

The Wedding season is upon us and the Church of England has produced a report "Something to Celebrate - Valuing Families in Church and Society". So it is not altogether surprising that some parts of the press have picked on the 'living-in-sin is no longer a sin' headline. I must say that I cannot remember when I last heard the phrase used seriously about people living together before marriage. It's certainly not a term I would use to describe the people who come to talk about marriage and who, either with pride or with diffidence talk about their relationship.

The vast majority of couples I see in preparation for marriage are living together. I should think seventy-five per cent at least. And I use the words 'living together' with great care. For what does it mean? Yes, it does usually mean that couples expressing their love for one another do demonstrate that love through their God-given sexuality. But that is one part, and one part only, of living together. It also means sharing, sacrificing, forgiving, listening, enjoying. It means giving and receiving loyalty, friendship, generosity and compassion. Can that be wrong, I wonder?

Then what about "living-in-sin"? I think the first thing that must be said is that, for Christians, we would say that all of us live in sin - it's part of being human. Why should relationships of sexual intercourse be the sole bearers of the title 'sin'? But even here when discussing sex what about greed, malice, selfishness, lack of care. The Church's report makes it clear that all "casual, promiscuous, adulterous and exploitative sexual relations are abhorrent - whether they occur inside or outside marriage. This is surely what living in sin is about, for it denies the Spirit of God in each of us. It is not about those who, in coming to terms with their commitment to each other, decide to share everything. I would want to say that in the people I see who are living together outside marriage - it is not selfishness, indulgence or lust that characterises their relationship, but their greatest and most complete expression of love for each other.

The Church of England has always, through its parish system, asserted that it takes all sorts to build the Kingdom. Look around our parish, our congregation and that is clear. Female and Male, old and young, weak and strong, poor and rich, heterosexual and homosexual, sick and healthy, black and white. I rejoice that it is so. Further, I rejoice that the family at St. James' and the family of the wider Church reflects God's creativity in diversity when it comes to human relations - single people, divorced people, lone parents, widowed people, nuclear families, extended families, gay couples, unmarried couples. All, all are within the orbit of God's love and our mutual respect - which means all of us living in faithfulness.

Brian Leathard

ST. JAMES PATRONAL FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 22ND JULY and SUNDAY 23RD JULY

SATURDAY 2pm - 5pm **CHURCH and HALL OPEN DAY**
4pm **BEATING THE BOUNDS BY BIKE**

Starting from Church we will ride round the boundaries of our Parish

(Approx. 4 miles). All are welcome to join in.

Sponsor Forms available for Church Funds -

or do it for fitness if you prefer.

5pm onwards **BARBEQUE**

SUNDAY 11am **PARISH COMMUNION FOR**
ST. JAMES'S DAY
Lunch to follow



ALL FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS VERY WELCOME

WELCARE

During the past year Welcare has seen some changes. Regretfully, David Roos died at the end of January. He was much respected in the Borough and will be greatly missed. A new Team Leader, Michael Levy, joined the office at the beginning of February. He has been working at the Family Welfare Association in Britain and is a well qualified social worker.



The work of Welcare has continued to be with single parent families in the Borough. Recently there has been a noted change in the client group being referred, these now tend to be older women who have been either married or in long-term relationships and have to face the prospect of bringing up their children alone. The main problems they face are debt, poor housing, education needs and childcare. Among refugees racial harassment and equal opportunities are particular issues, and among those with mixed race children.

Welcare continues to offer clients and their children a drop-in facility, parties at Christmas and Easter and outings.

Trips include a visit to Loseley Farm, the Circus, the Cinema and a Wembley Ice Show. The two parties were a great success with up to twenty-two families attending.

The outings, parties and small grants to clients are financed by money raised by volunteers during street collections and at the Richmond May Fayre. This year the amount raised was £700, their best ever total. The next opportunity to shake a tin is on 30th September, a couple of volunteers are needed, if you would be willing to do this, please speak to me.

Good second-hand children's clothes and toys are always welcomed at the Hounslow branch of Welcare which runs a large refugee group. Gifts of toys, clothes, books, plants and cakes are wanted for the May Fayre stall each year, and items suitable for Christmas presents for adults and children are also useful. If you want any further information please don't hesitate to speak to me.

Julia Warrens

COFFEE MORNING

There will be Coffee morning at 68 Park Road on Wednesday July 12th from 10.30 - 12 noon in aid of Torch Trust for the Blind. This is an organisation which provides Christian Literature for blind and partially sighted people. The Coffee morning is being held by the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee and your support is sought by them for this very worthwhile cause. There will be a Bring and Buy, please come and enjoy a cup of coffee with your friends.

