

Remember "DAWNLIGHT" Stuart Ward's masterly creation and production in Church, entertainingly illustrating the introduction of Christianity into Britain? It was, of course, brilliantly performed by our own multi-talented congregation!

At the beginning of September, the third to be exact, we remember Gregory the Great, generally credited as the driving force in the conversion of Britain, by sending Augustine and his forty missionaries to these shores.

It is perhaps worth more than a passing thought to consider how much our country has been blessed as a result of Gregory and his vision. More often than not we are reminded now of the way Christianity divides communities as in Northern Ireland, rather than the values, compassion and inspiration that underpin our beliefs.

Ecumenism is now back on the Churches Agenda after too long on the back burner. Perhaps ARCIC (Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission) will take longer to warm up, but discussions with the Methodist Church are up and running once again. For these discussions to succeed each church must realise they will never unite or re-unite on their own terms, compromise is not only necessary but essential if lasting benefits are to be obtained. Unity is desperately needed if Christians are to have any real influence on British or European Union policy on major world problems, where of course agreement will only come through compromise and sensitivity.

Enormous world issues, such as global warming, pollution, international trade barriers, refugees, technology transfer and aid to developing countries, issues that will affect the quality of life of individuals and communities very substantially. Will our policies be based on loving our neighbours as ourselves?

If the Christian input is fragmented and unco-ordinated it will be seen to be just one of many pressure groups. Gregory and his missionaries surely deserve better from their twentieth century successors.

Let us pray for a new spirit in our ECUMENICAL relationships.

Alan Taylor

OPEN EVENING

As part of its on-going Mission Action Plan the PCC has decided to invite to an Open Evening the people who have some contact with Church Groups but who may not be aware of the many other activities or services connected with the Church.

About a hundred families will be visited in mid-September and invited to the Open Evening on Friday September 27th at 8pm in the Church Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If you would like to come and haven't been invited please contact me Alan Taylor - 979 7042, or any member of the PCC.

500 Pilgrims needed for 1997

Churches Together in England and Wales are organising a Pilgrimage in 1997 to celebrate the 1400th anniversaries of both the arrival of St. Augustine of Canterbury in 597 AD and the death of St. Columba on the Isle of Iona in the same year.

A small group of Pilgrims, already chosen, will set out from Rome on May 18th, Pentecost, and arrive in Canterbury a week later. There they will be joined by a further 400 Pilgrims who will be commissioned on Monday 26th May - the Feast Day of St. Augustine and then set out by various means and different routes for Derry, in Ireland. The Pilgrims will arrive there on Monday 9th June, the Feast Day of St. Columba.

During the journey all Pilgrims will be entertained and cared for overnight by local people. The charge per Pilgrim will be £2.50. As places are limited early application is essential if you would like to be included. It is hoped that at least half the group will be people under thirty. If you are interested in joining the Pilgrimage, the closing date for which is September 30th 1996, please get an application form from:

Pilgrims Way Office,
Glyn Preece,
11, Strawberry Hill,
Northampton NN3 5HL.

Stuart has already had a mention in this magazine and after putting the above notice in last months "Spire", I thought it would be a good idea to ask him to write a short article about St. Columba and St. Augustine. Here is the first of those two articles.

ST. COLUMBA C.521 - 597

'In the year of our Lord 565, when Justin the Younger, successor of Justinian, had the government of the Roman Empire, there came into Britain a famous priest and abbot, a monk by habit and life, whose name was Columba, to preach the word of God to the provinces of the Northern Picts, who are separated from the Southern parts by the steep and rugged mountains.'

Thus does the Venerable Bede begin his account of St. Columba, a vigorous and assertive, even combative Irishman, who founded monasteries in Ireland in Derry, Durrow, and probably Kells. In 565 he left Ireland with twelve companions, and sailed to the isle of Iona off the S.W. Scottish coast. Although Bede mentions a Roman Emperor, Rome was in serious decline, and had officially withdrawn from the defence of Britain some 150 years before.

The reasons for Columba leaving Ireland are unclear - explained variously as 'Exile for Christ', and less flatteringly 'Exile for having taken part in a battle between monasteries, over a psalter he'd copied and wouldn't return'. He remained in Iona for most of the rest of his life.

Adoman, a later Abbot of Iona, wrote a Life of Columba in the late 7th century, portraying him as a tall and of powerful build, with the skills of scholar, bard and ruler; a fearless man, able and ardent but sometimes harsh.

