

I am pleased that Brian asked me to write a piece for the parish magazine as it gives me the opportunity of thanking you all for your help and support during Brian's holiday. By the time you read this, Christmas catalogues will be arriving by post, the shops will be assembling their Christmas displays and summer holidays will be just memories.

I spent part of my summer holiday attending one week of the Vacation Term for Biblical Study held at St. Anne's College, Oxford. I can hear some of you sighing and thinking what a peculiar thing to do for a summer holiday! I have been doing this for a number of years, have made many friends there and can assure you that as well as being instructive, it is very enjoyable!

The Term was originally founded in 1903 for women, who at that time had no opportunity of gaining academic qualifications in Theology and Biblical Studies. From the 1960s it has been open to men and women and is held for the benefit of any who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Bible and allied subjects.

It lasts for two weeks and takes place at the end of July and the beginning of August. I usually go for the first week only. The Term begins with a short service and the Inaugural Address in St. Giles Church on the first Sunday afternoon. This year the address was given by the Rev. Timothy Gorringer of the University of St. Andrew and was entitled "The Bible, Postmodernism and Practical Politics." The lectures for the week were:-

"The Psalms" by Dr. Susan Gillingham, Worcester College, Oxford.

"Do we really know what Jesus said? The language of Jesus and his contemporaries" by Professor Stanley Porter, Roehampton Institute.

"Practical Politics" by Rev. Timothy Gorringer.

At the end of the week there was one session allocated for questions. Books on these subjects could be borrowed from the library which the Committee assembled at the College.

There are also New Testament Greek and Hebrew language classes each morning and readings in the evening. I have to confess that I have "had a go" at each without much success! I console myself that at least it keeps my brain active - but you may have doubts about that!

People come from all over the country and all denominations. We all worship together for morning and evening prayers and there is a mid weekly Holy Communion Service - one week Anglican and one week Methodist. There is a wonderful feeling of fellowship amongst us and some very good singing - even before breakfast!

Apart from the first Sunday afternoon, when the Inaugural Address is given, Sundays are free for us to worship wherever we wish, and there are no lectures during the afternoons. Most people use some of this time for visits to Blackwells, the bookshop in Oxford, which always has a special display of books related to the lectures. I always spend one afternoon visiting the Convent of St. Clare at Freeland - a nice bus ride from Oxford - and a very refreshing place to visit. The front door is open and welcoming. You just go in without knocking or ringing the bell - make a cup of tea or coffee if you wish, buy cards and books and sit in the beautiful garden. One of the Sisters will always appear at some time to see that all is well.

The week passes all too quickly, Saturday morning comes and several of us travelling

by train to London share a taxi to the station, reminisce on the journey, and then come the farewells at Paddington - "Goodbye - hope all goes well for you - see you next year!"

Betty Stewart

CHILDREN IN THE PEW

I have to admit that we are some of those who don't like the children in a special part of the church - a sort of grand play-pen. This is just what it seems to encourage - play and disrupting noise. We of course have the choice to go to an 8a.m. service and do exactly that, apart from the odd sortie to a 9.30a.m. service. On one such occasion our son and his fiancée came with us and were 'horrified' at the noise and behaviour of the children who disrupted the service for them. Yes we took our children to church with us and they stayed with us in the pew and largely behaved and kept quiet. May be they were bored and couldn't join in but they did learn some respect for quiet times as different from noisy play times. Can we have the children at church but with their parents and in their control as part of the main congregation. After all if a problem occurs there are always others around to distract them, or they can simply walk outside until the problem is resolved. I have to say that for us, we do find it too disrupting as the arrangements are at present and welcome a solution to what we find is a problem.

Moya & John Meredith Smith

SPEAR (Single Persons Emergency Accommodation in Richmond)

SPEAR'S need for money is, of course, constant, but they always have practical needs as well. At the moment they are having a new kitchen fitted and require mugs galore and cutlery. They also need plastic tumblers, toiletries, and a vacuum cleaner. If you can provide any of these items please take them along to the SPEAR hostel in Kew Road, Richmond - next to St. John The Divine Church. Telephone: 0181 948 5564.

Jean's Story: Jean was married when she was very young and had two children. Things began to go wrong when her husband lost his job and was home all day. He became morose and difficult. With a history of sporadic violence he became uncontrolled and eventually Jean left. The children had left home so Jean found a room and a job as a cleaner but her world was in tatters and she couldn't cope. She became ill, was in and out of hospital forgot to take her pills, forgot to pay her rent, forgot to eat. She was evicted and went from place to place, sometimes sleeping rough until she came to SPEAR.