HYMNS

I looked at the hymns we have sung during the past year - just out of curiosity really - to see if we were relying on just a few or spreading ourselves thinly through the hymn book. I was quite surprised at the results - perhaps you may be too. (I have omitted the hymns sung at Christmas and Easter Services).



My first surprise came when I added up the number of different hymns sung in one year at Parish Communion and the Informal Service.

We sang a hundred and thirty-four hymns from Ancient and Modern New Standard, of which thirty were from the Hundred Hymns for To-day and the Hundred More Hymns for To-day section.. We also sang forty-two hymns from Songs of Fellowship and eleven other hymns from other sources.

Digging a bit deeper I discovered that with regard to frequency we sang only one hymn four times (Just as I am without one plea), twenty hymns three times and thirty-two twice.

These are the hymns which we sang three times each:-

A&M NS	95	Holy, Holy, Holy
	104	For the beauty of the Earth
	113	Father hear the prayer we offer
	115	Dear Lord and Father of mankind
	141	The Head that once was crowned with thorns
	149	Ye servants of God your Master proclaim
	212	Who would true valour see
	214	Guide me, O thou great Redeemer
	220	Fight the good fight with all thy might
	263	Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour
	332	Christ is made the sure foundation
	422	Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
	433	When I needed a neighbour, were you there
	459	Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
S of F	6	Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord
	43	Bind us together Lord
	120	From Heaven you came (The Servant King)
	379	Majesty, worship His majesty
	381	Make a channel of your peace
	493	Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

Geoffrey, Paul and I are always happy to receive suggestions and requests for hymns to be sung during our worship.

Brian Leathard

THE LIFE OF A TAX INSPECTOR



I wasn't born a Tax Inspector, it just evolved. I was young and naive when I first entered the Revenue and wasn't aware of the notorious reputation it had. It's the sort of profession that strikes people dumb at parties - "Oh, and what do you do?" "I'm a Civil Servant", "What department?" "The Revenue", "What does that entail?" "O.K., O.K., I give up, I'm a Tax Inspector". Deathly Silence, followed by "I must go and talk to so and so". It's quite depressing sometimes, after all, I only implement the Tax Laws, not make them.

My day starts at nine o'clock - that is, my day as a Tax Inspector, not my day as a mother or housewife which began several hours earlier! My role is Office Manager. I am responsible for the personnel and work of thirty staff. My first task is to say 'Good Morning', and then see my line managers to ensure they have no problems with their staff or 'customers'. If there are any problems I try and sort them out.

Once that is done I settle down to tackle the technical work that needs authorising, and submissions from my staff that require an answer. Everyday I try to put some time aside to read all the memos that arrive concerning changes in practice or legislation. Invariably I don't find the time and they are taken home for bedtime reading!

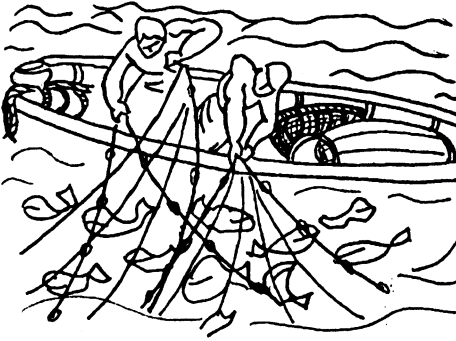
No, we don't get the tea breaks, but yes, we do get a lunch break. The image of the Civil Servant sitting around drinking tea doesn't apply to the modern day Revenue. We now have Targets; Performance Management; Brain Storming and Customers - yes, Customers. We balked when this word was introduced as it gives the impression of choice, that is the last thing the Taxpayer has. They cannot choose which Tax Office they use nor whether they pay tax or not. We, of course, get a lot of satisfaction in giving a good service but for this to be under the umbrella of 'Customer Service' is a somewhat alien concept.

Computers, well yes, we have been dragged along kicking and screaming into the 20th Century. You would have thought after having married a Computer Manager I would have all the help I need, but no, I get lectured on mega bytes, CD Roms, Servers, Floppy Discs. All I want to know is how to turn it on in the morning and off at night!

My Tax Inspector hat (or is it horns and a forked tail!) comes off at five fifteen and my mother and housewife hat returns. I've enjoyed my day but am much happier to be at home with my family.

