

The article by Alex Highley (aged 8) in last month's 'Children's Corner' of this magazine made me realise once again how true it is that we take so much for granted, simply because it is familiar. When did you last go round Hampton Court Palace or Madame Tussaud's? The answer, if you are anything like me, is probably the last time you had visitors. Familiarity may not necessarily breed contempt, it is much more likely to breed indifference.

I was recently made aware of a visitor to London who had done all the usual tourist trips..... St. Paul's, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the theatres, Hyde Park and the rest. On his last day he didn't know quite what to do, so took the Docklands Light Railway down to its terminus at Island Gardens and walked through the Foot Tunnel under the Thames to Greenwich. He visited the Cutty Sark and the Maritime Museum and then went to the Meridian Courtyard. Of all the things he had seen and experienced he said that standing with his feet on the Greenwich Meridian was by far the most amazing and memorable, because he felt that he was somehow at the very centre of things, or rather that he was at the baseline, along which time is measured throughout the entire world.

I was fascinated by this observation as I had recently read a book called Longitude by Dava Sobel (publ. Fourth Estate, available in Public Library) in which the race to develop a sure and steadfast measure of time, and hence location, was carried out over almost two centuries, spurred on by a king's ransom of £20,000 in 1714. The scientific community from Galileo to Sir Isaac Newton had charted the heavens, but it was one man, largely unheard of today, John Harrison, who developed an accurate method of calculating longitude. I had thought that the book would be a rather dry thing, terribly technical and worthy, but it proved to be a fascinating story of the human construct we call time and space.

It did make me wonder just what our baseline is in other areas of human life. Just where is our baseline, against which we can measure, in terms of truth, honesty, compassion, justice and forgiveness?

Remember Jesus left his home town because nobody was prepared to accept the fundamental principle of love which he lived. So, fellow citizens of London, might I suggest a visit to Greenwich this summer, before the millennium glitz begins, put your feet on the meridian and ask where the baseline in life is for you. And don't be too disappointed if you also find that 'a prophet is without honour in his own country'. Jesus didn't let that stop him living out the baseline of love.

LONDON BRIDGES

A Diocese of London Mission Project

New People for a New Millennium

What is it?

London Bridges is about building bridges which will last. It is about shaping a missionary church for the next millennium.

New People for a New Millennium

This reflects three emphases or strands of the project:

+ Recruiting new believers

We need to invite new people into the life of our churches by building bridges into faith through enquirers courses, school links, youth celebrations, parent and toddlers groups, over 60's clubs etc.

+ Renewing the household of faith

Our churches need to be places where members are motivated to live and work for Christ by building bridges to a closer relationship with God through prayer, worship, nurture and education.

+ Rebuilding a broken world

It is in our community that the love of Christ is expressed by building bridges between Church and community, with community ministry projects, involvement in such campaigns as Jubilee 2000, and sharing in debate as we approach the new millennium.

The heart of the initiative is local planning and action. It is not a pre-packaged project but an invitation to share in mission together, to discover new ways of sharing and support. However, there will be some diocesan led events and an outline programme is evolving. A regular bulletin is being issued on the *London Bridges* project containing suggestions on how churches can be involved in the project. There will be a Week of Prayer in the diocese in the early autumn, and next Lent a course for *London Bridges* is being prepared.

How we can get involved

+ Pray for this initiative that we may experience and embody the love of God for our City, and have a regular place in our church intercessions.

+ We already have a Mission Action Plan - this will need to be more open to new possibilities and concentrate on what might be done in January to June 1999.

If you have any suggestions, plans or ideas for this project please let Brian, one of the Church Wardens or a member of PCC know about them.

COLLECTIONS

I have just read a story about three rich men talking together about their valuable collections. The first man collected gold coins. His collection was so valuable it had to be kept in a bank vault. The second man collected objets d'art made in silver. Their value was such that they were kept in draw-string chamois leather bags in his locked safe and only taken out now and then to be cleaned by his servants. The third man collected rare porcelain and had had a special strong room built to hold it. He seldom visited it and he alone held the key.

My thoughts went to my old leather covered Bible, a loving gift from my Headmistress when I left school. It is rather scuffed and worn now from being looked at nearly every day. It is full of treasures beyond price. I only have to open it to find a vast, ever-changing array. The most precious items I carry in my mind. They enrich me constantly, in joy, in sorrow and anxiety, in prayer and praise and thanksgiving. In weakness they give me strength, in perplexity, guidance. When I don't know what to do my mind tells me to enquire of the Lord and I am instructed. When I am worried about what to say my mind tells me that the right words will be given me.

