

Trainers - shoes, that is. Have you got the right ones? I certainly haven't. Actually I don't possess a single pair of trainers. Not that I take any moral high ground, you understand, merely the fact of having spent five years as a University chaplain, when trainers were de rigueur for students, for whom the demands of foot hygiene were not always top of the priority list. In addition, purely personally, I can't really see me in a pair of trainers, not quite my parsonical style!

If you have any contact with children or teenagers you cannot but have noticed that in the last fifteen years or so trainers have become not only sport shoes (plimsolls, what are they?) but an essential element in the fashion wardrobe. It is not merely a question of having a pair of trainers, it is much more a question of the right ones. Take a stroll through any shopping centre and there appear to be hundred of variations on a theme. Advertising, specifically aimed at the young, extols the fashion and athletic virtue of one type over another. Look more closely at the labels and you will discover the amazing retail price of these shoes. They seem to range from about £25 to £100. Given (i) children's feet grow too quickly, (ii) shoes wear out too quickly and (iii) fashions change too quickly, this all makes for financial ruin.

There are five major companies in the UK trainers market - Adidas, Hi-Tec, Nike, Puma and Reebok. All of these are household names. However these companies do not actually make the shoes. Instead, they subcontract production, almost entirely to Third World countries in Asia. Of course, making these shoes does bring money and jobs and some skills to those countries. Although intensely competitive here, visit a factory in China, Laos or Indonesia and you will see rival brands rolling off parallel conveyor belts.

Let us say that a typical pair of trainers costs £50 to buy. About 40 workers in the Philippines will have been involved in the making of those trainers. In total they will have shared about £1 of that price in wages between them. Nike's boss in 1994 earned £929,113. On current wages a young Chinese woman making trainers for Nike would have to work 9 hours a day, 6 days a week for 1500 years to earn the same amount. We know that the five major companies will spend well over £10 million on advertising space in Britain alone in 1996, and that Nike will spend over \$250 million on athlete endorsement this year.

This month sees Christian Aid week again across the country, from 12 May to 18 May. Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of the British & Irish Churches and works in more than 70 countries among the poorest of the world's poor. It helps communities of all religions and none. Through its direct links with local partners, whose activities are closely audited, it seeks to strengthen the poor to self-sufficiency. It has produced a case study about trainers showing just how small our world is, how interdependent we are and just how our fashions and demands influence the live of people in some of the world's poorest countries. Trainers are only one example - clothes, food, electronics, flowers are others.

So next time you tie up your trainers or next time you find yourself buying a pair, think about those who made them, their living and working conditions. Think also about those who have nothing on their feet. Give generously of your time or money this Christian Aid Week. Remember its slogan 'We believe in life before death' and the words of the prophet 'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings Good News'.

*Brian Leathard*



## **Peer Mediation at Waldegrave School, Twickenham**

Last year Gill Hines, our Mediation trainer, came to Waldegrave and held two assemblies to introduce the scheme. About 150 girls applied for places but only 30 places were available. The thirty girls who got places trained for around 102 hours including a weekend. Some girls dropped out near the beginning and I was one of the girls to be offered a position, as it was during the early stages of training. Mrs. Ahmed, the year 8 co-ordinator, was the teacher in charge of the scheme.

Peer Mediation is an anti-bullying scheme. It allows all those who are bullied or bullying to make an appointment with the Mediators and the other party. During the session the Mediators go over both sides of the story not going into detailed histories and not taking sides. First the Mediators and protagonists must sign the six Golden rules that have to be adhered to at all times to keep the session running smoothly. If any of the rules are broken the Mediators remind the person who broke them to stick to the rules. If it happens too often the Mediators can stop the session and postpone it to another day. At the end of the session the Mediators fill out a contract which has the agreed solution written on it and a date to review the situation. For example "meet again in a week". Before the contract is written out the Mediators must make sure that both parties "feel okay" about the solution. Everything that is said during the sessions will be kept strictly confidential.

With the training complete, the scheme was launched on Wednesday 27th March 1996. The actual mediating will start at the beginning of the summer term.

*Anusha Leathard,*

*Waldegrave School Peer Mediator*

# Retirement

After forty-five years of going to work each day I have now retired. What a wonderful thought, or is it? How will I manage to occupy myself in the days and years ahead? If my first week of retirement is anything to go by I will not have any difficulty. Where then have the past forty-five years gone, and what have I done with them?

