

Recently the Vicar attended a Conference in Jerusalem on behalf of the London Diocesan Global Awareness group. Here are some of his reflections.

Apartheid in Jerusalem?

The village of Beit Sahour is one of the four villages in modern Palestine in which there is a significant Christian majority. Not a majority made up of Christian pilgrims or visitors, but indigenous Christians, Palestinian Christians. Beit Sahour suffered years of hardship and violence during the Intifada, the uprising of the population against Israeli military occupation. Beit Sahour, just outside Bethlehem, is also the village of the Shepherds' Fields - the village of God's promise 'Peace on earth, goodwill to humankind'.

In Britain it is easy to have the impression that peace has indeed broken out in the Holy Land. Reports of Israeli troops leaving Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jericho and other Palestinian towns are true and welcome. Such reports mask the fact that only 6% of the Occupied Territories has been returned to Palestinian control. Just as real peace can never be equated with the ending of the war, neither can it be initiated merely by the withdrawal of a military presence.

First, attention must be paid to what has happened during the years of military occupation. Since 1967 the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza have been deliberately and continuously denied a true civic society. There has been no democratic representation. In spite of taxes levied on the Palestinian population there has been a derisory level of investment by the Israeli government in the social and economic infrastructure of the Occupied Territories. The manipulation of the Palestinian economy by the occupying administration has denied Palestinians the chance of employment, investment and development, other than on Israel's terms. Nor do we even stop to consider the damaging effect of continued exposure to the arbitrary rigours of life under occupation.

Second the Palestinian people have, under economic and social pressure, been emigrating at a considerable rate. Those with the opportunity to emigrate tend to be among the more educated, more socially mobile, exactly the people needed to galvanise, articulate and anchor the re-creation of civic society now under way. The recent elections to the Palestinian National Council may not have been perfect, but were at least one step on the road towards democratisation. Indeed these elections, the first attempt under universal suffrage, while an important milestone on the road to the creation of independent statehood, were on terms agreed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

But not everything is quite so positive. Land expropriation by Israel continues even after the Oslo Declaration of Principles. Jewish settlements are still being built and expanded in Palestine. Political prisoners are still held in Israel. And perhaps most importantly, the question of the future of Jerusalem comes to the negotiating table in

May 1996. It is almost impossible to over-emphasise the importance of Jerusalem for both nations, Israel and Palestine and for adherents of all three religious faiths, who see in Abraham a common forbear.

At a recent conference sponsored by the Middle East Council of Churches and organised by Sabeel, a Palestinian liberation theology centre, Canon Naim Ateek, of St. George's Anglican Cathedral, presided over several days debate regarding the significance of Christians to Jerusalem and the significance of Jerusalem to Christians. The overriding concern of speakers from all three faith traditions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity, was to preserve the integrity of Jerusalem by acknowledging and protecting its diversity. This, of course, implies the rejection of any exclusive claims on the future of this holy city.

Throughout its 4,000 year history Jerusalem has been inhabited by a mosaic of peoples, languages, cultures and religious traditions. Here was a Cananite city, the city of David, the temple built under Solomon, here the death and resurrection of Christ occurred, here at the first Pentecost came the creation of the church. Here too, is the place of Prophet Mohammed's ascension into heaven.

Greece, Rome, Byzantium, the Ottoman Empire, Britain, Jordan, and Israel have all played a part in the shaping of Jerusalem as it is today. As negotiations approach the question must be asked, can Might continue determine Right in the Israeli/Palestinian search for stability and security? It would indeed be tragic if, in negotiation, the noble quest for a just peace were to be sacrificed for the arrogance of any exclusive claim to sovereignty. UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 make it all the more important in the forthcoming final status negotiations that a solution be sought which mirrors Jerusalem's precious diversity and plurality. It is indeed good that church leaders, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, have declined to take part in the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations which seek to infer legitimacy of Israel's claim over the whole of the city of Jerusalem, denying both the pre-Jewish history of Jerusalem as well as the current reality of a shared city.

