

Jonathan Swift is probably best remembered as the author of Gulliver's Travels. He was also a hugely influential literary scholar and wrote many articles and pamphlets. He was born in Ireland and for most of his adult life was a clergyman there, becoming Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. In his article "Thoughts on various subjects" he penned these words:

"We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough religion to make us love one another."

These words of Swift seem hauntingly true today. In Ireland, in Kosovo, Indonesia; religious, cultural and ethnic differences seem to render it impossible for people to live together. And yet how can this possibly be? Have we lost all idea of the universality of God - that God is the Creator of us all, Jesus the pattern of living for all, and the Spirit of God open to and within all. What have we done, other than to make God the mascot of our particular club? Perhaps it is simply part of being human that we can never see the full picture, but does this mean that we live by devaluing, dehumanising or demonising others.

There have been comments about how much more possible it is to identify with the Kosovars and their horrendous plight because they are Europeans. Even our Prime Minister used geography to justify NATO's reaction to ethnic cleansing in Kosovo on the grounds that it cannot be allowed to happen in Europe "near Italy and Greece". Even the tremendous success of the Aid appeal for Kosovo, with millions more pounds flowing in than for Rwanda or the Bangladesh floods, seems to be linked to Kosovars being people "like us". I find this deeply distressing. It seems to suggest somehow that there is a pecking order in deservability with European lives coming before Africans or Asians. Don't get me wrong, I am greatly moved and humbled that so many people have given so generously but still Swift's words haunt me. We have just celebrated Easter. Religious and cultural differences, power and politics played a major role in the death of Jesus of Nazareth. On the cross, as St. John describes were the words "in Hebrew, Latin and Greek....this is the King of the Jews". In other words Jesus on the cross was to be a sign understood by everyone whatever their language, race or religion, for these three languages covered just about everybody in Jerusalem. And at Pentecost, which this year falls on 23rd May, we recall that the disciples were talking about Jesus, yet each person understood in their own language "Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, Judeans, Cappadocians, those from Pontus, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya and visitors from Rome, Jews, Proselytes and Arabs". That is, God who gives everything on the cross is a giver of life for all people, irrespective of where they come from or what they believe.

In this month of May, when, once again, Christian Aid Week challenges us to share the bounty of God's creation we do well to remember a prayer produced by Christian Aid about divisions in the Holy Land:

*"Pray not for Arab or Jew
For Palestinian or Israeli
But pray rather for ourselves
that we might not divide them in our prayers
But keep them together in our hearts".*

Wherever the conflict you may amend the words, but the prayer has to be the same.

HAMPTON AND HAMPTON HILL CARNIVAL 12TH JUNE 1999

Jesus Christ is the bridge between us and God, and he calls all of us - in different ways - to build bridges with other peoples in our local communities, in our churches, in society at large

Michael of Kensington



Some weeks ago, Bishop Michael of Kensington walked through our parish. The purpose of this walk was to remind those living in the wider community that God is alive and we, as his followers, are working to "build bridges" in Hampton Hill. That day in early Lent was a chance for us to increase the community's awareness of God's presence in his people at St. James', but it was just one morning, and to build bridges we need, continuously, to show that we care for those around. Of course, it is in our daily lives that we reflect this care, but it could be that some people feel alone and unable to join our fellowship.

It has been suggested that some of us should take part in the parade at the carnival this year. This would demonstrate that St. James' is very much part of community life. After all, those of us who take part in the communion service are constantly reminded by Brian and Betty that we are all welcome at the lord's table and this is a chance to extend an invitation to others.

Our ideas for joining the procession are very simple and would involve only an afternoon of construction and then the walk on the day. The route plan for the parade is quite long, so perhaps those who felt unable to walk it all could just walk one street, or come and wave us off.

If you would like to take part in this opportunity to build bridges in Hampton Hill, please could you contact Alison and Bob Hampton on 255 0842, or speak to us after a service. I feel certain that the day will be great fun, even if it rains!!!

