

I am writing this as King Hussein of Jordan is being buried. The radio makes clear the significance of this man not only through the presence at the funeral of a panoply of world statesmen, but also through the silence of the streets thronged with hundreds of thousands of ordinary Jordanians: city dwellers, affluent suburbanites and proud Bedouin. It is said that 90% of the Jordanian population has never known another leader, because King Hussein has reigned for so long in this fascinating desert kingdom.

One cannot read the obituaries and press comment without being struck by the very humanity of this man, King Hussein. He was clearly a man of deep compassion; when a citizen tried to assassinate him during Eid (religious holidays) he took the assassin and family into his palace to eat with him for otherwise, as he said, 'How could I celebrate Eid with my children, when I knew his children were without their father?' He was a devout Muslim, deeply aware of his own lineage from the Prophet Mohammed, yet by some he was seen as tainted by the West, and not least because of his protection of the minority Christian community in Jordan. He was a vigorous campaigner for peace, taking risks in signing a peace treaty with Israel, yet he used force to root out those who sought to destabilise the country internally and he refused to bow to Western demands that Jordan join the Allied coalition in the Gulf War. He was a man of principle, compassion, piety and determination. He brought a sense of integrity and purpose to the maze of twists and turns in the Middle East.

Yet we have grown accustomed to a dangerous and absurd stereotyping of Islam and Muslim people. The Runnymede Trust, reporting on the image of Islam in Britain today entitled its findings 'Islamophobia', so negative were its conclusions about the way in which non-Muslims view this faith and its adherents today. It is undeniably true that news about Muslims tends to portray Islam in connection with fundamentalism, anti-Christian, anti-women, anti-western attitudes, as if these alone were the truth about Islam. How easily we forget our decent, sensitive, faithful Islamic neighbours, doctors, team-mates, colleagues and friends or say 'Ah! but they are different'.

As we move towards Passiontide, the days when we remember Jesus going up to Jerusalem to face the hostile religious establishment of his day, we must not forget that arrogance, bigotry, washing of hands, self-advancement, the denial of others' humanity and behaving as if we had a monopoly on truth, all had a part in the betrayal, arrest, denial and execution of Jesus of Nazareth.

King Hussein stood beside his grandfather as he was assassinated outside the Al Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The disciples standing beside Jesus at his execution in Jerusalem must also have been scared, confused and weary, yet through this was established the universal kingdom of God. Both Hussein and the disciples shared the inheritance of the children of Abraham, as we do: Jews, Christians and Muslims. If we honestly stand by the cross of Christ in our world this Passiontide to what will we be led?

May King Hussein rest in peace and may we live in peace - fully alive to the

cross in the world today, committed to establishing the kingdom that has no boundaries, the kingdom that knows no end, because it is built on the generous self-sacrifice of Jesus and us - his body in the world today.

Brian Leathard

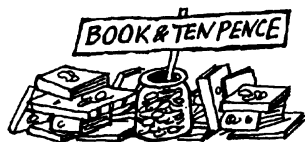
St. James's Parish Church Hampton Hill

Holy Week & Easter 1999

Palm Sunday	0800 Holy Communion
28 March	0930 Parish Communion with Procession of Palms
	2030 Stainer's 'Crucifixion' sung by the Church Choir with the congregation joining in the hymns.
Monday in Holy Week	0915 Morning Prayer
	2100 Compline
Tuesday in Holy Week	0930 Holy Communion
	2100 Compline
Wednesday in Holy Week	0915 Holy Communion
	2100 Compline
Maundy Thursday	0915 Morning Prayer
	2000 Parish Communion with Washing of Feet & Stripping of Altar.
Good Friday	0915 Morning Prayer
	12 noon - 1500 Three Hour Devotion
	1930 Handel's 'Messiah' from Scratch All welcome to participate
Easter Eve	0915 Morning Prayer
	2000 Lighting of the New Fire
EASTER DAY	0800 Holy Communion
4 April	0930 PARISH COMMUNION

You are welcome at any of these services

Further details from 0181 979 2069



Please remember that there are boxes in Church to collect books (not school books) for children in South Africa. Books should be in good condition with no pages missing. Factual books should be up-to-date (not more than 15 years

old), well-illustrated and not racist or sexist. Suitable subjects are books about how things work or are made, animal life, weather, volcanoes, sports etc.