Lou Coaker

ST. JAMES



July 25th is St. James's Day and we shall be celebrating in Church on the 22nd and 23rd July. St. James is the Patron Saint of Spain and legend has it that after the Crucifixion James went to Spain, later returning to Jerusalem where he was martyred and his body returned to Spain there to be venerated at his shrine at Santiago de Compostella in Galicia, (Santiago means St. James in Spanish). Pilgrims travelled

from Paris and other French towns, often beginning their journey in the Rue St. Jacques (St. James's Road) and taking two months to walk to Santiago to visit the beautiful Cathedral where St. James is buried.

You will often see pictures of St. James dressed as a pilgrim with a shell in his hat. Pilgrims used to collect scallop shells from the beach near Santiago to show that they had made the pilgrimage to the Saint's shrine. Look for Saint James in our Church and see if you can see any shells (and what about having a look at the Vicarage as well!).

MEMBERS OF THE PCC 1995/6

Rev. Dr. Brian Leathard (Vicar)

Mr Alan R. Taylor (Reader)

Miss Ruth Mills (Churchwarden)

Mrs Margaret Taylor (Churchwarden)

Mr John Gossage (ex-officio - Deanery Synod)

Mrs Lesley Mortimer (ex-officio - Deanery Synod)

Mr Pip Rowett (ex-officio - Deanery Synod)

Mrs Jennifer Clay

Mrs Julia Sharp

Mrs Coryn Robinson

Mrs Lyn Cox

Mrs Elizabeth Gossage

Mrs Margaret Hobbs

Mrs Susan Horner

Mrs Rosalie Meyerowitz

Mrs Moya Meredith-Smith

Mrs Debbie Nunn

Miss Kate Sullivan

Mrs Ann Peterken

Mrs Margaret Revis

Mrs Jean Wilson

Mr Ron Bridges

Mr Andrew Craig

Mr Paul Fitchett

Mr David Lloyd

Mr Richard Melville

Mr John Meredith-Smith

Mr David Robottom

Mr Stuart Ward

THE YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club was re-launched in February this year. About six young people had been attending the group, but as the meetings were taking place in their own homes it was felt that this prevented the group from growing. Also, there was no Christian content; the young people just spent the time chatting together. It was agreed at the re-launch meeting that they would meet each Sunday evening in the Church Hall between 7.00 and 9.00pm, and that there would be some regular Christian discussions, talks or activities.

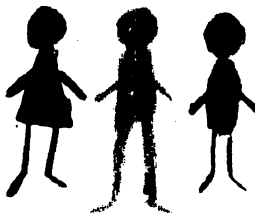
We now have what I hope is a nucleus of about seven who have been coming regularly, and seem quite happy to accept that this is a Church youth group, and so God will be mentioned from time to time! Only one of them attends St James, and although they have been urged to attend the informal services they all seem to belong to Scouts and Guides who have church parade at other churches on the same Sunday. This is a disappointment because it is important that the group feels part of St James and vice versa, and without regular contact between the congregation and the group this is impossible. However, with prayer this may change, and I hope that eventually young people will join us from the Young Church, which is thriving.

We are only just beginning to establish a regular pattern to the meetings. This involves quite a bit of table tennis and pool; but time has been given for a Christian topic (we have discussed Lent, faith, commitment and the Resurrection), and a silly and/or rowdy game goes down surprisingly well. Most of this is accompanied by a background of loud music. In the summer we can be outside more (wide games in the churchyard?), and we have been invited to visit All Saints Youth Group, which we can accept now we are more established.

I greatly enjoy working with these young people, and ask for your prayers that the group will grow in the way God wishes it to. If any younger member (16-30) of the congregation feels called or inspired to help from time to time please let me know. Young people of this age group need a role model who they see as slightly younger than Methuselah's mother!

Elizabeth Gossage

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



It's that time of year again, how quickly it seems to come round. If you have a Children's Society Box please bring it to Church one Sunday in July and give it to either Ann or Pip Rowett so that it can be emptied. If it feels a bit light put some extra cash in at the last moment, all the money goes to good use.

The Story of the English Bible in English II

John Wycliffe (c.1330-1384)

Wycliffe was an important bible scholar at Oxford. In his day the prestige of the papacy had sunk very low. From 1309-1378 the Popes lived at Avignon in France, under the control of the French, who were England's enemies. Then, from 1378-1417 there were two Popes, rivals, one at Avignon and one at Rome. This was called the Great Schism.



Wycliffe rethought the whole question of what society and the Church should be like. To him the Bible was the guide to faith, not the pronouncements of the Church (which were called Canon Law).

But if everyone should obey what the Bible says (rather than following what the Church told them), it followed that the whole Bible should be in the common tongue.

