

It is very heartening to think that the disciples had to ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Of course they knew lots of prayers, from the scriptures, from worship in the synagogue, from their families. But still they asked Jesus 'Teach us how to pray'. Perhaps it isn't very different for us. We also know lots of prayers, but do those prayers really teach us how to pray? Yes, we can say the words, sometimes our lives will be changed by saying the words, but for the disciples and for us there is another dimension, a dimension we overlook if we concentrate too much on prayer as words.

The disciples realised there was something about this Jesus, something they admired, were drawn to, something they wanted to share in and emulate, something they were at times afraid of and by which they were often baffled, but they couldn't let him go. This is the clue to their question 'Teach us how to pray'. Above all, Jesus communicates that prayer is about living in the presence of God, about truly paying attention to God.

This means straight away that prayer is a two way street. Prayer is about a dynamic relationship between us and God. Like any relationship it will change and grow, it will have ups and downs, times of speaking, times of silence, times for doing, times for being. All of this relationship is prayer, not just us talking to God. Meister Eckhart, a medieval mystic, describes prayer as learning to live fully in the present moment. Iris Murdoch, a 20th century writer argues that 'Prayer is properly not petition (asking for things), but truly paying attention to God, which is love'.

Prayer as paying attention to God includes those moments when a care or thought crosses our path, the doing of a deed, the way we react to someone or something. In fact it encompasses every moment of our waking lives. And we all know that sometimes we just can't find words to express what we are feeling or thinking, in joy or in pain. So at St James' we have recently, through a kind gift and skilled craftsmanship, been able to set up a new Prayer Corner in church. It consists very simply of an icon of Christ, a board upon which to place your concern, or your thanksgiving, and three candles. Please do use it. Be still there, don't feel you have to find words to say. Pray the prayer Jesus taught, the Lord's Prayer, light a candle to remind us of Christ the Light of the World and a symbol of offering, and go away to live a life of prayer, that is, wherever you are, live truly paying attention to God.

Brian Leathard

O Holy Spirit
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring light
And where there is sadness, joy.
O grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my heart.

A Prayer of St Francis (Feast Day 4th October)

Lunchtime on the Wall

Christian Aid presents a series of lunchtime talks at **All Hallows on the Wall, 83 London Wall, London EC2m 5ND**

Friday 30th October - The Church - Glory or Failure - A millennial stocktake *Tony Graham, Christian Aid Area Co-ordinator Kent & Sussex*

Friday 27th November - The Bible and Colonialism *The Revd. Dr Michael Prior CM, theologian and writer*

Friday 18th December - Home for Christmas *A Christmas concert with Garth Hewitt, Christian Aid Regional Co-ordinator for London & the South East*

Friday 29th January - Haiti - A story written in blood *The Revd. Dr Leslie Griffiths, Minister of Wesley Chapel*

Friday 26th February - Mozambique - An African tale of beauty & debt *Marj Carter, Christian Aid Area Co-ordinator for East London & Essex*

Doors open at 12.30 when tea/coffee will be available. Please feel free to bring your sandwiches. The talk begins at 1.10 and will finish by 1.50pm.

On the Wall and on the Net!

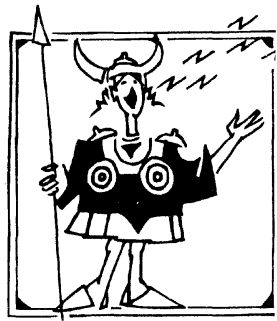
Christian Aid are now on the Internet. Their website address is: <http://www.onthewall.org>. There are several pages already of activities based at All Hallows (see Lunchtime on the Wall), and you can route from your local Christian Aid site to the national one and get even more information. Information will be posted regularly, and Christian Aid events can be advertised.

Above and beyond the call of duty

If you find collecting for Christian Aid Week a chore, spare a thought for D'reen Neeves of Wadhurst, Sussex. When the door opened at one house the dog leaped out and bit her six times before she could get away! Devastated, she returned home in tears but was nevertheless out again the next night and collected another £83. She has been awarded the London and South East Team's medal for bravery! It is to be hoped that the dog owner was particularly generous



The Evening of Opera and Song given by Paul Vincent and Agnesa Tothova (son and daughter-in-law of our MP Vincent Cable) accompanied by Helena Brown on 10th September, was very much enjoyed - a musical feast! The retiring collection was generously donated to Christian Aid and we were able to send £350 to further its valuable work. Thank you to the delightful soloists and to all those who contributed so generously to Christian Aid.



Challenging Faith

Last July, I was invited to attend a Selection conference run by the Advisory Board for Ministry for the Church of England. The purpose of this conference was for me, and my selectors, to discern the will of God regarding my desire to enter ordained ministry. I had already attended numerous interviews with representatives from the Church, and this three day conference was the last hurdle I had to jump before I could begin to train as a priest. I knew that the few days at the conference centre in Ely would be quite harrowing as my faith would be challenged and I would be called to examine my belief in Christianity and my sense of vocation.