As a small child I had always wanted to work with children, but when I left school at fifteen with no qualifications and very little confidence this was not an option open to me. Work in a local factory or shop seemed the only possibility but against all the advice I had received I applied for work in an office and was successful. It was very boring and poorly paid but still better than the factory.

I had regularly attended Sunday School as a child and continued to go to Church, I also became involved in several Church activities with younger children. I helped look after children during family weekends at a nearby Retreat house and came to know the Franciscan Sisters very well. They were very helpful and supportive of me and knew how much I wanted to find work with children.

When I was eighteen I was offered a place at a Church of England Training college and the Diocese of Newcastle agreed to support me financially for a year. I then went on to train for Residential work with children and young people.

When I qualified I went to work in a Reception Centre in Grimsby. The building had at one time been a Workhouse and it hadn't changed much, it was awful. I was responsible for a group of thirty-two children aged five to fifteen. They were a very unhappy, confused and angry group of youngsters. How I ever coped and survived I shall never know. My faith and a strong belief that I was fulfilling the purpose for which I had been created saw me through. From then onwards things improved, although some jobs were tougher than others each had its own reward. I gained a wealth of experience along with a deep sense of personal satisfaction and fulfilment.

Looking back over almost forty years as a Residential Social Worker I am truly thankful for having been given the opportunity of working with, and caring for so many needy young people. We had some wonderful as well as difficult times together. I have some very happy memories, who knows what the future holds.

I hope I shall continue to enjoy good health, to travel a little, visit old friends and spend more time with my grandchildren who are very precious to me. I hope to have more time for myself, a little time just to be, while I adapt and adjust to a new way of life.

*Mona Gow*

## Princess Alice Hospice

This year is the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Princess Alice Hospice at Esher. There have been great celebrations, in which the staff and hundreds of volunteer workers, came together to rejoice in the success of this working establishment. The culmination of these celebrations was a visit from the Queen Mother on March 25th.

Her Majesty has expressed, in a letter, her great pleasure in all the excellence she saw about her during her visit, and was delighted with the warm welcome she received. Other celebrities present on that day were Cliff Richard and Michael Aspell, both great devotees of the Hospice, and warmly welcomed also.

Warmth and caring are indeed prime qualities that the Princess Alice Hospice extends to all patients and their families. The strength of this support to people at times of great sadness and despair in their lives is incalculable. Everyone who works on behalf of the Hospice, either as paid staff or voluntary worker constantly strives for perfection in serving a very large community, and I am very aware of these high standards as a mere volunteer.

I have been working for a year as a Ward Clerk at week-ends, (there is a regular paid Ward Clerk during the week). I was very carefully trained for this job and I know that all voluntary workers are trained in every detail whatever their job might be.

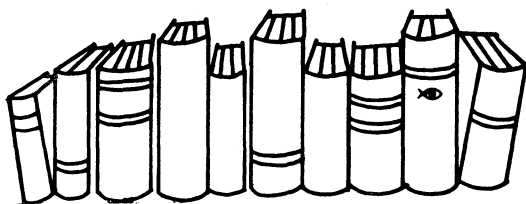
At the same time during this year I have been training at the Hospice to become one of their Bereavement Counsellors. The trainees have been trained by qualified Social Workers, lectured by Doctors and Nursing Sisters and carefully supervised and encouraged. Finally we shall all be interviewed and assessed before the Hospice send us out to counsel bereaved people.

I feel I have greatly benefitted from this training and find it an important asset in my work as a Ward Clerk, whether talking to anxious relatives on the telephone or encouraging the patients to talk about their feelings with me.

As I take the orders for Dinner or newspapers, I know my first priority is to the patients' need to be listened to, and I know that I have the time to offer to people who need to have an understanding ear. It will be a very great feeling of reward if I can attain a place on the Bereavement Counselling Team - if I can go out to families who have lost someone and offer my time and support.

The Princess Alice Hospice has made a huge contribution to our society, and has touched so many families by its care and devotion. It is very dependent on public generosity to continue providing such a wonderful service.

*Rosalie Meyerowitz*



## **Farewell to the Bookshop**

Our High Street will never be quite the same again. We have lost the Voluntary Care Group Bookshop. It was so much more than just a place to pick up book bargains, and beautifully made recycled cards. It was a warm, friendly place, staffed by people who always had time for a chat whilst we browsed.