Jean is now learning to accept help. She is in supported housing association accommodation and is hoping to re-establish contact with her children. It is slow and difficult work, but she has help and a reason for living.

ON BEING A COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

I am very lucky to be able to combine my interest in computers with my love of people and places overseas. For all of my working life I have been involved with the use of computers in the airline industry, first as an IBM employee and now as an independent contractor at British Airways. The particular system that I have specialised in is the heart of an airline's business, the reservation system. Without paying passengers filling the seats, any airline would quickly cease to operate.

Today we are all used to computer systems being available around the clock, a prime example being automatic cash dispensers, but when I started out in 1973 the airlines were very much in the minority in their dependence on a computer system that was available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Availability and fast response time were fundamental and still are.

The work involved in looking after the reservation system varies. Every few years there may be a major project to upgrade the entire system, introducing new features and enhancing its performance. At other times several small projects may run concurrently, each one modifying the system in some way. A good example would be the introduction of a communication link to a new business partner. And at all times the system must be attended by operators and support staff who know what to do or who to call if the system fails for any reason. For each minute that the system is down the cost to the airline is enormous.

So what exactly do I do? Right now I am part of a project team that is carrying out a major upgrade of the reservations system. Many people are involved, but my work is quite self contained and typically I sit at my desk and depend on my PC throughout the day. At the start of the project there is a lot of thinking and discussion about how to do each task, then comes the development phase when the computer programs get written or amended, then the testing phase and finally the moment when the newly build system becomes the live system. This final event is known as "cutover" and always takes place in the middle of the night when the system is least used. Just one of the little pleasures of the job!

Most of the time the work environment is calm, although as with any job tension creeps in when deadlines are approaching. But the atmosphere can change very rapidly if a problem occurs on the live system. On such occasions clear thinking under pressure is what is required, easier said than done. The ability to sift through all the evidence to determine why something is not working as intended brings to mind the work of a policeman or a doctor, with computer programs replacing people!

It is impossible to find any connection between my work and my life as a Christian, so I shall not even try. I am very grateful for a working life that continues to interest me and I delight in the contact it has given me with people of all ages and nationalities.

OUR NOTICE BOARD

NURSERY SCHOOL

The Nursery School have requested "Blue Peter" items for the school - egg boxes, loo roll centres, cereal boxes, paper etc. There will be a box in church for you to leave these items soon.

HELP YOURSELF

Catherine Jones had an interesting collection of recipes she had gathered over the years from friends, magazines etc. If you would like some they are in a box at the back of the church - please help yourself.

THE SORCERER

Paul and Maggie Revis are appearing in Hounslow Light Opera's production of "The Sorcerer", by Gilbert and Sullivan. It is being performed at Feltham Assembly Hall from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th October at 7.45p.m.. Tickets priced £7.50 (£7.00 Thurs.) and £4.50 (Under 14s & Senior Citizens) are available via Paul & Maggie (255 4923) or from the tickets secretary Mrs. Dorothy Dixon (560 6382). This promises to be an enjoyable show for all the family so please go and give your support.

ANTIQUES VALUATION DAY

At All Saints Church Hall on Saturday 18th October from 12 noon to 2p.m. Do take your valuables along for expert assessment!

CANTANTI CAMNATI WITH GEOFFREY BOWYER

Concert at St. Paul's Church, Kingston Hill on Saturday 25th October at 7.30p.m. In aid of St. John Ambulance Brigade. Further details from Geoffrey.

Women's Forum Annual General Meeting

Sunday 12th October
after 9.30a.m. service

All members and prospective members welcome

JERUSALEM - CITY OF PEACE!

Recently Ramani visited Jerusalem for Christian Aid. She writes:

Will Jerusalem ever live up to its name - city of peace? Over its 4000 year history, Jerusalem has been inhabited by a mosaic of people from varying cultures and religious traditions. Jerusalem has been a holy place for adherents of the three monotheistic faiths, who share a common heritage in Abraham. Christian Aid's partner, the Middle East Council of Churches, has always affirmed the significance of Jerusalem for two peoples and three faiths. Now the issue of peace appears more urgent and yet further out of reach.