It was with all this in mind that I arrived at the conference. I was met by the nervous faces of the other 16 candidates, each one looking as uncomfortable as I felt. We all laughed and joked with one another, each of us trying to put the others at ease. Although the other candidates had travelled from all over the country, and were all from different church traditions and family backgrounds, there was an overwhelming feeling that we were in this together, and there was an unspoken understanding that we must work together and help each other out. It was this sense of unity, which prevailed throughout the conference, which helped to calm my nerves and enabled me to feel God's presence.

It was after dinner on the first evening that we were introduced to our selectors. The candidates were divided into two groups and assigned three of the six selectors. Each group had a Senior Selector, whose task it was to assess the candidate's spirituality; and Educational Selector, who would examine the candidate's academic ability; and a Pastoral Selector, who considered the candidate's "quality of mind". As well as attending interviews with our selectors, there would be group exercises, cognitive reasoning tests and a written exercise. Our first meeting with the selectors was very light-hearted, but tension was mounting and it was a great relief to scuttle down to the pub after Evensong for a little extra 'spiritual' refreshment.

During that first evening, and throughout the conference, I was asked about my spiritual journey towards the conference, and I found myself reflecting on the events of the past few years. Although I had always had some vague idea that I would like to be ordained, I only began to seriously consider that idea once it had been agreed by Synod that women could be ordained as priests.

The first full day was extremely stressful. It began with 7.30 Holy Communion, and ended with Compline at 9.00. In between these offices we rushed from one exercise or interview to the next, pausing only to encourage each other over reviving cups of coffee! I did, however, find time to nip into Ely for a drink in a cosy tea room. I think the waitress was rather amused at my companion's need for a large slice of chocolate cake. I was thoroughly exhausted when the day ended. Although I planned an early night, my fellow candidates had found relief in the World Cup semi-final, and I was awoken by an enthusiastic commentary outside my door soon after the match finished. Nevertheless, I was much more relaxed the following day which was almost a repeat of the previous one but without the tea shop escapade.

I travelled back from the conference full of relief. In many respects I had enjoyed the experience. It had been good to meet with others who shared my sense of vocation, and it had been wonderful to feel God's presence with me as I sought his will. As I left, I felt confident - not necessarily that I had been recommended for training, but that I had been able to be myself. After all, I was offering myself to God, not a false impression. How thrilled I was to receive the letter from Michael, Bishop of Kensington, agreeing to sponsor me for training for ordained ministry. It was also a great pleasure to receive phone calls and letters from my fellow candidates telling me that they too had been recommended for training. Please pray for me, and for them as we continue our journeys towards ordination.

Alison Hampton

ORGAN RECITAL

The Friends of St James's Church, Hampton Hill
invite you to an Organ Recital in Church on

Sunday 15th November 1998

Following its recent restoration and extension, the Bishop Organ
in St James's Church is now the largest organ in the
Borough of Richmond

Geoffrey Bowyer, Organist at St. James's, will talk about the
history of this organ, explain how an organ works and then
perform a recital to show off this impressive organ at its best

Geoffrey will also play requests booked in advance
To book your favourite piece of organ music contact
Geoffrey Bowyer on 894 3773, or Andrew Craig on 979 2997

Tea will be available in the Church Hall from 4.15pm
The recital will last from 5pm to about 6pm
Refreshments will be available in the Hall after the recital

A £2 entry fee will be charged to cover costs

ALL WELCOME

Good News for St James's 10+ Year Olds

Four dedicated mums whose daughters are in the Brownie Pack at present have decided to try and run a GUIDE COMPANY so that their children have a chance to continue enjoying all that Guiding has to give past their 10th birthday. The Guides will meet from 7pm to 8.30pm on Tuesday evenings in St James's Church Hall overlapping with the Brownie Pack for 15 minutes. All girls who are aged 10 and over are welcome to join but the majority of girls will be aged 10 or 11 to begin with. The Guide Company will be open to all those who attend St James's Church or live in Hampton Hill.

We plan to meet on Tuesday 3 November at 6pm at a Firework Party due to be held for the Brownies at 26 St James's Road, Hampton Hill and all those interested are welcome to come along and meet these four previously sane mums (only joking!) but it would be appreciated if anyone thinking of joining what we hope will be a new and exciting development in the life of the Guide Movement makes contact with Lesley, the Brownie Guider, on 0181 979 6400 so that numbers can be catered for. It is hoped that the company will start with between 8 and 12 girls so that from small acorns we can grow into what we hope will be a Guide Company the Church can be proud of!