He converted the King of the Picts to Christianity. He founded two Churches in Inverness, but the large number of churches he is supposed to have founded in Scotland were probably founded by his later followers. He kept overlordship of his Irish monasteries. As a bard himself he saved the order from extinction, and encouraged educated laity in Irish Christianity.

Three Latin poems of his survive but none of his writings in the vernacular; one of these poems is an impelling description of the Last Judgement.

His actual skill as a scribe has been preserved in the 'Cathach of Columba', a psalter kept in the Irish Academy. This was venerated in Churches and taken onto the battlefield as a reminder of his powers.

After four Viking Raids on Iona his relics were translated to Dunkeld in 849. His Feast Day is June 9th.

Stuart Ward

BOOKS TO SHARE

The first two books are recommended here by Ann Peterkin and the third was a book from which Brian quoted in a recent sermon.

Prayers from the Edge

Meditations for Life's Tough Times, compiled by Catherine Von Ruhland. Published by Triangle.

A superb collection of prayers and meditations, compiled by a young woman who lives in Hampton Wick and worships in Teddington.

The Colour of Darkness

A personal story of tragedy and hope in Rwanda, by Lesley Bilinda. Published by Hodder and Stoughton.

For anyone who has been concerned about events in Rwanda this book is an absolute must. In spite of the tragedy that is revealed through one person's own experience, the telling of the story becomes a beautiful tribute to the people of Rwanda. It is also a book of enormous value to anyone going through the darkness of despair and to all who struggle to keep their Christian faith and hope alive.

The Railwayman

This is the story, by Eric Lomax, an ex-prisoner of War of the Japanese, who finally met the man who had been the Interpreter when he was being tortured, and who had been the focus of his hate for fifty years. A moving and inspiring account.

St. James's Antiques Show

Have your heirlooms
valued by experts from

Academy Auctioneers & Valuers of Ealing

12 noon - 2 pm

St. James's Church,
Hampton Hill

Saturday 14th September

Entrance £2

(inclusive of one item to be valued, additional items £1).

*Tickets available on the day or, to avoid disappointment, in
advance from:*

John Gossage, 230 Hanworth Road Hampton (979 3793)

Plus

- * Auction
- * Bric-a-Brac
- * Refreshments & Comestibles

If you have an item for auction contact:

Halford Severn, 4 Ormond Drive Hampton (979 1954)

WHAT DO YOU DO

"I work for two Labour Peers". This can be something of a conversation stopper, depending I suppose on the political persuasion of the questioner, but mostly the response is "How interesting". Yes it is interesting, though you may wonder why a card carrying Liberal Democrat would want to work for the Labour Party!

I have long had an interest in politics and the political process, and we all like to be paid for doing what we enjoy. I also happen to think (though don't tell John this) that politics is a bit like religion - with notable exceptions, we all basically believe in the same thing. My bosses are both extremely nice men to work for, and I work for them, not for the Labour Party. They are Life Peers who have known each other about thirty years, though Lord Gregson received his Peerage over twenty years ago, and Lord Haskel only three years ago. Their interests are varied, but are particularly trade and industry, and science and technology, and they are both active Peers and prominent and highly respected members of the Labour Party. I find that my own Christian values have a lot in common with those of Lord and Lady Haskel, who are prominent members of the Jewish Community and in whose home I work.

Yes, but what do you do? Everything, from paying the window cleaner, buying the stamps and sticking them on, to arranging meetings with captains of industry. I order the stationery, get the office equipment repaired, arrange their appointments, reply to an endless stream of invitations (how many ways can you say no?), keep their diaries, compose and type correspondence (one word scrawled on a letter can mean a two page reply), type and edit speeches, pay bills, claim expenses, get hearing aids repaired, make travel arrangements, prepare itineraries, liaise constantly with Lord Gregson's driver, check the e-mails, send out over 300 Christmas cards, listen to the cleaning lady's latest news of her cat's pancreas and her "eldest's" pregnancy, shield them from the press (I have actually been quoted "Lord Haskel has nothing to say", said his Secretary a might tetchily"), liaise with other Peer's and MP's assistants, order theatre tickets, arrange dinner parties, book functions at the House of Lords, order Robes for the Queen's Speech, find lost keys and post wallets that have been left behind (busy men need their heads tied on), order research documents, prepare papers for meetings, check the weekly "whip" for two and three liners, and water the plants when they are away. I should perhaps also add that I do some work for Lady Haskel, who has a career of her own.

