidays and outings. Freda continued devoted hospital visiting until she died, she cleaned the church, collected pensions, changed library books, washed sheets, dispensed innumerable cups of tea and made hundreds of meals for visitors to her always warm and welcoming home.

Freda's name will appear in the Book of Remembrance on the same page as that other great woman, Hannah Stanton, who died a year ago. Her family and friends, her 'boys' and her Church will all miss her greatly, but I think that we shall all thank God for allowing us to have known her as a remarkable Christian - one of Freda's friends of many years summed up her life: 'Freda belonged to God'.

*Margaret Taylor*

## **Christopher Wren**

We regret to announce the death of Christopher Wren of Links View Road on 22nd December. Chris or 'Guv' as he was affectionately known by the Scouts, moved to Hampton Hill in 1953. He quickly became involved with the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Troop and got his Warrant as Scout Leader in 1955. He and his son Christopher Jnr. saw many changes in the Scout Movement in the next 15 years.

Chris was well known in the area, working in the Architects Department at York House and later at Regal House until his retirement. He took a keen interest in local affairs and was a member of the St. Raphael Club and Arthritic Care. He will be much missed by all who knew him. He leaves a widow, Sybil, and two sons.

*Christopher Wren (Jnr.)*

## **Christmas Collections**

All of the plate collections in our Church at the Midnight Eucharist and at the services on Christmas Day are usually given to a charity. This year, the splendid total of £431 was collected and has been sent to Christian Aid. Many thanks to all who gave.

## Thoughts on Lent



I do love daffodils. They fill my heart with joy and hope. Already the garden is host to their brave venture into our changeable climate. Watching them push through the hard soil, I begin to believe that winter is not everlasting and that spring must surely be just around the corner. I love spring too - there is so much expectation after the tired wearying January days.

Some time ago I felt sad and wintry. Like the daffodils whose bulbs enable them to survive unfavourable periods and to burst into flower when good conditions return, I was protected too. Enveloped in the love of God and cherished, I waited for spring. The experience evoked a tentative 'Yes Lord, but wait until I can make it' approach. There is after all a reason for everything.

At the time we go to press, Lent will soon be upon us. For many years it has made me feel most dismal. Perhaps it was all the talk of donning sackcloth and ashes. I prefer to think of Lent having a golden image allied with spring. I wonder - will our memories of Lent this year be golden? Will we remember it as a very special time? Will others see our actions as golden or will they appear tarnished to ourselves and those around us? In Lent we have a glorious opportunity to blossom and let the radiance of God's Love shine forth to touch everyone and everything. What a tall order! But then who ever said the Christian life was easy?

*This Lent Lord, enter our hearts and minds, our whole being. Help us to truly love as you do and to take every opportunity to follow in your footsteps. Help us to act justly, to love loyalty and to walk humbly with you. Amen.*

*Janet Jeffries*

## Around the Spire

On the eve of the New Year a celebratory party took place in the Church Hall for Chrissie Hockley's 90th birthday. Many of her friends, some of long standing, and relatives came from near and far to be with her. Presents and cards were in evidence but pride of place was taken by a letter from the Queen Mother congratulating Chrissie on her Birthday. A splendid tea was enjoyed by the sixty or so guests present and a good time, as they say, was had by all.

It's not very often we have the chance to welcome back to our Church people who have moved away and then returned to us, so it is with special pleasure that we say 'Nice to see you again' to Peter and Jane Wilde and family, now residing in St. James's Avenue after a sojourn in Teddington for a number of years.

Early in December, Roma and Ron Bridges became grandparents again, this time to a baby born to their younger son Vernon and his wife Kerry. Angus Ross was born on



9th December and all are now doing well. Helen and Alan Taylor became first-time grandparents recently. Ruth and Danny (Clarke) had a baby boy (despite Grandma's prediction that the baby was going to be a girl!), to be called Joshua Daniel, born in Glasgow on 10th January. They are also all well. Deo gratias.

Catherine Jones has been obliged to move again, and is now settling in to a very pleasant new flat in Bayleaf Close, just behind Laurel Dene.

Margaret Price (we apologise for the error in Margaret's name in the last issue) is now home from hospital and making good progress after her fall. Miss Smee has also had a fall but fortunately nothing was broken. The Rev. Preb. Robin Rogers, Vicar of St. Mary's, Hampton, is in hospital again. Please remember him and Marcia in your prayers. Others to remember are Len and Margery Orton, and teacher, Prill Hinckley, who has been away from school for over a month now.

Suddenly, just before Christmas, Mona Gow's husband, Ray, died of a heart attack. He had taken early retirement some years ago through ill health but nevertheless his death came as a shock. For relatives and friends of those who die at this time of year, subsequent Christmases can be very painful reminders, so please keep them in your prayers.



**Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group** need someone to take over from their current treasurer who is retiring. No wage - just good company and job satisfaction in helping a good cause. He/She would need experience in accountancy. Please contact Deirdre Curran (941 3902).

**The Hampton St. Raphael Club** (for physically disabled people) is in urgent need of an auditor owing to the retirement of our previous auditor. Because we are a registered charity, the auditor has to be a qualified person who is registered as a Charity Auditor. Please can anyone help? For further information, please telephone Mr. Shields (979 8600), Mrs. Newman (979 7210) or Miss Suter (979 1312).

Canon Michael Moore is seeking Stewards for the **Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace** to be in the chapel for an hour or two on a regular basis to help in the Christian welcoming of the many visitors who come to the Chapel. Please contact him or the Verger and consult a list of 'watches' which has been placed at the back of the Chapel.

# Thanks

Chrissie Hockley would like to thank all those who helped with the splendid spread, including the birthday cake, and all her friends for their gifts and cards, and for coming to her birthday party. She very much enjoyed the happiness of the occasion and hopes that everyone else shared her pleasure.

## From the Registers - December

### Funerals

1	Frank Chapman	99 Laurel Road	Aged 92
16	Freda Olive Moses	21 Longford Close	Aged 79
30	John (Ray) Gow	31 Chelsea Close	Aged 59



## Dates to Note

Feb.	1	14.30	Women's Forum, Church Hall
	2		<b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>
	5	11.00	Stewardship Review, Church Hall, followed by shared lunch
	6	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	12	09.30	Education Sunday, Rod Usher, Deputy Director of London Diocesan Board for Schools, to preach
	15	20.00	Women's Forum, Church Hall
	26	15.00	Hannah Stanton Memorial Lecture by Rabbi Albert Friedlander, Church
	27	20.00	P.C.C., Church Hall

### Advance Notices

Mar.	1		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
		14.30	Womens Forum, Church Hall
		20.00	Parish Communion with Imposition of Ashes
	3	14.30 } 20.00 }	Women's World Day of Prayer, St. James's Church
	6	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	9	20.15	Stewardship Committee, 16 Cranmer Road
	15	20.00	Womens Forum, Church Hall
	20		<b>St. Joseph of Nazareth</b>
	23	20.00	P.C.C., Church Hall
	25		<b>The Annunciation</b>
	26		<b>Mothering Sunday</b>

**COPY DATE FOR MARCH ISSUE: 12 FEBRUARY**