To many people it was Community Care, a real "drop-in" centre. In the early days, of course, it was a project very close to Hannah Stanton's heart, one of the founding members of the Community Care Group.

I remember Brenda Smith and her ladies would open specially for the One-Parent Family group around Christmas time, and provide, not only bargains for gifts but also free refreshments for parents and children - community care really working.

We all heard the news of the closure with disbelief. Brenda, Linda and all the volunteer workers, too numerous to mention, thank you for your years of dedicated work, you will be greatly missed.

*Joan Worth*

## **Olive Wright**

Olive Wright was in the best sense of the word one of Hampton Hill's eccentric characters and a truly Christian lady. Born and brought up in Hampton, she was born in Linden Road and went to school at Station Road school (now demolished), she lived most of her life in her cottage in School Road. At first with her father and after his death with a succession of lodgers, blind Henry Cox and Audrey Lewcock among others.

By her own admission she hated housework and as she grew older this became increasingly apparent and as the cottage had no modern amenities she eventually had to go and live in a nursing home, where she was well looked after and where she died aged ninety-one.

Olive came from a largish family with very little money, her father was a chimney sweep and out of her own meagre earnings she paid for shorthand and typing lessons so that she could get herself a better job. She worked for many years for Cozens and Moxon where she became known as 'Auntie'.

Somewhere along the long line of her life she took to recitation, an almost lost art these days, and at Parish Concerts and Entertainments would recite one of her poems, the one mostly remembered concerned a small boy called 'Jan' and delivered in a Boer accent, goodness knows when and where she learnt it. She often read the lesson in Church and in the days when Evensong was a regular event, and she was always there, she would read, in a highly dramatic way one of the readings, which were usually quite long.

Lent groups and prayer meetings of various kinds over the years could always count Olive among their number and her knowledge and insight were always worth heeding. For a few years she ran a Women's meeting at the United Reformed Church in the High Street and was a well known and liked among the Congregation there as well as at St. James's.

Her cottage boasted a large garden and over the years provided her and her many friends with fresh or bottled fruit, raspberries and gooseberries in particular. Another of Olive's great delights were her hats, for which she was famous. These were usually the product of some jumble sale she had been to (she loved jumble sales) and new ones would appear from time to time to grace the occasion.

Her generosity, warmth and hospitality were all well-known. For example, she walked every Saturday morning for three months, pushing her then lodger's little girl in a push chair, from School Road to Milton Road in Hampton (and back) to support a stall being run in aid of "Feed the Minds" a Christian Literacy project in third world countries.

People like Olive cross our paths but rarely in our life-time and they stand out like a beacon of faith. We loved Olive for the character she was and we shall always remember her with great affection.

*Helen Taylor*



## Children Corner

It is very easy to go to Church or Sunday School on Sunday but to forget what we learn for the rest of the week. We all have busy lives with school, Brownies and Guides, Cubs and Scouts, gym, swimming, dancing and all our other activities. Often we forget or simply don't think of the needs or worries of the people we see all the time.

This month, lets try and think of a few ways in which we as Christians could help those we live, work and play with everyday to have a happier and easier life. It won't cost any money just a little thought or time here and there.

Here are a few suggestions for starters. I'm sure you all have ideas that apply to your daily life;

- Befriend someone at school who may be left out and lonely in the playground.
- Recognise when your Mum or Dad is tired and help with the clearing up or simply make them a cup of tea or coffee.
- Tidy up the mess in the classroom, even it if isn't your turn - your teacher will appreciate it.
- Be tolerant of your brother/sister, however much they annoy you. Less fighting and more sharing will make everyone happier - Really!
- Be careful what you say about others. Gossip and bitchy comments can be very hurtful, even when no harm was meant.
- Write that thankyou note to your Grandma - it will make her day.

# My Job as a Headteacher

I am the Headteacher of Swakeleys School in Hillingdon. Swakeleys is a Grant Maintained Comprehensive School for Girls aged 11-18 which shares a joint mixed Sixth Form and campus with Abbotsfield School for Boys. We have 871 students on roll, but this will rise from September 1996 because the Governors have agreed to admit an extra 25 pupils per year into Year 7 to accommodate the rising number of eleven year olds in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Each new Autumn term we hold a series of special year meetings for our new Year 7 intake. We call it "Meeting Swakeleys Notables". It is a chance for our new pupils to meet and question those people in the school and in our local community in Hillingdon, who are going to feature in their lives as they move through the school.