Back in Beit Sahour, the village of the Shepherd's Fields, conference members heard speakers talk of the economic struggle for survival, the emerging identity of a future Palestinian state and the story of past struggles. Yet for me, at least, the present reality was best illustrated when, after all the official statements were over, an ordinary village woman spoke with spontaneity and with great dignity. 'Thank you for coming to hear us' she said '... but now go back to your homes thousands of miles away and remember me, and thousands like me, who are not permitted even to go the six miles into Jerusalem. For 27 years I have been waiting to go to the city in which I was born. I don't want to bomb anything or shoot anyone, I just want to go to the Holy Sepulchre, to walk through the suq and to visit my relatives. It is only six miles but for 27 years I have been refused a permit'. The scandal of closures and the denial of access must stop. Jerusalem must once again become an open city to which all people can have access, not only those with permits. Such a restoration of normality is not only a pre-requisite for economic stability and a secure civic society, it is also a precondition of peace, that all God's children, Muslim Christian or Jew should come and go in peace.

In the recent Palestinian elections one of the Christian candidates from Bethlehem used part of Psalm 137 as his slogan, written not only on the election posters but also,

though his experiences, written on his soul

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither
and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.

Christians cannot forget Jerusalem as negotiations on its future status begin. This shared holy city can, in the words of Canon Naim Ateek, be 'the city of perpetual strife or we can make it a paradigm for peace'.

Brian Leathard



Welcome to

The New Bishop

On January 26th, a bitterly cold winter's day, the new Bishop of London, the Right Revd. Richard Chartres, was enthroned at St. Paul's Cathedral with all the grandeur and splendour of a great public occasion. When he entered the Cathedral through the west door, with a rush of icy wind, there came with him a new era for the Diocese of London. He recalled in his sermon that he

was the 132nd Bishop to serve here and that he follows many illustrious predecessors, but that as Bishop for the millennium he realises that 'the Church will be called upon to remind people whose millennium it will be'.

Bishop Richard described the Church as 'true communication', the message being 'choose life' and the vital communication 'the life of God through Jesus Christ'. He told the two and a half thousand members of the congregation that to be a true channel of communication, the Church must itself lead a life of prayer and contemplation, spread the 'rudiments and grammar of the Christian faith' through clear educational strategies, show love embodied in practical projects and engage in honest and open dialogue about scientific discoveries and perspectives.

When the attendant Bishops, the Masters of the City Livery Companies, the Sheriffs, the Lord Mayor and all the other dignitaries had departed, the congregation left the Cathedral gradually, going out into the freezing London afternoon and pondering on the future of the Diocese, and that of the Bishop, as he faces his awesome task. He will be encouraged we hope, by the prayers and good will of all his many 'Parishioners'.

Margaret Taylor

Hampton Council of Churches 40th Anniversary

On the 21st January a delicious tea was provided by the members of the congregation by St. Mary's, Hampton, in the Church Hall, as part of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Hampton Council of Churches, one of the oldest in S.E. England. The hall became full and included a number of people who had been representatives in the early years but have since moved out of the district. Among them it was good to see Barbara Lodder, as full of energy as ever. After having talked ourselves hoarse we went into the Church for the Songs of Praise, and were joined by yet more people from the various churches.

Brian, our Vicar, as present Chairman of the Council of Churches, welcomed everyone and lead the service. All the hymns were chosen and introduced by one member from each of eight of the churches; the singing, lead by the Choir, was comparable to BBC standards. The prayers and a reading were also by members of the various congregations, whilst the very appropriate sermon was preached by the Revd. Paul Hulme, Minister of Wesley's Chapel, and one felt that Wesley would have given the service his blessing. The prayers of Commitment set us on the journey into the future, in which we hope that there will be more representatives of the younger age groups, who will be able to take the Council of Churches forward to celebrate fifty years and more.

Jean Western

Deanery Eucharist at All Hallows

The lofty church of All Hallows, Twickenham, was packed on Thursday evening 1st February, as priests and people of the Hampton Deanery gathered for the Eucharist led by the new Bishop of London, Richard Chartres. It was an historic occasion as it was only a few days before that he had been installed at St. Paul's Cathedral as the 132nd Bishop of London.

The congregation did full justice to the familiar processional hymn 'Crown Him with many Crowns' and the service proceeded, beautifully conducted.

The Bishop gave his address from the Chancel steps with humour, challenge and simplicity. He spoke of the Holy Spirit enabling us all to work together and the Church to move forward. He also suggested that when there are difficulties we often needed to look at ourselves rather than blame the other person who might be the Churchwarden, Vicar or even the Bishop! It was a truly memorable evening giving hope for the tasks ahead.