Wycliffe sent out travelling preachers to spread this message, but was soon in serious trouble. The higher ranking clergy felt their authority was being undermined. An attempt was made to put him on trial in 1378 for heresy. Then, in 1381 there was the Peasant's Revolt, led by Wat Tyler and others, during which Archbishop Sudbury was killed. Some of Wycliffe's followers justified this killing, and in 1382 his teachings were pronounced 'heretical' (a belief contrary to the Church's teaching). He retired to his country rectory at Lutterworth, and died in 1384. Although he probably did little of the translating himself, he was the inspiration for what became known as 'The Wycliffe Bible'.

Here is part of the Letter to the Hebrews:

'God, that spak sum tyme bi prophetis in many maneres to oure fadris, at the last in these daies he hath spoke to us bi the sone; whom he hath ordeyned eir of alle thingis, and bi whom he made the worldis.'

A modern version of the same portion:

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Stuart Ward

AROUND THE SPIRE

The Informal Service on the 4th June (Pentecost) was a busy and happy occasion. It was good to hear the news from Mona Gow that she is a Grandmother again. Congratulations! Nicola's baby girl is to be called Erin Ray.

Congratulations also to Natasha and Grant Clifford on the arrival of their baby daughter, born on the 1st June, Laura Leigh.

There were two Baptisms at this Pentecost Service, Craig and Ewan Henry - Rachel Lloyd is their Nanny and so all the Lloyd family were present. We welcomed the children into the family of St. James. We also recently received Lou's baby in the same way, Alice Coaker-Basdell.

It was a great pleasure to see Prill Hinckley on Sunday - she and her husband Martin were playing clarinets in the band. We hope she continues to improve and make a full recovery.

The Great Banquet - (Bread and Cheese Lunch!) organised by the Hampton Council of Churches was held at All Saints Church, Hampton on June 3rd. The lunch raised funds for SPEAR'S new Hostel for the mentally ill homeless in Twickenham.

Finally we wish to record our very grateful thanks to Janet Jeffries and Alison Thompson for their many years service on the Magazine Committee. They have decided to retire and will both be much missed. Janet has been on the Committee for about nine years and Alison for best part of twenty, thank you both.

Just a postscript, the pigeons roosting about the porch have been moved on, in the nicest possible way, of course.

THE HAMPTON HILL PLAYHOUSE

This is the name that the Management Committee of the Teddington Theatre Club proposes to call the new theatre at 90 High Street, Hampton Hill which immediately makes it a part of this village. I hope all readers will be pleased with this decision.

Contracts have been exchanged, TTC has a lease for 125 years and the contract with St. George Developments Ltd. has been signed to construct the building itself, Phase One of this project, and, as you may have seen, the work has now started.

HRH Princess Alexandra has consented to visit the site, early evening on Wednesday, July 26th to perform the ceremony of 'Laying the Foundation Stone'.

The theatre building will take until late 1995 or early 1996 to complete then will follow the fitting-out of the theatre, Phase Two. For this, we shall need more funds and if any reader would like to 'Name a Seat' - £500, or 'Buy and Name a Brick' for £50 or make any donation, it will be recorded.

Contact me, Eric Yardley, 17 The Wilderness Park Road, Hampton Hill (979-7904). Thank you.

DATES TO NOTE

- 2nd July **PENTECOST 4**
Informal Service - The Young Church present their cheque to the Leprosy Mission Representative
- 3rd July St. Thomas the Apostle
- 5th July Women's Forum - Invitation Service 2 - 3pm
Speaker Sr. Dorothea, Sisters of the Church, Ham
- 6th July Thomas More, Martyr, 1535
Magazine Committee 2pm, 68 Park Road
- 9th July **PENTECOST 5**
- 11th July Benedict, Abbot of Monte Cassino, 550
- 12th July Hampton Council of Churches Meeting
- 15th July Richmond Schools Music Trust Concert in Church
- 16th July **PENTECOST 6**
- 22nd July **St. James' Festival Weekend**
- 23rd July See separate notice in this Magazine
- 27th July Taizé Service at St. James 8pm

May

Baptisms

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 21 | Alice Elizabeth Coaker-Basdell | 59 Acacia Road |
| | Heather Jill Violet Freeman | 98 Crispen Road, Hanworth |
| | Sophie Elizabeth McBride | 98 Broad Lane |
| | Alexander William Roth | 31 Kirtley House, Battersea |

Blessing

- 13 John Anthony King and Dawn Patricia Harrison

Funerals

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Charles Anthony Culverhouse | Homemead Nursing Home,
Teddington | Aged 96 |
| 2 | Terence Edward Gill | 2 Rectory Close | Aged 50 |