

Having become officially middle-aged, with parish celebrations and badges to prove it, I feel somewhat cheated in not noticing much difference - other than well aimed jibes from nearest and dearest. So firstly, thank you to all those who went out of their way to help celebrate my 40th birthday. I was very deeply touched by your kindness and affection. I am very grateful that we can't have the habit, in Britain, of naming our children after the saint upon whose day they are born - although, perhaps, Athanasius, does have a certain 'gravitas' about it!

One may indeed be only as old as one feels, but recent talk of revising the way we as a community cater for the elderly, and particularly the elderly ill has heightened our attitude to age. Just today, I heard on the radio of a new programme to combat ageism, being launched by some of our most prestigious industrial concerns. They are arguing that any enterprise, commercial or otherwise, benefits from a breadth of ages among the workforce. On the other hand one is aware of people in our own community being able to retire at earlier stages in their careers. The Church seems to be a notable exception here, with men (almost exclusively, men) being appointed to positions of very great responsibility at an age when, in most other spheres, people would be looking to retire from work.

If we look back into the world of the Bible we see many contrasts about age. The ministry of Jesus occupied only about three years or so, when he was probably about 30 years old. Many of his friends and disciples were probably a lot younger. Jesus didn't seem to be terribly concerned about age; we read of his dealings with both the young and the old. In Palestinian society of his day, there would certainly have been a deeply rooted system of respect for elders, as survives until today. Indeed if we look in the Old Testament it would seem that there was understood to be a clear and casual link between the goodness of one's life and the number of years one might live. Not 'only the good die young' but the very opposite, longevity as a function of holiness. We don't, any longer, see either God or length of years in that way!

It seems to me that the Gospel teaches us rather that God indwells every human life equally and uniquely, irrespective of age or any other factor. I sometimes hear people say that they don't approve of children making communion or children being confirmed at too early an age, because they can't understand what they are doing or its significance. Well who can measure such understanding? Try administering communion to a family and watch the faces of babes in arms or small children as Mum, Dad and older brothers and sisters are included in the feast of life, while they are excluded. For young and old alike it is a question of glimpses through a glass darkly, the mystery of God active in me and you, pierced by a shaft of light, which is not dependent on intellect or age, but upon openness to God's way of being, right where we are.

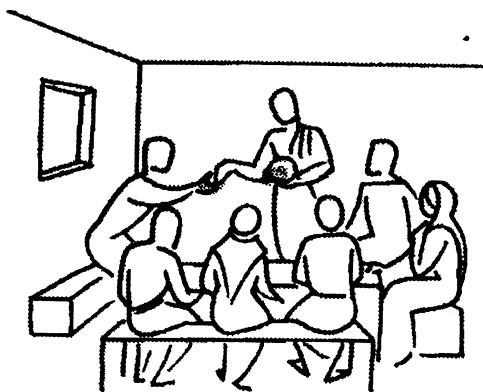
Living out God's way is not like taking the examinations that so many of the young people we know will be undergoing this month. Living out God's way is about being committed to knowing, sharing and bringing life in all its fulness to our particular circumstances and the needs of our neighbour.

Do you remember Eva Ross, a faithful parishioner at St. James's,, who died last year aged 93? Shortly after I came here I met Mrs Ross in the High Street and began a conversation with her. She had been at my induction and in my arrogance I thought she would recognise me. In the midst of the conversation she said 'And who did you say you are?' 'I'm the Vicar', I replied. 'No', said Mrs Ross, 'You can't be the Vicar, our new Vicar is a young man'.

Young or old, all are called to new life, to receive new life and to share it. Never are you too young or too old to try it. Confirmation will be celebrated here at St. James's on November 17, 1996. Whatever your age, why not think about confirming your faith, or re-affirming your faith after giving it a fresh inspection. Speak to the middle-aged Vicar.

Brian Leathard

BL



*All of us are one body, for
we all share the same loaf.*

1 Corinthians 10.17

Church Bazaar

November is still somewhat off but the Summer holiday season is beginning. We would like to have a stall of "Holiday Reminders" at the bazaar. Please would everyone bring back an item from their holiday for the stall. There will be a box in church in which to put your contributions.