We were especially glad to be present as Bishop Richard had been our parish priest for eight years in Victoria, where we lived before we came to live in these parts.

John and Betty Rainbow

Parish Weekend at Fairmile Court

The Parish Weekend held at Fairmile Court in Cobham was deemed by all who attended to have been a great success on every level. The theme of the weekend was Prayer and the culmination of the weekend was a celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday afternoon which was the result of everyone working together to produce a unique and moving service. Here are some comments which we have received.

The three F's (food and more food) - Fellowship - Fun. We ate, drank, prayed, laughed, ate, talked, sang, walked, ate, shared experiences, helped each other, ate, listened to each other, worshipped, ate and learned. Memorable moments are: lying on the floor and breathing God in (and Janet finding she could lie on the floor!), and standing shoulder to shoulder saying the Lord's Prayer. Taking Pat and Tilly round the plant centre at Wisley and seeing the joy plants give to a blind person. The colour and brightness of the plants in the greenhouses after that cold, gloomy January. Brian's Maggie Thatcher jokes and Alan's shaggy gorilla story. Tilly taking Suzanne for a walk. Singing the grace. The Sunday afternoon worship - the presence of the Lord was truly moving in that place.

Elisabeth Gossage

Lying on one's back on the floor seemed a funny thing to do on a Parish Weekend but how relaxing it proved to be for prayer and meditation. The Vicar used a book called 'Sadhana: A Way to God - Christian Exercises in Eastern Form' by Anthony de Mello, which I decided I must buy. Needless to say we did not spend all our time lying supine as there were many other interesting discussions and experiences of prayer taking place finishing with a DIY Eucharist in which we were all involved.

Janet Jefferies

Ingredients: Good food and company
 Group discussions under competent leaders
 Time for Prayer
 Free time to enjoy yourself and get to know other people
 Entertainment, and much more
Method: Mix all ingredients together for 48 hours
Result: A brilliant weekend
Author: Debbie Nunn

I thought the Parish Weekend was really good. It was better than I'd expected. It's a shame we can't go back again.

Suzanne Nunn

(Fairmile Court is closing down at the end of July. Ed.)

I'm not sure I contributed a great deal to the weekend, but I certainly took a great deal away with me, a better understanding of worship, prayer and people, (and Guide dogs). We did 'work' quite hard but we also had 'free' time, alone if desired, and 'fun time' together. The house was very grand, and the food was extremely good. In all a very enjoyable weekend. Thank you to the organisers and 'teachers'.

Eila Severn

My mind is still reeling and trying to absorb all the valuable help and instruction from

the weekend. It was absorbing and challenging, but I think we shall all find that we continue to gain from it and strengthen our prayer life.

There was too short a time for making the maximum use of the helpful sessions which had been so well prepared for us. Perhaps some of the books on the bookstall will prove useful to consolidate the things which we learned.

Jean Western

The final act of worship - a Communion Service to which everyone contributed, brought us all together in an unforgettable 'oneness' and a time that I will remember for a long time. Thank you.

Jean Wilson

Family Life Next to a Churchyard

Buying a house in 1956, yards from the churchyard gate, influenced Withers family life more than EVER could have been anticipated. In 1959 my much loved mother-in-law died of cancer, after living with us for just the last two weeks of her life. She asked

to be buried in our churchyard rather than her family one in Surrey, because Bill and I would be around with our three small children. The children said good night to her the night before she died but did not attend the funeral - foolishly, we 'protected' children in those days. But we took them to see the flowers and tried to explain the inexplicable. Some weeks later, I was rushing through the churchyard to collect a child from school - my just four year old daughter sitting on the end of her little brother's pram - and I heard her say, half to herself 'I do hope that's not my other Grandma' . . . We were passing a new grave with flowers

Her little brother was to become quite fascinated by the matching and dispatching which so conveniently went on almost in our back garden. When the bells rang out on Saturdays, he would be viewing the proceedings. I found out about this only because I noticed him looking unusually sad one Saturday and I asked him what was wrong. He told me he had been watching weddings and that the girls always married OLD men He saw brides going INTO church, never coming out, and was immensely relieved to hear the 'old men' were their fathers.

