

A few years back I went for an interview for a new job. It was a post within the Church of England, although not in a parish and not in this diocese. The interview panel was obviously given a better lunch than the candidates, because the bishop of the diocese dozed off during the afternoon session of interviews, including mine. Embarrassingly, I could see his head dropping onto his chest and so could others on the panel. When, eventually, it was his turn to ask me a question he was sharply prodded in the ribs by an Archdeacon (so that's what Archdeacons are for!). With some surprise he sprang to life and said 'Tell me, Dr Leathard, would you consider yourself a pastor or a prophet?' For the life of me I could not see the relevance of the question to the particular post on offer- perhaps he has woken up in the wrong interview, I thought, and so I made some fairly vague answer.

This month sees the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our parish and in our Area of the Diocese of London. We welcome Michael Colclough to be Bishop of Kensington and Malcolm Colmer to be Archdeacon of Middlesex. Some wag is already predicting shock waves of energy throughout the Area as a result of the appointment of this particular mC². Together they have oversight of about 100 parishes and chaplaincies (prisons, hospitals, Heathrow etc.) from Hyde Park Corner to Staines. Bishop Michael is certainly not one to doze. His ministry has been largely in West London as a parish priest, as Archdeacon of Northolt and as Archdeacon responsible for running the Bishop of London's office. He is known as a man who listens carefully, analyses clearly and makes decisions. Malcolm has all the makings of an ecclesiastical rib-digger. He was a career scientist, had a parish in Sussex, has been the leader of a team ministry in the Stepney Area and has been Area Dean of Islington. We assure them both of a warm welcome to our parish. Indeed, Bishop Michael will be celebrating Confirmation here at St. James's on Sunday 17 November at 9.30am and in the New Year will be spending a day in the parish- with no siesta on the programme.

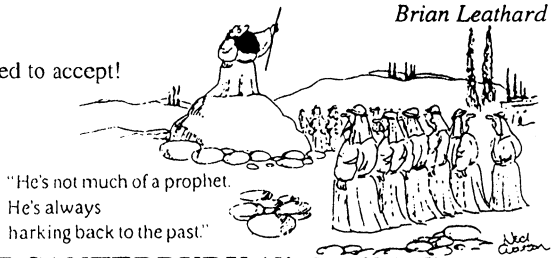
However, in retrospect, perhaps it was a better question than at first I had thought- pastor or prophet. A good question for all who seek to follow Christ, because the christian path requires of us both prophecy and pastoral care. If we believe the world and all people in it to be God's creation, God's gift, then certainly we need to speak out to the world in prophetic terms, reminding the world and all its structures that being made human means being made in the image and likeness of God. Our views and actions must match that truth. Equally, we need to reach out to the world in pastoral care to our neighbour in need, whether in Hampton Hill or the hills of Kurdistan. It is a good question- pastor or prophet- because it is not an either / or type question, but must be answered with both/and- pastor and prophet.

At St. James's we have benefited enormously from the ministries exercised by Alan & Helen Taylor who will have retired to Suffolk by the time you read this. For 35 years or so in Hampton Hill they have lived out both the prophetic and the pastoral ministry every christian is required to undertake in his or her own circumstances. We shall miss them hugely and all that they do for St. James's. We also wish Godspeed to Geoffrey Nunn, David Revis and Sanaz Sazegar, as they go off to higher education.

Pastor and Prophet- can you see yourself as either? Do you see the need for both in your life

and in the life of the world? I wonder if we can learn to hold both in a creative way as necessary to fulfil the law of love which Jesus of Nazareth embodied and which we share in the one body of Christ, wherever we are and whoever we are.

PS I was offered the job but declined to accept!



AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY (died c.604ad)

Not to be confused with Augustine of Hippo (354-430) the learned North African Doctor of the Church.