Many supermarkets are running some sort of "savings" scheme. Perhaps you would "spend" some of your "savings" on an item which would go towards making up a hamper to raffle at the bazaar. Another box will be in church for these items.

Volunteers to run stalls are still required. Please contact Wendy Baker with ideas and offers of help. 0181 979 3654. Many thanks.

1996 Stewardship Campaign

Planned giving from the congregation remains the major source of income for this - and every other - parish church. We are grateful to the members of Stewardship who support our church in this way.

In 1995 our planned giving increased by 10% and membership climbed a handful to 100 members. But our year end balance declined for the third year in a row. This is largely due to the extra running costs we have incurred from our church hall, while it builds up rental bookings to become more self-supporting. Over the next few years, our Common Fund contribution (the amount we pay the diocese from which the diocese pays salaries, pensions, housing, training and other costs) is set to climb again. If we do not achieve a significant increase in 1996, when we are in danger of going overdrawn in the first half of 1997.

The Stewardship Committee is therefore committed to increasing planned giving by at least 14% (£5000) this year, to give a much needed boost to our year end balance. Extra efforts are being made to broaden the base of membership and to encourage existing members to review their level of giving. People have already been responding - please join them. A new Information Pack has been produced, giving some facts and figures in a very easy format. Please do ask for one from Pip Rowett, our new Recorder (see inside cover of this magazine), or pick one up from the Stewardship noticeboard in the hall.

A Thank You to Ron Bridges

As mentioned above, Pip Rowett is taking over from Ron Bridges as Stewardship Recorder. Ron's help will still be readily available as he is staying on the committee as Deputy Recorder. Ron has just completed eleven years as our Recorder and has been involved with Stewardship for many more years. He has provided invaluable inspiration and guidance and his detailed administration has impressed all who have worked with him. But it is his belief in Stewardship and his enthusiasm for it which has made such a difference over the years. Ron - many thanks indeed.

*Andrew Craig and Ann Peterken
for the Stewardship Committee*



Members of the PCC 1996 - 1997

STANDING COMMITTEE

Ruth Mills
Margaret Taylor
Ann Peterken
John Meredith-Smith
David Lloyd

EX OFFICIO

Ruth Mills
Margaret Taylor
Alan Taylor

DEANERY SYNOD

Lesley Mortimer
Pip Rowett
John Gossage

21 Hogart Way, Hampton
27 Orford Gardens, Twickenham
230 Hanworth Road, Hampton

PCC

Jennifer Clay
Lynn Cox
Elizabeth Gossage
Alison Hampton
Margaret Hobbs
Moya Meredith-Smith
Susan Horner
Rosalie Meyerowitz
Debbie Nunn
Kate O'Sullivan
Ann Peterken
Carolyn Miskin
Coryn Robinson
Julia Sharp
Jean Wilson

34 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill
44 Bishops Grove, Hampton
230 Hanworth Road, Hampton
100 Hollybush Lane, Hampton
76 Broad Lane, Hampton
63 Hampton Road, Teddington
5 St. James's Avenue, Hampton Hill
36 Cambridge Road, Teddington
20 Embleton Walk, Hampton
2 Parkside, Hampton Hill
273 Waldegrave Road, Teddington
42 Royal Road, Teddington
23 Courtlands Avenue, Hampton
30 Park Road, Hampton Hill
4 Byron Close, Hampton

Ron Bridges
Andrew Craig
David Lloyd
Andrew Miskin
David Robottom
David Taylor

19 St James's Road, Hampton Hill
16 Cranmer Road, Hampton Hill
73 Burtons Road, Hampton Hill
42 Royal Road, Teddington
19 Park Road, Hampton Hill
5 Oxford Road, Teddington

WELCARE REPRESENTATIVE

Julia Warrens

5 Vincent Row, Hampton Hill



Open Gardens Afternoon

SUNDAY 9th June 2pm - 6pm

Ten Parishioners gardens will be open on the above date. Each garden will cost 50p, or £3.00 for all ten. A list will appear in Church beforehand. Anyone visiting all ten will be eligible for a small prize.