Earlier he was much concerned with death. Once I found him and a group of friends viewing a funeral from our attic. I explained that funerals were private and must not be spied on 'We just wanted to see the bones' he said. Rather sharply I told him there weren't any. He was only four.

We had lots of pets at the time, so many in fact that when I announced one morning that we were going to have a baby, there was an unexpected silence from our three children, broken eventually by the eldest, aged seven, asking 'a baby what?'. Dead pets were solemnly buried after lines of children had attended 'viewings' in the shed. There



were, I am sure, clandestine exhumations to see how they were going on - usually unsuccessful because I had cunningly moved the markers.

We bred pet mice of all colours and when homes could no longer be found for our surplus I surreptitiously released them into the churchyard. I felt they might have a chance, in spite of owls and colonies of cats. Sure enough, we regularly spotted what could only be our multicoloured mice.

Over the years, visiting grandchildren have also gained pleasure from the churchyard. Donkey Dudley Parkin - just over the fence - is a sure cure for any small child's misery. Dandelions are gathered and graciously consumed by the a compliant Dudley.

Recently our four youngest grandchildren, aged between three and eight, were visiting and they ALL wanted to see Dudley. I picked dandelions with the little one and assumed the others were doing the same. No, they were picking over discarded flowers on the tip and redistributing them to graves WITHOUT flowers; some of the reallocations looking remarkably fresh to me

Yes, their greatgrandma was right to choose St. James's churchyard; we are a remarkably closeknit, accepting, loving community.

Barbara Withers

Electoral Roll Revision - 1996

Registration for the New Electoral Roll opens on February 25th and closes on March 21st. The new Roll will be available for inspection from April 7th - 14th inclusive and will come into effect at the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday April 21st.

Everyone who is already on the Electoral Roll will be visited by a member of the Parochial Church Council within the next few weeks. The Roll is completely revised every five years so if you are not already on it now is a good time to join. By being on the Electoral Roll you become eligible to vote at the APCM and to become a member of the PCC if you wish to stand for election. If you feel

yourself to be a member of St. James but are not on the Electoral Roll why not strengthen your commitment by putting YOUR name on?



Brownies

On Tuesday 26th March 1996 from 6pm - 7.30pm the Brownies are holding their annual fund raising event. They hope to provide a short musical entertainment followed by the usual stalls - Bring & Buy, Raffle, Cake stall, etc. There will be a small entrance fee and refreshments will be available. Money raised will go to pay for the use of the Church Hall. Please come and support both the Brownies and the Church.

More News from the Scouts

The 'Triangle' is a small piece of land situated at the rear of the Recreation Ground in School Road Avenue. It has been the Headquarters of the Third Hampton Hill Scout Group for a number of years.

Originally we leased the land from BR for a token rent, the lease being renewable every six months. Eventually BR decided to sell the land but at auction we were outbid, and it looked as though we would lose the land.

The new owners kindly allowed us to carry on using the site while they applied for planning permission. When their plans were rejected we approached them and they agreed to sell us the land. We have now obtained planning permission to build a new and larger Scout headquarters, to replace the one burnt down three years ago (at present we meet in the Junior School). The plans have been drawn up and we shall be going out to tender shortly.

As ever our biggest problem is finance. We shall approach various charities and hold fund raising events which I hope you will all support. Please remember our new venture in your prayers.

Paul Fitchett

Hampton Hill Association - Annual Party

Our annual get-together this year will be a tea-party from 2.30 - 5 pm on Saturday 30th March at St. James's Church Hall, St. James's Road. A fun quiz and ample tea will be followed by an entertainment by the Teddington Theatre Group. Their contribution last year to our party was much appreciated and there will be a voluntary collection for our new Hampton Hill Playhouse in the High Street. Please note our new venue. Tickets are £3.00 each and may be obtained from Dorothy Weston 979 6673, Joan Catt 979 9475 or Joyce Doughty 979 2839. ALL WELCOME.

Tea Dance

A TEA DANCE will be held in St. James's Hall on Saturday 20th April at 3pm. More details will follow but put this date in your Diaries now.

Around the Spire

We are pleased to be able to offer a new service to anyone who is visually impaired. Tape recordings of 'The Spire' can now be ordered on a regular basis from Prill Hinckley 979 0528. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of tapes and postage.