Augustine of Canterbury, an Italian, a friend of Pope Gregory the Great, was monk and then prior of St. Andrew's monastery on the Celian Hill in Rome. Gregory was anxious that the Anglo-Saxons should be evangelised from Rome (some were already Christians), and appointed Augustine head of a mission of 30 monks. In Gaul they lost heart at the thought of life among barbarians, and wanted to turn back. Gregory would have none of it, gave them encouragement, and made Augustine a bishop.

Ethelbert, King of Kent, received them cautiously in the open air in 597. He gave them a house in Canterbury and allowed them to preach, but wanted time to think over their message. Ethelbert's wife Bertha was a christian princess from Paris, but neither she nor her chaplain Liudhard seem to have taken part in the conversion.

Ethelbert and many of his people were baptised in 601, and more clergy, books, relics, and altar vessels were sent from Rome.

Augustine's method was consolidation in a small area. He built the first cathedral in Canterbury, which included on its staff married clerics as well as celibate priests.

Gregory gave Augustine a relatively free hand, though it is Gregory, rightly, who was regarded by early writers as 'Apostle of the English'.

Augustine was established in charge of the southern province, with 12 suffragan bishops, and powers to set up a northern province, though this wasn't realised in his lifetime. He helped Ethelbert draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon laws to survive, and founded a book-writing school in Canterbury.

No contemporary portraits of him survive, but he was reputed to be a tall man. He died on May 26; he also has a 'translation' feast on September 13, when his relics were moved, in 1091, to a new site in his enlarged abbey church.

TRIBUTES TO HELEN AND ALAN TAYLOR

By the time you read this Alan and Helen will have left Hampton Hill to start their new life in Suffolk, where they have been fortunate enough to find their "Ideal Home" close to relations. I have known and loved them both since they were practically newly weds. Alan is an interesting, practical and gifted man of many facets. At a comparatively early age he had already reached a prestigious position with a well known building contractor. However, he decided, after much prayer, to take early retirement. Not to play golf or plant cabbages, but, to continue as St. James's Licensed Reader, to plant the seeds of his great faith in the hearts and minds of the many people, who, over the years have been privileged to listen to his wise and thoughtful sermons, and have been moved by the simple sincerity of his prayers.

He has put his wisdom and his practical skills generously and unstintingly at the service of the Parish Council and the Properties Committee. As I see the new railings just erected for the safety of our small children, I think of Alan and Jack Gostling working cheerfully together on Alan's last Saturday but one here in Hampton Hill as they have done so often in the past. I shall be only one of the many who will miss Alan's stalwart personality, his reassuring presence, his pawky wit and his great kindness.

Many people have seemed almost stunned by his decision to leave us. "What shall we do without him?", I have heard over and over again. It is true that we shall miss him sorely, but he will not be forgotten and will be accompanied by many sincere, lasting and loving prayers.

On behalf of your many friends, thank you Alan.

With love

Margery Orton

Because of Alan's huge contribution to pastoral matters in his role as Reader, especially to our worship, it would perhaps be easy to overlook his other, lower profile activities in the maintenance of our buildings. Back in the Sixties, whenever there were working parties, whether in the Church, the churchyard, the old hall, or Wayside, we could rely on his energetic help. When he became Churchwarden in 1988 he joined the Properties Committee. He took a leading part in initiating major projects like the redecoration and re-lighting of the Church; the new hall; and the recent restoration of stonework and masonry. When it came to dealing with architects, builders, surveyors and sub-contractors, Alan's expertise as a Quantity Surveyor was invaluable. He undertook the day to day liaison during the works so that our worship was not disrupted. Also on a day to day matter, he made himself responsible for replacing light bulbs - usually meeting their cost himself.

For all these, and so many other things concerning our buildings, we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. Latterly, Alan and I have worked together as a team on many jobs. He has been "my mate", and a tremendous support. So a personal "Thank you mate, I'm going to miss you". As shall we all.