Tea will be available throughout the afternoon at 5 Oxford Road, Teddington.

Barn Dance and Fish Supper

There will be a Barn Dance and Fish Supper on Saturday 15th June. This will be in aid of the Organ Fund, tickets will be £7.00.

The Dance will start at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, dress casual. The live band will be led by John Asher.

Garden Party

Another event to raise money for the Organ Fund will be a Garden Party at Geoffrey Bower's home 25 Mill Road, Twickenham on 23rd June.

Tickets will be £2.00 to include a Strawberry Cream Tea, please bring your own garden chair. From 3.30 - 5.30pm. Bring and Buy, Raffle, Games.

Ecclesiastical News

The Bishop of London has announced the appointment of three new Bishops for our Diocese and a new Archdeacon.

The appointments are:

The Venerable Michael Colclogh, as Bishop of Kensington.

Michael has been Team Rector of Uxbridge and Archdeacon of Northolt, as well as Chief of Staff at London House.

The Revd. Malcolm Colmer, as Archdeacon of Middlesex. Malcolm is currently Team Rector of Hornsey Rise and has also been Area Dean of Islington.

The new Bishop of Stepney, is to be The Revd. John Sentamu, at present Vicar of Tulse Hill in the Southwark Diocese.

And the new Bishop of Fulham, who has pastoral care of those parishes where the ministry of women priests is not welcome, is to be The Revd. John Broadhurst, currently Rector of Wood Green.

The Consecrations will take place at St. Paul's on 25th September.

Richmond Refugee Support Network

From the 5th February 1996, the Government withdrew Income Support and Housing Benefit from Asylum seekers who have had their application for Asylum refused by the Home Office, or who failed to seek Asylum at their point of entry into Britain.

Richmond Refugee Support Network is a response to an ecumenical appeal made by Church leaders last December. Christians in the Borough of Richmond believe that they should help accommodate Asylum seekers, and the Network is asking for the support of anyone who shares their dismay at the Government decision, which is causing a growing number of destitute Asylum seekers in the greater London area. Some of the poorest London Boroughs are most severely affected, and they often have large numbers of homeless people already.

A house which will accommodate four people has been offered to the Network, providing the Network undertakes to finance the Asylum seekers living there. They believe it will help to relieve the stress which is being put upon the Refugee Council and other refugee community organisations to provide sustenance and shelter for Asylum seekers, and that this accommodation can be offered at half the cost of providing hostel accommodation.

The Network estimates that the annual costs will be £12,500 and that one week's subsistence for each person will be £50. Over £600 has already been donated, and they intend to start the project on June 1st. They have many fundraising ideas for the future, but are in need of funds now so that the project can get underway on time.

Donations may be sent to: Gavin McDowall,
31 Cambrian Road,
Richmond TW10 6JQ.

Tel: 0181 940 3911

Cheques should be made payable to PCC of Richmond Refugee Support Fund, and their account is at NAT WEST BANK, 22 George Street, Richmond TW9 1JW. Sort Code 60-17-31. Account no. 60687711.

Prayer for Asylum Seekers

Lord Jesus, you were a refugee in Egypt when your family fled for fear of death. Move us by your spirit so to welcome the stranger who seeks Asylum in our midst, that our nation may be filled with your justice and peace and no-one in need is denied. Amen.

Elizabeth & John Gossage

Youth Club - SPEAR

The final total collected by the Youth Club from our Auction of Promises held on March 3rd was £275. A big 'thank you' to everyone who took part. We really enjoyed the whole experience, both setting up and holding the Auction, and carrying out the promises (the hard part). Together with the amount we raised in the Autumn we have donated £300.00 to SPEAR over the year. Thank you - The Youth Club.

3rd Hampton Hill Brownies

On Tuesday the 18th June the Brownies will be supporting the MENCAP Tea Party. We hope to have a Cream Tea Evening to raise money for this Charity, which many of you will know is of personal interest.