June this year marked 30 years of occupation and the subsequent annexation of East

Jerusalem. In June 1967 Israel unilaterally annexed the eastern side of Jerusalem which has been under Jordanian control since 1948. According to the Oslo Declaration of Principles, negotiations on the question of the future of Jerusalem were due to have begun in May last year. Christian Aid's partner, the Centre of International Human Rights Enforcement, states "to date, the issue of sovereignty in Jerusalem is not resolved, what is agreed is that Israel's unilateral assertion of sole sovereignty over Jerusalem is not recognised and has no legal effect". In effect, the Oslo Agreements are being ignored and the Palestinians feel both isolated and abandoned.

Christian Aid's partner LAW states that "Jerusalem continues to be the greatest stumbling block on the road to peace and the issue most precious for Palestinians". Various legal methods have been used by the Israelis to remove the Palestinian population from Jerusalem in order to gain control of Palestinian lands. Restrictions on residency, closures, house demolitions, land confiscations, settlement expansion and road construction are the primary tools used by the Israeli government to change the demographic balance of Jerusalem.

What can you do?

Amongst other things you can:- Write to Benyamin Netanyahu the Israeli Prime Minister (Office of the Prime Minister, 3 Kaplan Street, Jerusalem 91911, Israel) expressing your dismay regarding settlement expansion and emphasising that this is a violation of international law. Urge his government to grant East Jerusalem's Palestinians a status that cannot be terminated, and to reinstate all Palestinian residents whose status has been revoked despite their entitlement to live in the city of their birth. Write to Robin Cook, The Foreign Secretary (Foreign Office, King Charles Street, London SW1), expressing your appreciation that Britain co-sponsored the UN Security Council Resolution condemning the building of the settlement in Har Homa. Urge him to apply pressure on the Israeli Government to stop the expansion of the Ma'aleh Adumin settlement which is a violation of the Oslo Accords as well as the rules of the 4th Geneva Convention.

If you would like to know more about Ramani's visit and the issues involved, she will be pleased to discuss them you at much greater length than we can here.

Suheila D'aud Musa Aweis' Story - Aged 45 with 5 children

I was born within Jerusalem and had my own identity card. When I married I moved to Iraq with my husband, whose family is originally from Jerusalem but did not receive Israeli identity cards because they were not there when the census was taken. Whilst in Iraq I returned to Jerusalem regularly to renew my exit permit.

In June 1995 we returned to Jerusalem as my husband had cancer. I applied for family unification on behalf of my husband and an identity card for my 16 year old son. My husband died in December. The Interior Ministry requested the death certificate and, when my son went to enquire about his permit he was asked to return with his mother.

In January 1996 I went to the Interior Ministry office with the death certificate and a clerk told me "We have closed the family unification file of your husband. Your son's request was denied and your identity card is staying with us because you and your family live outside Israel."

I still live in Jerusalem in a rented house and pay my taxes and electricity bills. I was born in Jerusalem and have no place to go or live.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 1997

*Harvest Supper Saturday 4th October 7.30p.m.
Harvest Parish Communion Sunday 5th October 9.30a.m.*

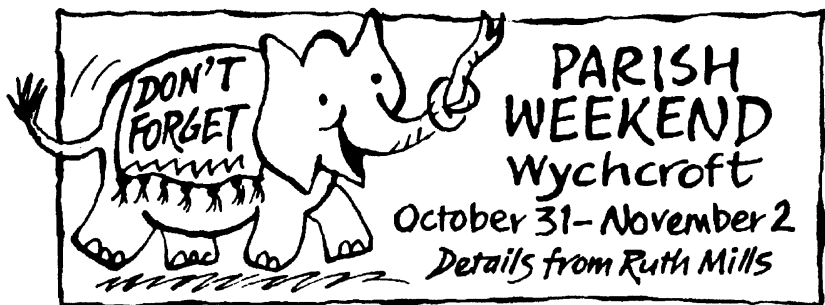
India celebrates 50 years of Independence this year. Much has been achieved in the world's largest democracy, but much remains to be done to help some of the world's poorest people and communities to strengthen themselves. In the harvest hymn 'Come, ye thankful people, come' the writer sees us as God's harvest. The Indian theologian Samuel Rayan says:

**"The poor of the villages were a neglected crop,
but their harvest is now beginning"**

The neglected crop in India is huge - 40% of its 960 million people live below the poverty level. Those who suffer such extreme poverty, oppression and discrimination include women, "dalits" (outcasts), bonded labourers and India's tribal peoples, of whom there are over 70 million.