This list is not exhaustive, but there are perks, - being able to wear jeans to the office, occasionally having time to read Hansard over a cup of tea, and being invited to drinks on the House of Lords Terrace. I rarely go to the House, as with faxes and modems it's seldom necessary, but I never feel isolated and, in fact, quite look forward to the times when I am on my own and can get on with things! Its often fascinating, occasionally hilarious, and seldom boring, and the two most important rules are to be all three wise monkeys and, with a memory like mine, write everything down - twice!

Elizabeth Gossage

PARENTING



**A Seminar to introduce courses in effective Parenting
- at school, in church or community level.**

10am - 3.45pm

Wednesday October 9th 1996

at

**Mary Summer House,
24 Tufton Street,
London S.W.1**

Any one interested in attending this one day seminar on Parenting should speak to the Vicar or to Helen Taylor. The cost is £2.50 for the day and is being run by Michael Quinn, Director of Family Caring, a charity devoted to helping parents enjoy their families.

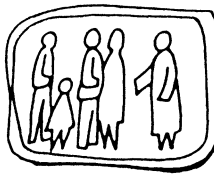
We hear a great deal these days about children and parents, and the breakdown of family life. This course helps people to start up their own self-help group and provides the necessary information in the form of a Handbook and tapes.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Help! This is headed Children's Corner but there is no Children's Corner ! ! ! !

Our regular contributor to the Children's Corner has decided that she is no longer able to carry on producing our puzzles, quizzes, etc. We do thank her very much for all her contributions over the last year and hope that the children out there have enjoyed them.

Help! We do need a new contributor if this item is to carry on in the magazine. A half-page each month is all that is required. It needs to be child orientated - would anyone like to offer their services? If not then this regular feature will lapse ! ! ! !



What's happening in our PARISH

WOMEN'S FORUM

Meetings resume after the August break on September 4th with a very interesting topic, "Re-marriage in Church?". Come along at 2.30pm to listen or put your point of view.

The evening meeting on Wednesday 18th September at 8pm and the following afternoon meeting on Wednesday October 2nd at 2.30pm will take the form of a discussion on whether "The Women's Forum" should change to include men and become "St. James's Forum". Be sure to come along and give your views on the future of "The Forum".

On Wednesday 16th October at 8pm The Women's Forum AGM will be held, please make a note in your Diaries.

THE CHURCH BAZAAR

The date of the Bazaar is Saturday NOVEMBER 23rd. The Bazaar is now only two months away and more help and ideas are needed to make this a successful and enjoyable event. There will be a meeting for all interested parties on Monday 9th September at 7.30pm at 143 Burton's Road. Please come along if you are willing to help in any way.

We need items for stalls, including home-made produce, tombola prizes, books, toys and games, bric-a-brac, holiday and Christmas items. Start collecting now.

Ruth Gostling is appealing for empty, clean jam jars and any surplus fruit that can be used for preserves, jam etc. 979 3748.

A D.I.Y. "UNDER MILK WOOD"

Plans for our own presentation of Dylan Thomas's radio play, to be given in aid of the Organ Fund, are at an early stage.

Whether as audience or performer (and over thirty characters are heard) there is scope for rich enjoyment in this masterly evocation of the little Welsh seaside town of Llaregyb.

Casting will take place in late September, and if you would like to take part, please contact the Vicar or me as soon as possible.

We shall want large numbers of copies, so please try to beg or borrow one, and reserve the date, Saturday November 16th, in your diaries.

Jack Gostling

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES

Monday Centre The Monday Centre will now operate on Monday afternoons from 2pm - 3.30pm as from Monday September 2nd.

Noah's Ark Noah's Ark will now meet in the Hall on Fridays from 1.30pm until 3pm. This is a meeting place for those with small children and babies who want to meet other people in a similar situation.

Sunday School Sunday School will restart at 9.30am on September 9th.

Young Church Young Church will also restart at 9.30am on September 9th.

Youth Club The Youth Club will begin again on September 9th at 7pm until 9pm in the Hall.

Confirmation Classes Will anyone who is interested in being Confirmed please speak as soon as possible to the Vicar. Classes will begin in September at a mutually agreeable time. The Confirmation itself will be at St. James's on November 17th and will be conducted by the new Bishop of Kensington, Michael Colclough.