The cost for the Tea will be £2.00 per head, everyone is welcome anytime between 6 - 7 pm. The Tea will be served by one of our many hostesses.

Lesley Brough



WELCARE

During the past year Welcare has seen some changes. Most importantly is the transfer from CARIS to the Welcare Service for parents and children (Southwark Diocese).

This in no way changes the work of Welcare which is about helping the most needy of one-parent families. These families have varied backgrounds and are usually known to Health Visitors and Social Workers. They work closely with the families to provide extra support and creche facilities to enable the mothers to take a job or to retrain and gain qualifications to become self-sufficient.

In the meantime they need help with one-off grants for essential items such as children's shoes or help with the heating bills. These grants are only paid to families who have limited help and support from their own families and when money is not available from other sources.

Welcare is also able to provide the children with extra treats, an Easter Party, a Summer Outing and at Christmas some new toys. St. James's currently gives £600 a year, and at Christmas extra gifts of money were given which were much appreciated. Other money

comes from a street collection for Children's Day and on May 11th the Annual May Fair in Richmond was also well supported.

The Richmond Branch of Welcare is unable to accept gifts of second-hand clothes as they have no storage space, but the Hounslow Branch who deal with many newly-arrived refugees are always in need of such gifts, they are in Bulstode Road, Hounslow.

A service of Thanksgiving is to be held at St. Mary's Church, Barnes on Tuesday 4th June at 3pm to celebrate the Agency's first ten years and to mark its change in status. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served after the Service. If you wish to attend please contact Gaynor Chick by phoning 0181 891 5018.

Many thanks on behalf of Welcare to those of you who have supported them during the past year.

Julia Warrens

Dance Workshop

On 27th April myself and five other members of the St. James's Liturgical Dance Group went to a Dance Workshop at Hillingdon Baptist Church.

The workshop was being run by Bera Chierico who in 1985 formed a groups of dancers called The New Jerusalem Dancers. The group now performs and teaches in Europe and in Russia. Their form of dance is called Davidic Dance and is based upon the fact that in the Bible, especially the Old Testament, there are many accounts of people dancing in worship, and in particular, David, dancing before the Ark of the Covenant.

Vera, her family and friends are Messianic Jews.

They have kept their cultural heritage as Jews and still celebrate Shabbath and other Jewish festivals, but they also believe that Jesus (or Yeshua) was the Son of God. They believe that as a Rabbi Jesus would have instituted the dancing at the Wedding Feast in Cana, the traditions being that the Rabbi took the floor first and gradually the other men joined in.

The great thing about this form of dancing is that providing the rhythm is right you can fit any dance to any tune, like Ballroom dancing. We had a very enjoyable day, and the obvious joy and worship that Vera puts into her dancing made the day very special for us all.



Let us watch you as you dance
(Song of Songs 6.13)

Children's Society Boxes

It is the time of year when those people who have Children's Society Boxes are asked to bring them to Church to have them emptied. If you have a Box please bring it any Sunday in June, or if you can't please let Ann or Pip have it as soon as possible. The Children's Society is in the forefront of work with the most disadvantaged children in our society and deserves all the support we can give.

Margaret Revis

Ann & Pip Rowett

Around the Spire

April was quite a busy month. On the 20th there was a Tea Dance in the Hall which was a great success. There was much praise for the organisers of a really enjoyable afternoon, the music was live (and lively), and Ramani appeared in a very fetching black hat complete with veil that was much admired. Thanks to the organisers for a super tea as well as the decor, and to the musicians for their part in our enjoyment. Perhaps now would be a good time to ask people to buy their tickets for social events in advance. It makes the task of catering nerve-wracking when you have no idea how many people are likely to attend!

Some other happy events have also taken place, Andrew Miskin and Caroline Powell were married in our Church recently. They are both now members of our newly formed Parochial Church Council, we wish them every happiness. Nadine Rajan was Confirmed in Abu Dhabi on the 28th April, and Charles Lawrance Rensmann was Baptised at St. James's on April 21st, he is the third son of Helen and Thilo, and grandson to Tony and Margaret Lawrance, our love and prayers for them all.