As Headteacher I am the first person they "meet". They ask me questions about my job and one questioner usually asks "What is the most important thing that you do?". I answer by saying that I take responsibility for everything that happens at Swakeleys School. That is indeed the role of the Headteacher.

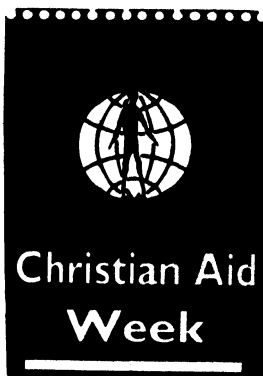
I am responsible for the intellectual, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of the pupils. Fortunately I don't have to do this alone! I lead a staff of one hundred and twenty people, (teachers and support staff) and I am responsible for their recruitment, training, motivation and retention. Along with the Governors I set the aims and ethos of the School. I manage a budget of almost 2 million per year. I am publicly accountable for all of this and much else besides, (I haven't even mentioned the dreaded words 'Health and Safety'!!) to Governors, parents, the Funding Agency for Schools, our auditors and OFSTED!

Like most of my Headteacher colleagues I also teach for a part of the week and spend a considerable amount of time taking assemblies, seeing pupils who have been awarded a 'Distinction' for excellent work/attendance etc. I also spend time meeting Parents and my colleagues especially the Deputy Headteachers and other members of the Senior Management Team who help to run the school.

We offer a tremendous range of activities to our pupils and students to go alongside their programmes of study - far too many to mention here. The key skills and qualities needed in my job are therefore good inter-personal and organisational skills and the ability to manage both time and people. These need to be allied with a sense of humour, an ability to tolerate high levels of stress at certain points in the year, but above all a love of teaching and an interest in young people and how they learn.

The most rewarding part of the job comes when a student achieves at whatever level, especially when they achieve beyond their own and their parents' expectations - that is what makes it worthwhile.

*John Taylor*



This important week, when the majority of Christian Aid's annual income is generated, will soon be with us again! Door-to-Door collections and Flag Days are suffering from the impact of the National Lottery, spare money going into this, rather than into envelopes and tins, and many charities are finding that their funds are shrinking as a result.

We really must not let OUR Christian Aid collection suffer in this way and collectors will find that they can rise to the challenge and use all their powers of persuasion. We have in St. James's congregation about twenty-five active Christian Aid supporters who knock on doors every year and IF YOU are not already a volunteer but would like to help in this important work please give me a ring (977 1342).

Thank you in advance, both for collecting and donating. May Christian Aid's work world-wide, especially this year in Peru, receive great support in Hampton Hill.

*Margaret Taylor*

### **3rd Hampton Hill Brownies**

On Tuesday 26th March the Brownies held the annual entertainment evening, the aim of which is to show the parents what we try to achieve in Brownies and to raise funds towards the use of the Hall. All the Brownies either played an instrument, read a poem, or sang a song, all very enjoyable. Following this we had a very sociable fund raising event which resulted in £150 being raised, £100 for the Hall, £5 for The Spire, and the rest for the very needy Brownie funds.

Thank you everyone who supported this event.

*Lesley Brough*

### **Scout Group Funds**

We have had a busy time lately fundraising for our new premises. A Barn Dance raised £250, and a Jumble Sale £120, but the most enjoyable event was the Quiz/Pub Crawl - at least as far as I was concerned. Although not well attended we raised another £120.

The Beavers are looking forward to a year of celebrations called "Let's Party". This is to advertise our presence to the local community and to show them that we are part of the Scout Movement. We shall be visiting Legoland, and have other events planned later in the year.

The Cubs are celebrating their 80th Birthday this year, and will be going to a Cuberec at Walton Firs. This is a super day out with lots of activities to try. They recently entered a six-a-side Football tournament and came a commendable fourth with a scratch team.

The Scouts entered the District First Aid Competition and came joint fourth, which was very good. The Scouts and Venture Scouts are going away for Easter so we are hoping for some good weather.