So come along, St James's 10+ year olds - help us to learn what Guides is all about!

Sue Blay, Lesley Brough, Ann Grant and Michelle Grant

Isleworth Congregational Church

Worship in our Church would probably seem familiar and welcoming to most Christians, even to those unfamiliar with non-conformist churches - singing familiar hymns, listening to readings from scripture, prayers and, of course, 'The Sermon' which tends to assume more significance (and time!) than in most Anglican and Roman Catholic services. We celebrate Holy Communion only twice a month (one morning, one evening), there is little 'dressing up' and none of the more extravagant displays of spiritual emotion associated with some 'free' churches. Behind the scenes, however, things are very different in a Congregational Church.

"Independent Church 1848" carved into the stonework on either side of the main door, says far more about us than the date of erection of our building (the Church was formed the following year), for the concept of independence is fundamental to Congregationalists - who were known in the 17th century as 'Independents'. Each local Congregational Church is free to follow the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit unfettered by any other external control or authority. Various national ecclesiastical bodies do exist (the Congregational Federation, the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches, the Union of Welsh Independents et al) to which Congregational Churches may choose to affiliate but, even if they do so, the national body has no authority whatsoever over the local Church.

In practice this means that Church Members (all those adults who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ and their allegiance to our fellowship) meet together each month and, after prayerfully seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, decide democratically every aspect of the life and work of the Church, from the calling or dismissal of the pastor (or 'minister' - the word 'priest' is avoided in order not to challenge belief in the 'priesthood of all believers') down to which colour to paint the kitchen door, from how to pay the fuel bills to involvement in world mission, from ecumenical relationships to maintaining the fabric of the building. The same Church Meeting also appoints Deacons (Church Members given extra liturgical, pastoral and/or administrative responsibilities), a Secretary and a Treasurer. Collectively, therefore, Church Members need to express their faith through commitment to the fellowship as well as to our Lord and without their commitment the Church would, quite literally, cease to exist.

Our Church has twenty-four Members and about the same number of other folk (including children) who worship with us regularly or occasionally but have not yet committed themselves to Church Membership. We meet twice each Sunday (11am and 6.30pm) for worship, two or three times monthly for Bible Study, twice monthly for an ecumenical Prayer Meeting held on our premises, and for other 'special' events and occasions. We have good relationships with local Roman Catholic, Anglican and Evangelical churches, regularly sharing ecumenical meetings and once a month uniting with the congregation of a local Anglican Church for a shared evening service (alternately in the two buildings).

Although we evangelise and are delighted by any opportunity (all too rarely, alas) to welcome new Members, being quite a small fellowship does have its advantages as well as disadvantages. We are a family - a family of God - together discovering His way for us as a Church and as individual Christians and encouraging and helping each other to follow our Lord more faithfully.

Anthony Ball

50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10th Dec. 1998), Amnesty International is collecting signatures for a pledge to support this very important United Nations Declaration. Amnesty already has 3 million signatures world wide, and wants 8 million (which would be 1% of the world's population). The simplest way to add your name to the pledge is to send an Email (from your computer) to udhr50th@amnesty.org.au

Put your name in the subject field and the following text in the message:

"I support the rights and freedoms in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for all people, everywhere."

For further information contact Ann Peterken 0181 891 5862

ST JAMES'S CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4th 9.30am Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Brunch	8th 12.30pm St James's Lunch, White House 2.00pm Open House, Church Hall Tea and chat 5.00pm Confirmation Class 7.15pm Liturgical Dance, Church Hall	8th 8.30-7.30pm Brownies, Church Hall	7th	1st 8th 8.00pm Nurture Group, Church Hall	2nd 9th	3rd 10th
11th 9.30am Parish Communion 4.00pm Tea 5.00pm Evensong	12th 2.00pm Open House, Church Hall Tea and chat 5.00pm Confirmation Class 7.15pm Liturgical Dance, Church Hall	13th 8.00pm PCC Meeting	14th 8.00pm Hampton Baptist Church: AGM Churches together around Hampton	18th	16th	17th
18th 9.30am Parish Communion 8.00pm St Mary's Hampton: Churches together around Hampton, United Service to celebrate One World Week 8.00pm St Stephen's Twickenham, Deanery Synod	18th 2.00pm Open House, Church Hall Tea and chat 5.00pm Confirmation Class 7.15pm Liturgical Dance, Church Hall	20th	21st 7.30pm Women's Forum AGM - Church Hall	22nd 8.00pm Nurture Group, Church Hall	23rd	24th
25th 9.30am Parish Communion	26th 2.00pm Open House, Church Hall Tea and chat 5.00pm Confirmation Class 7.15pm Liturgical Dance, Church Hall	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st

If you have any meetings to be included, or comments to make please speak to Brian or ring him at the Vicarage.