Jack Gostling

So, how difficult we find it to say good-bye to Helen, my friend and the friend of many! We shall miss her and all her talents, her genius for hard work, her gift for fellowship, her kindness and understanding, her readiness to spend time and energy helping and encouraging others, and forwarding the work of the church. We will feel her loss, but we know that her warm personality and many gifts will be appreciated by another group of lucky people in East Anglia.

Helen is "flower lady" in chief, singer, faithful choir member, Welsh woman and family historian, the support of both her own family and that of the church. Has any one ever rung Helen to ask for help or advice and been refused? She has been active (and that's the right word) in the Hampton Council of Churches almost since its inception forty years ago - the Secretary remarked on the many occasions on which the Taylor name, whether Helen or Alan, has appeared in the minutes over the years!

Truly Helen and Alan's departure will leave a hole in the fabric of our society at St. James's and in Hampton Hill. To show our deep appreciation of their efforts we will work hard to fill that hole, as they will wish, and to build on their contribution. But their constant presence, their great hospitality, their encouragement, their love for St. James will be sorely missed.

Good-bye, thank you, and all our loving wishes for a fulfilled and interesting life in East Anglia.

Margaret Taylor



WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR

I moved to Fairlight, Uxbridge Road in June 1977. Just as I moved in a knock came on my front door and there stood a lady with a tray of tea and fairy cakes. She said, "My Mum thought you would like this". It was a lady I had known for years, and her Mum was to become my faithful, loyal friend Mabel Dick. We wept and rejoiced together for ten years when unfortunate housing problems occurred and I had to move. But still Mabel wrote to me and phoned me and stayed friends until the end.

We shared together the joys of the Lord and went for lots of outings (taking crocheting with us). I will always remember our games of Scrabble, and her stories about her lovely girls. Mabel was over the moon when we went for a Mothers' Union outing and Jodi had been born that morning.

Mabel was a really good neighbour and friend, just when I needed one.

Violet Clark

My work as an Education Adviser

The job title with which I have been graced by the Borough of Hounslow Education Department, for whom I work, is 'General Adviser Art/Music'. This rather prosaic mouthful actually covers a varied and frequently fascinating bundle of activities. No two days are ever alike and I am always learning something new. This may seem strange - surely an 'adviser' is supposed to have all the answers - but the issues I help schools with are usually best approached through discussion and negotiation, helping people to find the answers that are best for them. In education, as in life in general, there are few simple options, whatever politicians may have us believe!

Although I am an employee of a Local Authority, recent political directives have brought the market economy into the Civic Centre. Hounslow schools do not have to buy me in as a specialist consultant to advise them on the delivery of the National Curriculum in art and music. Fortunately our service has good relationships with our schools but they rightly expect advice to be up-to-date, accurate, professionally presented and, most importantly, to work. These days, the job rarely involves direct music-making and hands-on art activities with children and young people. This part of my job is to help Hounslow teachers across the borough make a success of these things, and I visit schools and run in-service training courses to help in the process.

Another part of my specialist role involves professional oversight of the Music Service in Hounslow, line-managing the Head of Service and helping set the direction for future developments. An exciting new project is the formation of a borough Arts Education Network to encourage schools to use professional musicians, artists, actors and so on in the classroom. I often have contact with local Councillors and Committees as part of this work.

The 'General' part of my job is largely concerned with monitoring and providing support for my seven 'attached' schools, six primary and one secondary. I am expected to know all these schools in almost as much detail as the heads do. Some of the recent activities my diary throws up include discussions with a head and senior staff over developing their curriculum planning system, assisting with staff appointments, classroom observation of teachers as part of a school's monitoring process, investigating a complaint against a school, and headteacher appraisal meetings. I also attend most Governing Body meetings at my attached schools, presenting reports and advising on procedures and difficult decisions.

At the risk of alienating myself from readers who are teachers and heads, I should also mention that I am an OFSTED-trained schools inspector! I have inspected in London and the home counties but never in Hounslow because of the importance of objectivity. Inspection is very stressful, not only for teachers but also for inspectors. Apart from the pressure of time - 15 hour days are common - I believe that the observations and interviews, as well as the feedback, must be carried out in a way that preserves teachers' dignity and leaves them feeling positive about the future, even when the message is a hard one. After all, I was a teacher myself for fifteen years and the job is ever getting harder.