I meditated with joy that my collection was infinitely more valuable than those of the three rich men, and I can carry mine with me wherever I go, take pleasure in it any hour or minute of the day or night. I can share it with dear friends and with strangers I encounter from time to time. I always have it with me in life and know that I shall not be separated from it in death. I can leave it to my dear ones and no-one will be able to steal it from them.

Praise be to God.

Margery Orton

Teddington and the Hamptons MUSIC FESTIVAL June 22nd to 29th 1997

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday June 22nd | World Music Day
A variety of performances and workshops
From 1.00 pm in Bushy Park Admission Free |
| Tuesday June 24th | Baroque Concert by Candlelight
Hampton Choral Society
7.30 pm at St. James's Church |
| Thursday June 26th | Schools Concert
7.30 pm at Rectory School |
| Friday June 27th | Young Musicians Concert
The Richmond Music Trust
7.30 pm The White House Community Centre |
| Saturday June 28th | Gala Festival Concert
A selection of popular classics
7.30 pm The Landmark Centre, Teddington
977 7558 Box Office |
| Sunday June 29th | Jazz on a Summer's Evening
6.30 pm Woodland Garden in Bushy Park
Admission Free Bring a rug and a picnic |

For further information call 892 8063 / 241 8172 / 979 4015



TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB NEW THEATRE APPEAL UPDATE

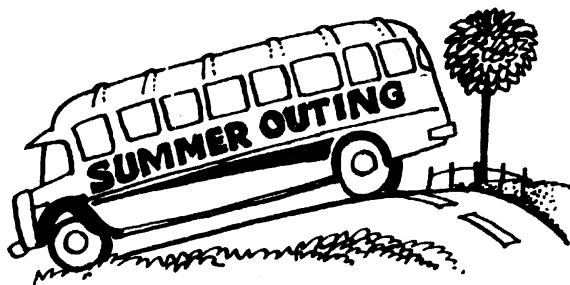
The TTC's new theatre in the High Street is still not complete. They were one of the first applicants to the Arts Board of the National Lottery in 1995, but the application was rejected. The second application was submitted in January 1996. The club was visited by the Lottery Assessor in June last year, and in August his report was received recommending the submission with a number of preconditions and conditions which would have to be met before any decision was taken.

Since then TTC Management have been engaged in meeting the pre-conditions which mainly centred around the appointment of a professional Theatre consultant to make recommendations regarding the layout and finishing of the interior.

On Easter Tuesday a large envelope containing the Theatre Consultant's recommendations, together with another consultant's examination to give disabled access, plus a complete business plan covering marketing, publicity and administration for the years ahead, was handed personally to the reception at the Arts Council of England.

These are now being examined and the TTC awaits the decision which should be given very shortly.

Eric Yardley
Appeal Co-ordinator 979 7904
Registered Charity No.257265



VISIT TO THE TAYLORS IN SUFFOLK

Helen and Alan have very kindly invited the congregation to visit them
on **Saturday 12th July**.

A coach will leave outside the Church at 9.30 am that day
to drive to their home near Bury St. Edmunds.

Contact David Lloyd, 73 Burtons Road - 979 2964
for more details and costs.

THOUGHTS OF A RETIRING CHURCH WARDEN

It seems such a short time ago that I wrote in *The Spire* about how it felt to become a Church Warden, but five years must have passed because now I write about how it feels to be an ex-Church Warden!

These five years have disappeared very quickly and, for me, very enjoyably. I have made many friends, found many willing helpers for all sorts of tasks and discovered something of how the Church of England works. My thanks to you all for your support, to Brian and Betty or their ever generous help and encouragement, and to David for often finishing work that I couldn't find time to do myself! I know that Ruth will give to Dick the same willing co-operation and friendship which have been invaluable to me. Under their guidance the next year will be fruitful and interesting for us all, and I look forward to our new ventures together.

Margaret Taylor

SOLITUDE

To be alone when the mind is quiet
Is a time to treasure, to search the heart.

The wishes not granted, the dreams unfulfilled
We see them all when the mind is stilled.

So what can we do to ease the pain
For we know that we have to start again?

There are lessons learnt, we are wiser now,
And we feel a cool hand on our brow.

"Be still my child; there is nothing wrong
it is just Life's path you are going along.