The Annual Church Meeting took place after the morning service on April 21st and the newly revised Electoral Roll stands at two hundred and twenty-two an increase of forty-four on the previous one. A list of PCC members will be found in this magazine and also a report on our Stewardship giving.

An impromptu collection for Christian Aid's Lebanon Emergency Appeal raised seventy pounds, thank you for that. Many thanks also to the anonymous donor of Twenty large print hymn books. These we know will be much appreciated.

Unhappily there were very few volunteers on hand to help with the annual Church Spring cleaning. This is a big job so a huge amount of work was done over three days by about six people. We can do better than this, let's make sure next time we do. One job that was also done in the last few weeks by Peter Ryan was the removal of the moss that had grown in the courtyard and litter that had appeared in the Churchyard. Thanks Peter for doing these jobs, and even better, seeing what needed doing and getting on with it.

The voluntary Care Group are looking for more people to help with transport and shopping. The Hampton Council of Churches are investigating whether there is a need for Christmas lunches to be provided for people living alone, comments on this to the Vicar please.

Hetty Burgess and Alison Thompson are in hospital; they are among the sick that are prayed for on a regular basis and others include Roy Brookes and Kath, Baby Jo, Joanne, Sue Adams, Ann Collins and Jan. Please remember them in your prayers too.

Thank you to all our many advertisers, only by their support are we able to produce this magazine, in return we ask that you support them in whatever way is appropriate. We are very lucky in that our High Street still supplies most of the goods and services which we all need - let's make sure it stays that way! Donations for the magazine are now approaching a thousand pounds, thanks to you all.

Dates to Note June 1966

Sunday	2nd	Trinity Sunday Children's Eucharist - Speaker Rachel Prance
Tuesday	4th	Barnes Parish Church Welfare Service
Wednesday	5th	St. Boniface: Women's Forum - Speaker Chrissie Hockley
Thursday	6th	Corpus Christi Thanksgiving for Holy Communion
Sunday	9th	Open Gardens 2pm - 6pm Tea at 5 Oxford Road, Teddington
Wednesday	12th	Hampton Council of Churches Meeting
Thursday	13th	1st Meeting of new Deanery Synod Eucharist 7.30pm All Saint's, Hampton
Friday	14th	Fathers of the Early Church
Saturday	15th	Barn Dance and Fish Supper in aid of Organ Fund, Hall
Wednesday	19th	Women's Forum, Speaker from the Probation Service. 8pm Archdeacon's Visitation, Christ Church Turnham Green. Our Churchwarden's will be sworn in at this Service.
Saturday	22nd	St. Alban. Britain's first martyr c 202
Sunday	23rd	Strawberry Tea in aid of Organ Fund, 25 Mill Road, Twickenham (off Staines Rd.) 2.30-5.30. Please bring garden chair. Price £2.00
Monday	24th	Birth of John the Baptist
Friday	28th	St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, martyr c 200
Saturday	29th	St. Peter, Apostle



ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 27th July Beating the Bounds by Bike followed by Barbeque
 Sunday 28th July St. James's Day. One service at 11am followed by Lunch
 Saturday 14th September ANTIQUES DAY. Your chance to have your antiques valued. WATCH THIS SPACE.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

April 7th Emma-Lee Lois Petersen 13 Holly Road
 April 21st Sophie Elizabeth Baker 51 Kings Road, Teddington

WEDDINGS

April 6th Paul Larkin and Christina Dawn James
 April 27th Andrew Miskin and Caroline Powell

FUNERALS

April 1st Nellie Morgan, Luaren dene, aged 96
 April 10th Olive Rose Wright, Deer Lodge, Teddington, aged 91
 April 12th Doris Denton, 216 Staines Road West, aged 88
 April 18th Mabel Annie Reid, Laurel Dene, aged 95
 April 25th Arthur Milne, 6 Hemming Close, Hampton
 April 30th Eileen Gathercole, 128 Wordsworth Road, aged 90

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