Fiction should be written in modern English, illustrated if possible, not racist or sexist and not so culturally specific as to be inappropriate for South African children.

A jar is also available to collect 10 pence for every book to cover the cost of shipping.

PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19)

On Thursday, 21st January, Dick Wilde and I attended a conference with the intriguing title "Planting New Congregations". I was interested in what the day had to offer because, although my recent questionnaire has given an unequivocal "thumbs up" for our 9.30 a.m. Communion service, I am very conscious many people remain outside the fellowship of the Church. We live in a parish of approximately 6,578 residents (figures taken from the 1991 census) and yet our weekly services represent only a tiny proportion of these people. It therefore seems apparent that, although the Church of England remains, for the time being at least, the Established Church, she is not addressing the needs of many people who live in our country. There could be many reasons for this.

Perhaps one of the fundamental reasons why people do not attend a Sunday service is because Sundays have changed. No longer are they a day when people can take a break from their normal routine. For many, Sundays are one of the busiest days of the week. Frequently, one parent will work, whilst the other stays at home to mind the children; for the keen sports person, this is the only day free for valuable practice time, and for young people whose parents do not live together, Sundays provide an opportunity to spend time with another parent. Another reason could be that we are now living in an increasingly plural society. Generally, life in Britain in the late 1990s benefits greatly from the diverse cultural inheritance which has permeated all walks of society. This means that people are exploring a variety of ways in which they can express their spirituality. Many people, although aspiring to a spiritual way of life, find that the Church of England, entrenched in dogma, is not relevant for the modern world. It was bearing all these factors in mind that Dick and I listened avidly to what the speakers had to say on the subject.

As the title suggests, the focus of the conference was on encouraging people who, for what ever reason, do not normally attend church. One of the most interesting features was that all the speakers, mostly Anglican clergy, valued and respected the needs of all those who live within the parish boundaries. Therefore, they were keen to keep up their usual Eucharist service. However, there were a number of innovative initiatives put forward to attract a "new congregation".

We heard of one person who has put his energy into creating a service for the under nines. This took the form of zippy half hour session which focused on delivering the Bible in bite-sized chunks which children could absorb and understand. Another person had put together a service specifically designed for young people which sought to address issues which were relevant to teenagers. There were also presentations given by people who had set up services specifically for those unused to formal services. In this way the churches were able to attract a congregation which would otherwise have remained on the outside. It was fascinating to see how each one of those speaking had made use of 1990s' culture to transmit the gospel message without watering it down. The whole day was very informative. Each speaker gave a resume of how they

plan their services, and tailor them to the specific needs of the congregation. Each one makes full use of the skill of church members, and there was opportunity for the newcomers to get involved as well. All of the stories seem to be successes, although each was acutely aware that situations constantly change, and what works today won't necessarily work tomorrow.

As we move into the next millennium, the Anglican church needs to change. No one wants to lose the richness of our heritage. But one of the most wonderful things about the Church of England is that it has very broad shoulders and can carry us all. Let us pray that we at St. James' will find ways to welcome our whole community.

Give to your Church, O God, a bold vision and a daring charity, a refreshed wisdom and a courteous understanding, that the eternal message of your Son may be acclaimed as the good news of the age; Through him who makes all things new, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alison Hampton

175 YEARS AND ON

1999 sees the 175th Anniversary of the RNLI. We all see this as a celebration of changing times and unchanging values. When Sir William Hillary founded the Institution he could hardly have envisaged that the RNLI's lifeboats are still manned by volunteers and its 222 lifeboat stations are still funded by voluntary contributions.