Reach out to God, who knows your need
Just trust in Him and you will succeed.

There is so much beauty in Nature, in Life
So turn away from the turmoil and strife"

It is good to be still when the mind is quiet,
and let all God's blessings flow into your heart.

Ense



SUNFLOWER CITY

The *Church Urban Fund* has had hundreds of orders from across the country from schools eager to take part in **Sunflower City** - their sponsored sunflower growing event. Packs, complete with free sunflower seeds, courtesy of Unwins Seeds, are arriving in staff rooms and on teachers' desks ready for planting. If you are involved with a primary school or Sunday School and are a keen gardener, or have children or grandchildren who like getting their hands dirty, there is still time to take part in **Sunflower City**. Contact the CUF office NOW on 0171 620 0917 and they will send you a free pack. The money raised can be split between the CUF and your school or Church.

*From "City Lights" Spring 1997,
newsletter of the Church Union Fund.*

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

'WHEN I talk of ministry,' says Joe Hasler, 'I am referring to the daily encouragement and service that ordinary people give to their neighbours.'

'I am referring to the encounters between people over garden fences, across flat balconies or outside corner shops. I would be thinking of the ministry offered to me by the people who look after the cat when I go away, the people who would say a prayer for me, and the people who can be relied on to know which chemist is open late.'

His contention is that 'ministry' means far more than just vicars and other paid ministers visiting people. It comes from a word meaning service; not just the charitable notion of service where church people do good to the 'less fortunate', but the way in which people in a congregation serve and are served by their neighbourhood.

ON THE COVER

FATHER'S Day is on June 17th. Yes, OK, it is an American thing and benefits the greetings card trade, but why not make the most of it anyway. Christians are particularly concerned about fathers. We worship God the Father; and the importance of fathers can hardly be overstressed in times when the family breakdown is all around us.

Encourage your earthly father and father figures this month!

Thank you to all who helped with
Christian Aid Week.
News of the Grand total collected next month!



SCOUT GROUP NEWS

The Beavers had a superb evening just recently when a group of musicians called *Earthbeat* visited us. The Beavers joined in with African dances, practised with didgeridoos and beat a selection of African drums. This culminated in a "make as much noise as you can" session where the drums were beaten as loudly as possible to the accompaniment of screaming! Fortunately they were all calmed down with an ocean drum and rain stick before being returned to their parents.

All the sections were at the annual St. George's Day Parade at St. Mary's College, Twickenham. This service is one of the most important days in the scout calendar, where all members of the association, be they Beaver or leader, re-affirm their promise. A beautiful sunny afternoon heralded a talk by a very familiar minister (a very enjoyable talk too Brian, well done!).

Fun sports day on 12th July is now in an advanced stage of planning. It's going to be a summer spectacular with family treasure hunts, music, a pig roast, a fair with games and rides and various stalls. If anyone would like to take a stall (cost £10), please contact Kim (941 0352) or Linda (941 6968).



3rd Hampton Hill Brownies support the MENCAP Big D Tea Party Tuesday 24th June 1997

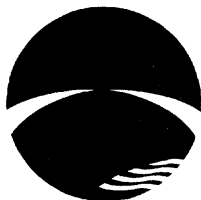
If you remember the Brownies supported this cause last year with a Cream Tea Evening and raised over £80.00. This year we plan to show our support during the Brownies annual fundraiser which is due to be held from 6.00 pm on Tuesday 24th June in the Church Hall. The brownies will be running a cake stall, bring and buy, raffle and children's games as well as serving teas and coffees. Any monies raised from selling the refreshments will be donated to the MENCAP appeal and we thank Brian for agreeing to this. All other funds raised on the evening will go to the church for the use of the church hall for which the brownies are most grateful. Please come along and support this worthwhile event for which the Brownies work extremely hard!



Please contact
Margaret Taylor
0181 977 1342
and see poster in
Church.

God our Father,
We thank you for the privilege of
 living and working for you in this great city.
Help us by your Spirit
 to build bridges in this diocese
 with love, courage, and hope,
So that many will come to faith
 and life in you,
 your love will be seen in action
 in our communities,
 and we shall be renewed as your
 people for the new millennium.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who is himself the Bridge between you and
 all people through the cross,
 and in whom we pass from darkness to light,
 from death to resurrection.