So this year, we ask you to bring 50 pence coins as a Harvest offering for the 50 years of India's independence. We shall make a trail throughout the church. Our harvest supper will have an Indian flavour and we ask you to pay £3 for dinner and then contribute, in a sealed "Namasthe India" envelope to make up what you might pay for a meal in a restaurant. This way we shall cover the costs of our meal and make a handsome contribution to the poorest of the poor, working through Christian Aid's partners in India. We look forward to welcoming you with "Namasthe" at Harvest celebrations at St. James's.

Tickets are available from the Vicarage.



MOTHER TERESA

On hearing of the death of Mother Teresa, I recalled the great privilege of meeting her at one of her Homes in London. There was an aspect not often revealed in the tributes which was her delightful sense of humour. A contemplative, totally committed to the poor of the world, she inspired hundreds of young women to work with her in service to God.

I had been working in preparation for a big gathering in London at which Mother Teresa had been invited to speak. Prior commitments prevented her, but a few months later when she was in London some of us were invited to meet her.

Sitting quietly in the chapel, the front room of a terraced house in Kilburn, it dawned on me that we were the only guests that morning. On meeting her, she immediately gave her convictions about the importance of family life, how it was the fabric of the nation, the role of the home - some of the issues we had addressed at the big meeting. At some point it transpired that my husband was a chartered accountant responsible with others for administering the finances of a charity. Mother Teresa had recently received the distinguished Templeton award with a gift of several thousand pounds. She told us how she had been received at a special luncheon in the Guildhall. The fare had been simple with one glass of wine, out of respect for her and her work. A cheque had been presented, speeches made and she left the table to talk with others. A bishop approached her and said, "Mother, can I see the cheque?" She felt for it in her sari, and then he produced it from his pocket. She had left the cheque on the table! This was told with much humour. I would never have confessed to such an omission!

Betty Rainbow

VOLUNTEERS TO THE BOARD OF MISSION THE GENERAL SYNOD, CHURCH HOUSE

Do you have time to spare on an ad hoc basis? If so you may be interested in volunteering to be on a list of people who would be prepared to be called upon from time to time to assist the small team of secretarial staff who work at the Board of Mission in Church House. This work would range from secretarial work to stuffing envelopes, from researching information to helping catalogue the library tasks. It may be skilled, it may not.

The Board of Mission is responsible for resourcing the mission of the Church, including the Decade of Evangelism, plans for the Millennium, Interfaith Relations, World Mission and Rural Affairs.

The work will be voluntary and unpaid, but reasonable travel costs will be met. If you have time to spare and are interested please contact Alan Tuddenham, the Administrator to the Board of Mission, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ. Telephone: 0171 222 9011.

**SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER
AT 9.30A.M. SERVICE**

Richard Sewell will preach
He is Area Secretary for the United Society for
the Propagation of the Gospel

LONDON BRIDGES - OCTOBER

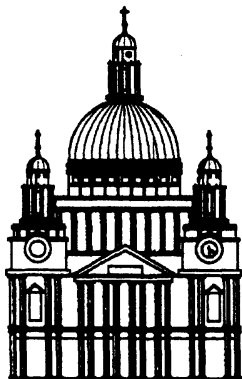
A Service of Prayer at
St. Paul's Cathedral
Sunday 12th October at 6.30p.m.
An opportunity for people from every parish to come
together with the Bishops - to lay our hopes and plans
before the Lord, and to kindle a fire of on-going
prayer in the Diocese.

LONDON BRIDGES

Remember London Bridges? "Bridges of Prayer" Week will be from 12th to 19th October - a week of prayer for our Diocese - its life, growth and renewal - and for the London Bridges mission project.

The week starts with a service of prayer at St. Paul's - see box. The aims of the week are:

- + **Intercession**, as we bring our parish and deanery initiatives and plans, our hopes, perhaps our lack of clarity about future planning to God.
- + **Listening** and discernment - expecting to be shown more of His plan.
- + **Learning** about prayer, growing in prayer, by doing it.



Singers wanted to join the special choir for this service.

2 REHEARSALS:

Saturday 11th October, 5-6p.m. at St. Jude's Church,
Courtfield Gardens SW5 (nearest Gloucester Road
tube) and

Sunday 12th October, 5-5.45p.m. at the Cathedral.

Names and any queries to Paul Joslin on 0181 459
5547.