The RNLI has one aim, saving life at sea, which it is able to do far better when free from political or financial restrictions. In the 19th century, lifeboat crews needed strength to row their open boats. Today 2000 h.p. of diesel power gives the most modern lifeboat its 25 knot speed. What has not changed is their seamanship, boat handling and local knowledge.

The Institution's aim as we go into the 20th century is to remind every generation that it should not take the lifeboat service for granted as their support is vital to its future success. Each year over a thousand lives are saved. This is an average of 14 calls a day including assistance with flood rescue 70 miles from the coast!

On the actual anniversary day of March 4th, anniversary flags will be flown and maroons fired from all 222 lifeboat stations together with launches from selected stations. Many branches will be holding birthday "bashes". Twickenham branch plans to celebrate with an Organ Recital given by Christopher Woolmer at St. Mary's Church, Twickenham on March 4th commencing at 7.45 p.m. This will be followed by a birthday celebration in the Church Hall opposite. Tickets costing £5 will be available at the door. All are welcome.

This year our annual church service will, once again, be here at St. James on March 7th. Do help us celebrate and give thanks for this life saving Institution.

Jill Goddard



A NEW MILLENNIUM



A NEW START

WHY?

2000 years of the Christian story challenges us to look again at our world and our Christian commitment to love God and love our neighbour. As a parish we wish to share God's love for all creation in a way which demonstrates our commitment to our brothers and sisters, like us, children of God, who have no access to the standards of life which we regard as essential ourselves.

We aim to contribute to a self-sustaining community development programme focusing on primary health care.

HOW?

St. James's has long enjoyed a relationship with Milo Mission Hospital in the Anglican Diocese of South West Tanganyika. We are also deeply supportive of Christian Aid. Christian Aid is currently using its long term partner, the Diocese of South West Tanganyika, to implement a Health Education Project based near Milo Mission Hospital.

HOW MUCH?

We aim to contribute at least £2000 to mark the year 2000.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Milo Mission Hospital serves the Ludewa District of Tanzania. During the late 1980's an immunisation programme reduced the incidence of measles, polio and TB. This was backed up by the development of basic rural dispensaries. However, malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoea, anaemia and bacillary dysentery have all increased. The major causes of these life threatening illnesses are poor sanitation, lack of safe water supplies and poor nutrition.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION?

- Malaria affects 29% of the people in the district
- 20% of patients at Milo present with diarrhoeal diseases
- 70% of all homes have no pit latrine (1.5% in the U.K. have no toilets)
- Little drinking water is boiled - only 38% have access to safe drinking water (100% in the U.K. have access to safe drinking water).
- 33% of all children in the district are mal or undernourished,

- 144 in every 1000 children in the district die before the age of 5 (7 in every 1000 in the U.K.)
- 15% of all children are born with substantially below average birth weight.
- Maternal mortality rate in the district is seriously above the Tanzanian average of 8 per 100.
- Life expectancy at birth: Males 49 (74 U.K.)
Females 52 (79 U.K.)

Enrolment in Primary Schools: 67% and declining (100% U.K.)

Enrolment in Secondary Schools: 5% and declining (94% U.K.)

Gross National Product per head (1995) US\$ 120 (U.K. US\$ 18,700)

What difference does the Health Education Project hope to make?

The aims of this project are:

- to reduce the incidence of malaria from 29% to 10% by the end of 2000
- to reduce diarrhoeal disease requiring hospitalisation from 20% to 8%
- to reduce under 5 mortality from 14% to 6%
- to reduce maternal deaths to less than 10%
- to give 60% of the population access to basic curative services.

BUT HOW?