Amen



LONDON
new people for a new millennium
BRIDGES

ORGAN FUND FINAL CONCERT

**Grand Organ Recital and Reception
4.00 pm on Saturday 8th June**

The Vicar will bless the organ and there will be a short recital by
 Geoffrey Bowyer and visiting organists.
This will be followed by a reception in the Church Hall.

FREE with thanks to all who have contributed in any way to
 the rebuilding of the organ.



June is the month when we renew the advertisements in The Spire, and we are very pleased that so many local traders have renewed their advertisements again. They go a very long way to cover the cost of producing our magazine. Please help them in turn by supporting local businesses and keeping our High Street alive.

We do our best to keep you informed of High Street news in *Around the Spire*. We congratulate Andrew and

Lorraine Millbank of Millbank Carpets, who had a baby girl, Robyn Lucy, on the 8th April.

Two new dentists have opened up in the High Street, so no excuses! They are Dr Johann Hough from Pretoria, South Africa who has a surgery at 127-129 High Street, and Dr Mike Deasy from Queensland, Australia whose surgery is at 25 High Street.

Kath Holmes has been in hospital, but is home again. David Adams continues to improve after a small heart attack, and Dennis Leatherdale is back in hospital again. Please remember all these friends in your prayers. Remember also Stan and Vera Bannister as they come to a difficult decision about their future move. We welcome was MP, Dr Vincent Cable, elected on 1st May, and send our good wishes to Toby Jessell, who was our MP for 27 years and who represented our community so diligently over that time.

Brian and Ramani visited Boston at Pentecost for the ordination of Ramani's cousin. She is the first Sri Lankan woman to be ordained a priest in the Anglican Church. The preacher at the ordination was Bishop Barbara Harris, the first woman Bishop!

Lesley Mortimer has recently been appointed the Millennium Officer for the London Diocesan Board for Schools. We congratulate her heartily and very much look forward to hearing about this interesting work.

Finally, our organ appeal is coming to an end. As we go to press the figure raised is a little over £15,300, with a tax refund expected of around £1,100 and the money which will be raised by the Entente Cordiale Grand Concert. This is well above the original target of £12,000 which is due mainly to the driving force of our organist, Geoffrey Bowyer who has simply bounced with ideas for fund raising. We are also particularly grateful to Prill Hinckley for painting the beautiful picture of the Church which she has been raffling for the organ fund and, as we go to press, has raised £500. Tickets can still be bought for this raffle right up until the final concert on Saturday 8th June. Thank you to all who have contributed to raising this money to renovate our beautiful organ.

**THE WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF
HAMPTON AND HAMPTON HILL**

CARNIVAL - SATURDAY 14th JUNE 1997

The procession leaves outside Church at 12.30 pm.

All Welcome.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

We apologise that there is no Children's Corner this month.
To make up for it, next month's will be a bumper page!

FROM THE APRIL REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 6 Joshua Michael Gould, 34 Pigeon Lane
- 6 Euphemia Anne-Sara Smith, 5 Cranmer Road
- 13 Sophie Alexandra Stewart Clark, 128 Hanworth Road
- 27 Thomas Stephen Miskin, 36 Kingston Lane, Teddington

Apology - March marriages; should read Lucy Rosten, not Rostein

Funerals

- 2 Dorothy Hardy, 7 Chichester Close, Oak Avenue, Hampton 82
- 3 Fred Lansdown, 2 Bluefield Close 64
- 7 Charles Mathieson Phipps, Exmouth, Devon 71
- 11 Harold Silvester, 37 Gothic Road, Twickenham 85

Memorial Service

- 9 James Neeve, Kingston upon Hull

DATES TO NOTE IN JUNE

- 5 Boniface, Bishop & Martyr, 754
8.00pm The Archdeacon of Middlesex's Visitation & Swearing In of Churchwardens, All Saints, Hampton
- 8 4.00pm Dedication & Inauguration of the Restored Organ at St.James's. Followed by Reception. All Very Welcome.
- 9 Columba, Bishop of Iona, 597
- 11 St. Barnabas the Apostle
- 12 Hampton Deanery Synod at St. James's
- 14 Basil the Great, Bishop & Teacher, 379
- 15 Parish Open Gardens throughout the afternoon. See posters for details.
- 24 Birth of St. John the Baptist
Concert of Baroque Music by Candlelight in church as part of the Hampton & Teddington Music Festival
- 25 Ember Day
- 27 Ember Day
- 28 Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, 200
- 29 St. Peter the Apostle

COPY DATE FOR JULY MAGAZINE: 19TH JULY