AROUND THE SPIRE

We are pleased to be able to congratulate many young people in the parish on successful GCSE and A Level examination results, and also Sarah Clay and Anusha who have both passed their music exams. Very well done also to Matthew Horner who passed his Maths and French GCSE's a year early.

The Ighodaro family, Tony and Clare and their three daughters have left us to live in Munich. They will be much missed, but we send them all our very best wishes for their new life there. Enida passed her A levels and is going to study Law at Surrey University, so we hope that we may see something of them from time to time.

We also say goodbye to Kathrine and Erik Claasen and their daughter Molly, who are moving to Petersfield.

Our condolences to Rose Frier, whose brother Sid has died, and to Eila Severn and her family on the death of her brother Alan Prentice. Please remember the bereaved in your prayers.

Those who attended Laura Collins' funeral on 1st August will remember that a collection was taken for the Blue Cross. Laura's family have told us that £118 was collected and that they have received a very nice letter of acknowledgement from the Blue Cross. Laura, whose family are very well known locally, was concerned about animal welfare and the donation was made in her memory.

Please remember Liz McSweeney, one of the Nursery School teachers, in your prayers as she is undergoing treatment for cancer. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to her and to our Mayor, Councillor Maureen Woodriff, who had an emergency operation recently. We look forward to seeing her at local functions again soon. Alison Hampton's son, Robin, has had a painful tonsil operation and, we are sorry to hear that the Reverend David Bonner is also ill. Please remember all these people in your prayers and pray for their complete return to health soon.

If any of you happened to be at the Edinburgh Festival earlier in September, you may have noticed that our very own Stewart Ward was on the Fringe Programme. Stewart's concert included a world premier of his Songs by Robert Burns for contralto and guitar, the border ballad *The Wife of Usher's Well* for contralto, bass and bassoon, and a premier of three poems he has set to music which were written by Roy Kelly, who is a local poet.

We are sorry to report as we go to press that Olive Hayward, whom many will remember as a previous organist, died very suddenly on holiday in Yorkshire. More about Olive next month.

In the November issue, we hope to give you news about the hand over of the till receipts to Sainsbury's, as part of the Christian Aid 'Change the Rules' campaign to ensure that Third World producers of many of our foods have basic minimum rights.

God waits on us to be his partners in tackling massive problems. If a problem seems too great it is good to remember that there is only one way to eat an elephant - one piece at a time.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

FROM THE AUGUST REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 3 Susannah Emily Rose France, 32 Windsor Road, Teddington
Louise Gail Pinchin, 18 Brook Road, Bagshot
- 12 Dominic Richard Roberts, 6 Albert Road

Weddings

- 2 Alan Clarke and Mary Hayward-Smith
Paul Wright and Judith Allery
- 31 Adrian Moss and Kelly Penney

Funerals

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1 | Laura Collins, Charlotte House, Isleworth | 83 |
| | Richard Bullock, 22 Hanworth Road | 78 |
| 7 | Beryl Sullivan, 1Deerhurst Crescent, Hampton Hill | 72 |
| 12 | Bernard Charles Hooker, Laurel Dene | 83 |
| 15 | Doris Agnes Martin, 129 Broad Lane | 91 |
| 18 | Isobel Frances Horton, Oketon Nursing Home | 82 |

DATES TO NOTE IN OCTOBER

- 1 Women's Forum, A Lighthearted Quiz Afternoon 2.30p.m.
- 4 Francis of Assisi 1226
Harvest Supper - "Namasthe India"
- 5 Harvest Festival - 9.30a.m. Parish Communion with a Harvest Offering of 50p's to mark India's 50th anniversary of Independence.
- 6 William Tyndale, Translator of Bible 1536
- 10 Paulinus, Bishop and Missionary 644
- 12 Women's Forum AGM, Hall 11a.m.
'London Bridges' Outreach Programme Diocesan Service at St. Paul's 6.30p.m.
- 13 Edward the Confessor, King of England 1066
- 15 Teresa of Avila, Mystic 1582
Women's Forum, Talk by Al-Anon - support for alcoholics and their families 8p.m.
- 17 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr 107
- 18 St. Luke the Evangelist
- 26 Hampton Council of Churches - United Service at St. Richard's 6.30p.m.
- 28 St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles
- 29 James Hannington, Bishop of East Africa, Martyr 1885
- 31 Saints & Martyrs of the Reformation Era