As we are constantly reminded in Church, one of the most important ways of practising Christianity is seeking out those significant occasions at work as well as at home when one's thoughts, words and deeds can make a difference. I find I do not have to go looking for those occasions in my job and for that I am grateful.

Martin Hinckley

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday 5th October
7.30 pm Harvest Supper
Tickets in advance £3



Sunday 6th October
8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion and Silver Trail

(The proceeds will be used to purchase food for SPEAR and Welcare)

18.30 Donation of the Hannah Stanton Memorial Fund to
Community H.E.A.R.T. South Africa.

at St. James's Parish Church

YOUTH CLUB HELP!

As my breadth of expertise is limited, I wonder if anyone whose isn't would be prepared to take a workshop with the Youth Club. I'm hoping to organise one or two a term, both to lighten my load a bit and to provide a bit of fun for the kids. What I have in mind is for anyone who can teach dance, aerobics, drama, art, craft or any other sport or skill, to take them for a one hour workshop on a Sunday evening in the Church Hall. If this strikes a chord with you, or someone you know, I would be delighted, nay overjoyed, to hear from you asap!

Elizabeth Gossage 979 3793

UNDER MILK WOOD

A reminder that our DIY presentation of Dylan Thomas' radio play, in aid of the Organ Fund, is to take place on 16th November. In this production we shall have the great benefit of Stuart Ward's help and guidance. The Library is going to provide a set of copies. All we need are voices to read parts. No need to learn the lines, or to dress up (unless you want to!).

If you would like to be in the cast, please add your name to the list on display in the Church.

Jack Gostling

CHURCH BAZAAR

Saturday 23 November 11am - 2.30pm.

Your help is needed please!

There will be a wide variety of stalls at the bazaar. In order to have these stalls well stocked could you please help by collecting any of the following items:-

Bottles and other goods suitable for the raffle and tombola.

Toys and gifts.

Christmas decorations, cards, tags, paper etc.

Souvenirs from your holiday for the "Holiday" stall.

Goods for the hampers when you get "special offers" at the supermarket.

Plants - if you take some cuttings now they will be well established for the bazaar.

Books - only those in good condition please.

Bric-a-brac - tasteful articles please!

Small items which children could buy as presents.

Cakes will be needed nearer the day, but they can always be made in advance and frozen!

Red and green crêpe paper will be welcome for decorating stalls.

Ruth Gostling needs some 4 - 8oz jars for preserves. She has already been hard at work for some time and has run out of small jars. Thanks to all who are busy preparing things for their stalls.

Labelled boxes will be in church to receive your donations. Let's see how quickly they can be filled. Don't leave it until the last minute and cause the stall holders sleepless nights wondering whether they will have enough things to sell!

Let's make this a really successful bazaar. With a little help from everybody this will be possible. Thank you.



AROUND THE SPIRE

It seems very sad that during the pleasures and enjoyment of the peak holiday period, there are so many people who are ill, anxious and distressed. It would be good if we could remember in our prayers Catherine Jones in Teddington Hospital, and Ron Metcalfe who underwent surgery in Kingston Hospital. This is a very worrying time for him and his wife Mary.

Roy Brooks has been admitted to the Princess Alice Hospice for a week of respite care. As he says, "To give Kath a break".

Our deepest sympathy to John Gossage, his mother Jean and Elizabeth, as John's father died at the end of August.

A happier occasion to note is the wedding of Richard Thomas and Joanna Szymanska on 7th September. We wish them much happiness.

Hampton Floral Art Club are holding classes in flower arranging and there are still some places available - ring Jenny Cowderoy on 979 4191 for details.