The project will work with the 12 village chairmen of the district along with women's leaders and youth leaders, 10 people from each village and the three parish clergy of the District, 7 qualified trainers (health, agriculture, community development) and a clinical health nurse will conduct health education training on

- the need to boil all drinking water
- the construction of pit latrines
- the disposal of rubbish
- house ventilation
- safe food storage and preservation
- the means of achieving a balanced diet
- personal hygiene
- protecting water sources
- family planning, child health and immunisation
- Distribution to 3 households per village improved vegetable stock and livestock for inter breeding
- Supply and maintain and give training for use of 1 First Aid kit per village
- Supply and maintain one baby weighing scales per village

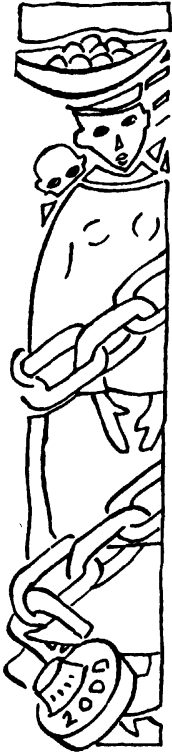
We start our Fundraising with

Handel's "Messiah"

on Good Friday

2nd April 1999, 7.30 p.m.

THE HUMAN FACE OF THE DEBT CRISIS



'Every day you hear the government come out and say, "Oh we have met our debt repayment deadlines, we have paid," and parliament and everybody claps. These people don't know anything about that. Just walking round you see people living in dirt yards, scrap board houses.'

So comments Angela Stultz-Crawle, co-ordinator of a community development centre in Kingston, Jamaica, on the divide between rich and poor in her country. In 1995 Jamaica spent more on interest repayments than on health and education combined.

As a member of the Jubilee 2000 Coalition, Christian Aid is calling for a one-off remission of debt for around 50 countries. The debt crisis affects real people in their everyday lives, especially the poor.

In Bolivia spending on education has fallen by about 40 per cent while debt repayments have increased. So for children in El Alto (Bolivia) debt means puddles on their classroom floor, no desks to work on and a blackboard with holes in it. A teacher says: 'Every day is a sacrifice. We know we are not giving the children the education which they deserve or seek. The blackboards are useless: when you are teaching maths the kids are not able to even see the figures.'

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

THE PCC "AWAY DAY"

As a church community, where are we going? Are we just reacting to immediate problems, or have we long-term goals to which we are working purposefully? If the latter, what are the goals, and how are we working towards them? How should we measure our progress?

It was to address these questions that Brian organised an "Away Day" for the PCC on the 6th February at the "House of Prayer" in Molesey. Of the thirty PCC members, twenty-three were able to come. Some vigorous and fruitful discussion took place in a series of sessions, each with a defined purpose.

As a start we aligned ourselves to the work of the day by reading and thinking about Paul's message in chapter 12 of Romans: Christian behaviour.

Our first discussion session was "Dreams and Visions" for which we divided into four groups. What did we want our parish to be in five years time? We also discussed our proposed millennium project, "2000 in 2000". This splendid, meaningful project is described in another article in this month's Spire.

At the plenary session the millennium project was warmly endorsed. It is quite specific as an objective and needed no further debate. In the discussion of longer-term goals which followed three major themes emerged. None of them are new to us, but all of them are still as important as ever. We proposed:

- (i) *providing greater opportunities for younger members of our parish,*
- (ii) *being many-centred, having a worshipping presence in all areas of our parish, also supporting worthwhile secular activities, and*
- (iii) *having outreach to the fringe and non-churchgoing members of our parish.*

We split into three groups, one to each of these themes, to consider the strategy and resources needed to promote each. When we came together in the next plenary session an overlapping of ideas between the groups gave a coherence and convergence to the general discussion. As an example, providing activities for younger members would fulfil some objectives of each theme: youth, diversity and outreach. Perhaps we should consider ourselves as a team including everyone in the church, each to their own work. Progress reports on the work of each group or activity could be regular, perhaps through the Spire. We can also provide a new information pack for existing members and newcomers.

This account is has only outlined the ideas discussed, and our ideas in full were only a beginning. Goals, methods and monitoring should be at the heart of our parish work, and should be continually reviewed and updated.

The Away Day gave the PCC an opportunity to consider the really important matters that we usually neglect because more pressing mundane business takes all our attention. We made some good resolutions. Shall we keep them?