Bishop's Consecration The Consecration of the new Bishop of Kensington and the new Archdeacon of Middlesex will take place at St. Paul's Cathedral on September 25th at 11am.

Harvest Festival Harvest Festival this year will be celebrated on Sunday October 6th and the theme will be "The Water of Life". The Harvest Supper will be held in the Hall on Saturday Evening, 5th October.

Coffee Morning and Sale of Dresses On Thursday 12th September at 23 Park Road there will be an opportunity to buy some of the left over stock from 'Margot'. Elsie Whittle will be holding an 'At Home' to aid Church Funds and to try and clear her spare bedroom! Coffee will be served from 10am until 4pm and for those who are unable to come on Thursday she will also be available on Saturday 14th September from 10am - 12 noon.

Children Society Boxes Following the collection of Children Society Boxes this year we have sent a cheque for £489.98 to the Society. This is nearly £100.00 more than last year and we would like to thank everyone concerned for this splendid effort. We currently have 26 Box Holders including our Sunday School who were our most generous giver! We gained three new Box Holders this year but we also lost three for various reasons. If anyone would like a Box to help the Society in their vital work please speak to either of us in Church of ring 892 4736.
P.S. It will also relieve you from the burden of carrying that heavy change about with you!

Pip and Anne Rowett

AROUND THE SPIRE

It is now two years since the new Church Hall was opened. During that time we have had many occasional lettings and it has been much used by the Church itself for meetings, social events, Bazaars and the like.

However, the time has now come for the Hall to be used commercially if we are not to find ourselves in debt. As from September the Hall will be let each morning during term-time to Hillpark Nursery School. There is a great demand these days for nursery places so we wish the new venture every success and take this opportunity to welcome them to St. James's Hall where we hope they will be very happy.

The new arrangements will mean, of course, that adjustments will have to be made to our own Organisations that use the Hall during the mornings, and a list of these will be found in this magazine.

Has anyone noticed the newly restored Lych Gate in Park Road? Someone must surely have remarked on how much better it is looking now that it has been extensively repaired. The Lych Gate originally stood in St. James's Road and was moved to its present site.

Catherine Jones is back in hospital in Kingston after a fall in Sainsbury's a few weeks ago, she is making progress and may possibly be transferred to Teddington later. Dennis Leatherdale had an operation recently but is now home and getting on well, and Ron Metcalfe is also due to have an operation. David Nunn had a bad fall from his bike which resulted in an operation and a spell in hospital but he also is making a good recovery, but not yet back on the said bike! Many people also know Margaret Waldron who lives in St. James's Avenue, she also is ill. Please remember all these people in your prayers, also Hetty Burgess now in a home and rather confused.

Many people will know that Len Doughty died recently, Margaret Orton has written a little piece about him.

LEN DOUGHTY - IN MEMORIAM

Many of us will remember Len and Joyce, his wife, through their devoted work for the Hampton Hill Association since its inception. This 'village community' of ours owes him a great deal.

In spite of years of ill-health, heart problems and its attendant difficulties Len determinedly 'soldiered on' and lived a full life, generous, hospitable and courageous.

He died peacefully and painlessly early in the morning of August 5th with his wife literally 'by his side'. He was a thoroughly good man and as such will be remembered by many with affection and gratitude. Our sympathies are with Joyce and her family.

Margery Orton

Let us remember those who mourn that they may be comforted.

FROM THE JULY REGISTERS

Baptisms

7	Emily Augusta Wells McCory	167 Uxbridge Road
	Lonny Margaret Wells McCory	167 Uxbridge Road
21	Emily Nancy Taplin	23 Falcon Road, Hampton
	Emma Victoria Ruth Davies	59 Park Crescent, Twickenham

Wedding

27	Jonathan Stuart Ward and Mary Josephine Molloy
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Funerals

8	Robert David Keetch	"Lockington", 57 High Street, Hampton	54
15	Alan Theodore Whitbread	Oketon Nursing Home, Teddington	86
26	Gladys MacDonald	27 Windmill Road	66
29	Jean Ada Hayler	Flat 8, 8-10 Hampton Road, Teddington	61

**COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE
SEPTEMBER 11th**

Editorial Board Meeting, September 5th at 2pm