*Paul Fitchett*



## Around The Spire

Now that Spring seems to have at last arrived we can look forward to many happy forthcoming events in May and June. Before that however there are some sad notices. A near neighbour of the Church, Frances Brown, died recently. He and his wife and family lived for over thirty years in Park Road., in one of the houses built on the site of Larkfield. His daughter, Helen, sang in our choir before she married and moved away. Mr Brown was the Stewardship Recorder at St. Augustine's Church and will be much missed by them, our condolences to Joan, his widow. Condolences also to Mike Crawford whose mother died recently.

Margaret Bramall and Margery Smee have both had eye operations in the last few weeks and Margaret Hobbs has also had an operation, we wish them all a speedy and full recovery. Roy Brookes is now home after a spell in the Princess Alice Hospice and Hetty Burgess is still in Teddington Hospital while a decision is made about her future, remember all these people and the people who care for them in your prayers.

Congratulations to Andrew Miskin and Caroline Powell who were married in our Church on April 27th, Andrew occasionally sings in the Choir. Good wishes to Mona Gow on her retirement (see her article elsewhere in this magazine).

**WANTED** - People to become CHURCH SCHOOL GOVERNORS - this is a very worthwhile, interesting and fulfilling job. You have the opportunity to support pupils, staff and head of a school within the Diocese of London. Anyone interested should speak to Brian, or telephone Rod Usher - Acting Director on 0171 932 1158.

**WANTED** - Advice Workers for the Hampton Citizens Advice Bureau, training is given and expenses paid, another very worthwhile agency looking for volunteers. The premises are in the new White House in Hampton and advice is given on a wide variety of problems, housing, employment, welfare rights and debt. Anyone willing to give two days a week to the CAB should speak to Nick Robinson on 941 3396.

A short note came to hand from Jodie Warrington recently. Jodie has just joined the Choir, and what she says must surely be echoed by all those who came to Church over Easter:-

Thanks to Geoffrey for the lovely music in Church every Sunday. Also for "The Creation" and The Messiah" on Good Friday. I enjoyed them very much and I'm sure everyone else did too. I think you are very clever. I enjoy being in the Choir too and look forward to it every week. Thank you again, Jodie.

### NOW SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christian Aid Week 12th - 19th May.

Ascension Day 16th May - Parish Communion 8pm.

Friends of St. James 19th May - Drinks Party at 16 Cranmer Road.

Soiree at John and Elizabeth Gossage's house, 230 Hanworth Road.

Tickets will be £10 - in aid of the Organ Fund.

9th June - Parishioners Gardens Opening.

15th June - Barn Dance and 23rd June "Geoffrey's Strawberry Tea".

# From the Registers

## Baptisms

### February

11th TIERNAN Marcus Jefferson Banks  
2a Jodrell Road, Bow

18th ABERCROMBIE Billy Walter  
3 Bishops Grove, Hampton Hill

25th HARRIS Jamie Kevan  
140 Fulwell Park Avenue

### March

3rd BRIDGES Jade Louise  
39 Bishops Grove, Hampton Hill

HIBBERT Lydia Alice  
8 Ashley Road, Hampton

17th BRATT Francesca Alice  
43 Holly Road

WHITCHURCH Mabel Kathleen  
62 Connaught Road, Teddington

MARILLAT Alice Pamela Elizabeth  
3 Fairlight, Uxbridge Road

31st COOPER Lucy Anne  
7 Bishops Grove, Hampton Hill



## Funerals

### February

2nd WARWICK Horace Russell 86  
19 Blandford Road, Teddington

22nd CADWELL Sydney Reginald 89  
12 Cranmer Road

### March

12th KING Jessie 79  
6 Donnington Road, Worcester Park

14th WILCOX Audrey Mary 72  
1 Willowbrook, St. James's Road

WAITE Florence  
Interment of ashes in family grave

22nd LOTT Violet Rose 84  
37 Pigeon Lane

27th BIRCHALL Vivian Dorothy  
9 Rectory Grove, Hampton Hill

29th DAVY Alan William 59  
1 Rectory Grove, Hampton Hill

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SPEAKER AT THE INFORMAL SERVICE ON JUNE 2nd WILL BE  
RACHEL PRANCE TALKING ABOUT ASAS

(ASAS helps poor families in Brazil with AIDS & HIV)

There will be a Fund Raising Lunch afterwards at 273 Waldegrave Road, home of  
Ann & Paul Peterkin

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