Dick Wilde



YOUNG CHURCH - AUCTION OF PROMISES

Sunday 7th March at 11.00 a.m.

after the informal service

Lots of promises have been made

**DON'T FORGET TO STAY AFTER CHURCH
AND BID GENEROUSLY**

The proceeds will provide livestock for third world villages

A pig costs £50





We were delighted to hear that Huw and Morag Taylor have a baby boy, Callum Anthony. Huw is Alan and Helen Taylor's eldest son and the new arrival weighed in at 10 lbs. Our love and congratulations to parents and grandparents. Another bit of good news is that Margaret Bramall has had a successful knee operation at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. We look forward to seeing her among us all quite soon. David Nunn is making good progress at home.

There is some sad news, however. Val Baker, who lived and practised as our local chiropodist in Park Road, has died. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

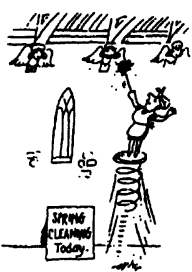
On 14th February there was a special service of songs and prayers for peace at 6.30 p.m. followed by some serious and helpful informal discussions and refreshments in the hall.

We have had some visitors who were visiting St. James's Churches in west London. They were from the Confraternity of St. James, a group who also go on pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain.

Vince Waldron married Francesca Tambling on 6th February. Best wishes to the couple for a very happy future together.

We do thank the Stewardship Committee for all their hard work and all those who signed affidavits. A special word of thanks goes to Chris Hodges for taking the oaths.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN - MARCH 25TH - 27TH



We aim to start on Thursday 25th, hoping for helpers who can cope with ladders or steps for the high-level bits: the aisle roof trusses, gable windows, chandeliers, column caps, (not to mention the East and West windows), possibly going on into the evening if necessary.

Then, first thing on Friday, immediately after Morning Prayer, we can get on with the things at floor level. There, all the chairs have to be dusted, the pews polished, the floors Hoovered, washed, sealed: taking in the Vestry, the Bapistry, all three porches and the clock chamber as well as

the nave, aisles, and chancel: - in short, a thorough Spring-clean!

We expect to have broken the back of the job by the evening of the Friday, resuming at about 0900 on the Saturday with the aim of finishing by midday, after which Twickenham Choral Society will be moving in to rehearse for their Concert in the evening.

It's a fairly formidable target, but the more people who come to help with this rather mundane but very necessary job, the easier becomes the task for each individual. If you are prepared to help for however short a time on any - or all! - of the three days, please add your name to the list which will be in the Church from Sunday 7th March.

FROM THE JANUARY REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 10 Georgia Robyn Kittlesen-Clifford, 26 Holly Road
31 Elliott James Poley, Staines Road, Twickenham

Funerals

- 6 Phyllis Madeline Giles, Marling Court 80
14 Margaret Lillian Basham, 4 Rectory Grove 82
22 Valerie Jean Baker, 28 Park Road 62

DATES TO NOTE IN MARCH

- 1 David, Patron Saint of Wales, 601
2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, 672
5 1400 Magazine Committee, Vicarage
7 0930 Informal Service with RNLi present
1800 St. Paul's Cathedral Jubilee 2000 Celebration
2100 Compline
8 Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910
14 **Mothering Sunday**
2100 Compline
17 Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland, 460
Consecration of Peter Wheatley as Bishop of Edmonton in St. Paul's
18 2000 PCC
19 **St. Joseph of Nazareth**
20 Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687
21 **Passion Sunday**
2100 Compline
25 **The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Church Spring Clean begins
27 Women's Forum host a SOUP LUNCH for charity
28 **Palm Sunday**
1830 Stainer's Crucifixion performed as an act of worship

*For a full list of Services during Holy Week and Easter
please see the details in the front of this magazine.*

PARISH WEEKEND

A reminder that this will be at The Grail in Pinner from Friday October 22nd to Sunday October 24th. There is easy access by road or by tube to Pinner Station. The Grail is about ¼ mile from the station. Details from Ruth Mills.

COPY DATE FOR APRIL MAGAZINE: 12TH MARCH