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Rachel Lloyd for typing the weekly notices for a number of years. This task has now been taken over by Sue and Michael Adams, thank you to them and to Roger Severn who prints them each week.

A new Parish Prayer Circle is being organised by David Taylor. If there is anyone you would like prayed for please get in touch with David and he will pass the request on to

people who have promised to pray regularly for such people. Similarly if you would like to be a 'pray-er' please speak to David. Contact will normally be by telephone.

Roy Brookes is now home but is very weak, please remember him and Cath, and all others who need our prayers.

At the funeral recently of Russell Warwick, there were many touching tributes. Husband of Doris, for whom he cared so lovingly during her final years, father of Ann and Jeannie, grandfather and uncle. Following in Doris's footsteps he became involved with the Voluntary Care Group and used to wash-up after the weekly lunches, he will be much missed there. A big man in many ways he can truly be said to have been a man who walked humbly in the face of God and man.

Margery Orton would like to thank all those many people who either sent her Birthday cards or came to visit her for her 80th Birthday. It was an unforgettable day and each card was 'special' just as was each visitor.

WANTED: Someone who would be responsible for improving the area of ground around the base of the Tower and near the new porch, either to do it themselves or to pay for someone else to do it either initially or in the long term. It would be nice to see this area looking more attractive.

FOR SALE: Pew £35, anyone interested please contact Alan Taylor 979 7042.

The Churchyard Cross

(Made from a dead larch where it stood)

Of a dead tree I made this sign of worth,
The Tree of Life from a dead stock to rise:
Which living, drew its substance from the earth
As man's soul draws sin's substance till he dies.
If any this should counter, then he lies
And being rich in pride knows not his dearth,
Nor is there any way he may devise
Save by the Cross who seeks his soul's rebirth.
So 'Simply to thy Cross' I carved thereon
Because I knew no more than this to say,
Because I know there is no other way
To victory than to share this victory won.
Since all must die, die with Him on the Tree
And through His death share His eternity.



January - Baptisms

7	Richard James Thomas Burn Leo Michael Richmond Collins	11 Hnaworth Road 25 Nuthurst Place, Brighton
21	Lauren Elizabeth Coffey Richard Sharp	103 Manor Road, Lower Sunbury 204 Uxbridge Road

Funeral

29	Leonard George Wood	13 Fitzwygram Close	aged 87
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Dates to Note

- March 1st** David, Patron Saint of Wales
 Women's World Day of Prayer. Services at 2pm and 8pm
 St. Theodore's R.C. Church, Station Road, Hampton
2nd Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary 672
3rd Youth Club, Auction of Promises after Informal Service
6th Women's Forum, Mothering Sunday and its Significance
7th Perpetua and her Companions, Martyrs 203
8th Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln 1910
13th Twickenham Wives Fellowship Annual Service 7.45pm
17th MOTHERING SUNDAY: CHILDREN'S EUCHARIST
19th St. Joseph of Nazareth, Husband of BVM
20th Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne 687
 Thomas Ker, Bishop of Bath and Wells 1711
21st Thomas Cranmer, Arch. Canterbury, Martyr 1556
 PCC
22nd Electoral Roll Registration Closes
25th ANNUNCIATION of OUR LORD to the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
26th Brownies Fund Raising Event - Hall 6pm - 7.30pm
29th John Keble, Priest, Pastor & Poet 1866
31st PALM SUNDAY - Distribution of Palms at all Services
 6.30pm Readings and Music for Passiontide

EASTER SERVICES - 1996

Sunday	31st March	0800 Holy Communion
PALM SUNDAY		0930 Parish Communion - distribution of Palms
		1830 Words and Music for Passiontide
Monday	1st April	2100 Compline
Tuesday	2nd	0930 Holy Communion
		2100 Compline
Wednesday	3rd	2100 Compline
MAUNDY THURSDAY	4th	1930 Coffee and Hot Cross Buns [Feet
		2000 Parish Communion & Washing of the
GOOD FRIDAY	5th	0915 Morning Prayer
		1200 Three Hour Devotional Service [Fund
		1930 Messiah from Scratch (in aid of Organ
Easter Eve	6th	2000 Easter Liturgy - Lighting the New Fire
EASTER DAY	7th	0800 Holy Communion
		0930 Parish Communion
		1830 Easter Songs of Praise