Around the Spire



Many congratulations to all the young members of our congregation who were successful in their GCSE and A Level examinations this year. We wish them well as they continue their education at colleges and universities. Paul Clay has gone to Bristol University; Rina's daughter (from the shop in Windmill Road) has gained a place at Manchester University; and after each taking a gap year, Caitlyn Robinson is attending the London College of Fashion, and Elizabeth and John Gossage's son Matthew is doing stage management at the Guildford School of Acting.

Peg Border is now home from hospital and is recovering well. Bill Young and Andrew Scorbie are still in hospital. Please also remember baby Sophie in your prayers - she is now out of hospital but has continuing health problems.

We also remember folk who have died recently and their bereaved - Andrew Miskin's mother, Chrissie's sister and Mona Gow's brother-in-law, and also Ruth Allen and Edna McLean.

Our annual Baptismal Party was held on Sunday 13th September when we welcomed those who have been baptised at St James's over the past three years and their families to tea. There was a very good turn out and thanks are due to all who helped, particularly with making cakes and sandwiches and helping to serve the tea.

If you have noticed that the courtyard is looking particularly spic and span of late, it is thanks to Ted and Shirley Paxton. They have been sweeping and weeding and demossing it and have done an immaculate job. Thank you!

You may also have noticed that, following one or two accidents (particularly involving wedding guests!), the low wall on the corner of the hall and the car park has been removed and the area paved.

A new Chinese Restaurant has opened up in the High Street with the wonderfully evocative name of "The East and Drink Inn". We wish them well.

On Sunday September 13th we collected over £600 for the Bangladesh Flood Appeal. Thank you all very much.

OUR PAGE



ST LUKE

OCTOBER 18

ST LUKE, patron saint of doctors and author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, is the only non-Jewish writer in the New Testament. He came from Antioch and was a doctor by profession. Luke travelled with St Paul on his missionary journeys. He was with him in Jerusalem and shared Paul's voyage and shipwreck on the way to Rome.

St Luke's Gospel gives us the fullest life story of Jesus that we have. His choice of stories shows his own warm interest in people especially the sick and helpless, the poor, women, children, the social outcasts.

Luke dedicated both his books to the same Roman, Theophilus, and both were written for the same reason – to give an accurate account of the true facts of Christianity. In the preface to his Gospel St Luke stressed the fact that he used original eye-witness accounts.

The word Gospel means 'the good news' and that is what Luke wanted the world to know.

DOCTOR, DOCTOR...

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a pair of curtains.

Pull yourself together.

Doctor, doctor, everyone keeps ignoring me.

Next, please.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a pack of cards.

All right, I'll deal with you later.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Atch.

Atch who?

Sorry, I didn't know you had a cold!



SOLDIERS

The number of letters in **DICTIONARY**,

The number of sides to a square,

The number of eights in thirty-two,

The number of things in a pair,

The number of years in a century,

The number of pints in a quart,

Added together they'll give you the sum of soldiers defending the fort.

A man has 2 coins which total 7p. One is not 5p. What coins has he got?

Answers: There are one hundred and twenty-two soldiers. And the coins are a 2p and a 5p – one is not a 5p so the other one has to be!

The August Registers

Baptisms

2	Will Nathan Poley	72 Sixth Cross Road, Twickenham
9	Archie Charles Taplin	23 Falcon Road, Hampton
	Josph Anthony Glover	85 Laurel Road

Weddings

8	Iain Walker and Jane Leven
15	Paul Mills and Samantha Gilbert
	Josph Turpin and Katherine Yarelley
22	Clive Mosey and Abigail Oprey

Funerals

7	Frederick Arthur Tomlins	18 Parkside	82
27	Bertha Ann Jarvis	Marling Court	86

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE: 11 OCTOBER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

COFFEE CLUB



A Churches Together around Hampton Project

Since beginning in 1996 over sixty different people have visited us and in all 16 different countries were represented. In 1996/97 most were Au Pairs and we felt we had provided a valuable service. Since last Autumn we had quite a number of refugees with a few Au Pairs but the attendance was only half of last year and far more variable.

We want to ask all of you in our churches to look-out for Overseas students especially Au Pairs or anyone over 16 who wants to improve their English. Beginners can be catered for.

If there is anyone whom would be interested in helping I would be very pleased to hear from you (Phone Julie 979 4685).

Young people are needed to chat and play Table Tennis etc. with the visitors. If you can not help in this way then even someone who is enthusiastic about the aims and potential of this project would be useful to have in the congregation to act as a contact and a PR person.

We started again on Thursday September 10th at 7.30pm at The Foyer, Hampton Hill United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill High Street.

For general enquiries phone Mrs Beryl Parritt 898 3261.

Do feel free to call in and see us on a Thursday evening.