The next Confirmation Service will be held on 17th November at St. James's. It will be an opportunity for many of us to reaffirm our faith, so do attend this service to support all those receiving their confirmation from our new Bishop.

A new sports shop has opened in the High Street, next to the pet shop. Natural Sport is run by Clinton Lamprecht.

Please make a note of Helen and Alan's new address. They would be delighted to receive your news.

Cranmers
Little Green,
Norton,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk. IP31 3NN
Telephone: 01359 241365

Congratulations to Kalina and Rod Hodgkinson on the birth of their daughter, Grace, on 13 August. Kalina and Rod were married at St. James's last year.

WOMEN'S FORUM

The Annual General Meeting of the Women's Forum will be held in the Church Hall at 8pm on Wednesday 16 October. All are welcome. Do come along and hear about future plans for the Women's Forum, collect the new programme for the next six months and put forward any ideas you may have concerning the Forum. We hope to see you there. Make a note of the date in your diary now!

FROM THE AUGUST REGISTERS

Baptisms

4th Olivia Holly Ient, 10 Grenville Mews
Dionne Emma Potter, 24 Meadow Drive, Amersham
Arabella Skinner and Jasmine Skinner, 3 Roy Grove

Weddings

3rd Andrew Paul Challinor and Adelle Theresa Peattie
Jeffrey Nigel Lloyd and Joanne Mary Kennah
16th Stephen Russell Hunt and Tania Susan Davy
24th Vincent Robin Hillier and Deborah Anne O'Neill

Funerals

July 12th William Pigg, 5 Fairlight, Uxbridge Road
August 8th Derek Albert Baker, 131 Wordsworth Road
13th Leonard William Doughty, 228 Uxbridge Road
14th Paul Travis Warden, 3 Fitzwygram Close

CHILDREN IN CHURCH

We are very pleased to see so many little children in church on Sunday mornings. We are trying to provide some draw-string bags containing various quiet articles which may help to occupy the children during the service. If you have any unwanted small soft toys, crayons, notebooks, picture books etc. which could be put into such bags please see Wendy Baker or just leave them on a pew or chair near the children's corner. Many thanks.

DATES TO NOTE

2 October	8 pm	P.C.C.
3 October	2 pm	Magazine Committee, 5 Oxford Road, Teddington
3 October	8 pm	Properties Committee
4 October		St. Francis of Assisi 1226
5 October	7.30 pm	Harvest Supper
6 October	9.30 am	Harvest Festival
9 October	8 pm	Hampton Council of Churches AGM, St. James's Deanery Synod
10 October		Teresa of Avila 1582
15 October		Hannah Stanton Memorial Lecture, Stanton Hall, Greenwood Centre
17 October	7.30 pm	St. Luke the Evangelist
18 October		St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles
28 October		Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation
31 October		
1 November		All Saints Day
1 November	8 pm	Parish All Souls Memorial Service
2 November	7.30 p.m.	Organ Fund Autumn Concert in Church

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE: 13 OCTOBER

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Harvest Festival is fast approaching reminding us that autumn is officially here; following close behind is Hallowe'en, on the 31st October. In Canada this was greeted enthusiastically with "trick or treating", which involved dressing up in ghoulish outfits and going from door to door knocking and chanting:

Trick-or-treat, smell my feet.
Give me something good to eat.
Not too big, not too small,
Just the size of Montreal.

I've noticed over the years that trick-or-treating is increasing in England and that many people give money as the "treat". Last year we took a charity box with us and donated the money we were given to Unicef. Unicef uses the money to buy food and medicine for children around the world. This way we share our Hallowe'en with children who are not as fortunate as we are.

Hallowe'en is a very old festival. Long ago people believed this was the night witches flew. At first, Hallowe'en was known as the Festival of the Dead. When Christianity came to England it became "All Hallows' Eve", the day before All Saints' Day, the day Christians remember all the saints who have died. The following day is "All Souls Day", the day we remember all Christians who have died. So Hallowe'en is the start of two holy days when Christians remember the dead.