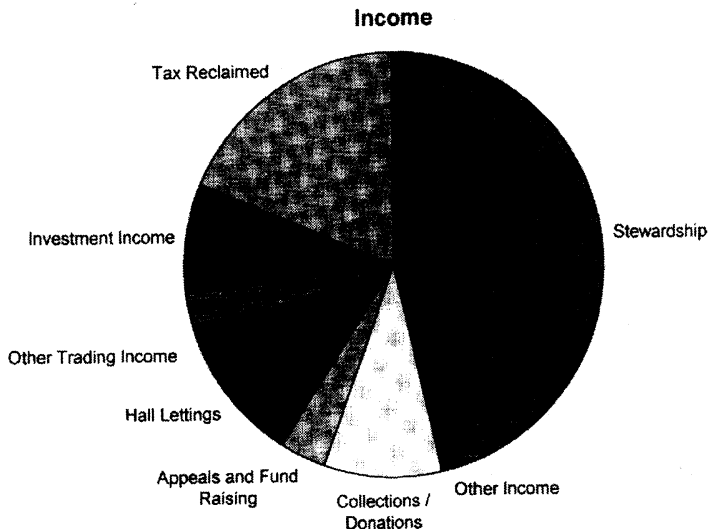
BOOK and TEN PENCE

Our Lenten Project to send books to children in South Africa

At the time of writing the collection of books is drawing to a close. The result looks really impressive and I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this excellent cause. Details of just how well we did will be in the June magazine.

Ann Peterken

PARISH FINANCES 1998



During 1998, the parish finances continued in a satisfactory state. We had a total income of just under £100,000 and expenses of just under £75,000, leaving a net income of nearly £25,000. Some of this (around £11,000) was due to accounting changes, but even allowing for this, it was an increase in net income of around £8,000 compared with 1997. This good financial position will help us to manage the extra expenses when Freda joins us later this year.

The main source of income is from the donations of the congregation; a large proportion of this is via Covenants and Gift Aids, allowing us to recover income tax paid. The main expense of the parish has been the running costs of the church, of which the largest single item is the quota paid to the Diocese of London. No significant changes were made to the fabric of the church or hall, but as usual much of the maintenance was done by volunteers from the congregation.

The Hall more than covered its costs from hire fee income. The Parish Magazine expenses were also covered by the annual appeal and by advertising income.

The parish gave grants to various charities totalling almost £8,750. Of this, some £5,500 was from general PCC funds and the rest from special events and collections. £900 was raised for Christian Aid from a performance of Messiah on Good Friday; £750 was donated to St Luke's Hospital, Milo, Tanzania; £748 to Richmond Welfare; and £700 to the Church Urban Fund.

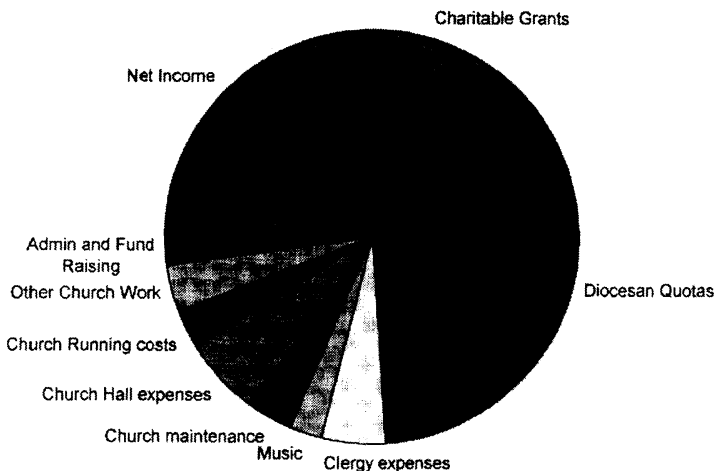
In July, the Inland Revenue inspected the records that we keep of covenanted

income. The inspection covered the years since 1992. Some minor errors were found, and in January 1999 we reached agreement to repay £270 of tax that had been over-claimed.

Freda's arrival in July 1999 will alter the parish's financial affairs. The PCC has bought a house within the parish for her to live in, at a cost of around £100,000. This has been financed partly from an equity-sharing loan of £50,000 from the Diocese of London, with the balance from our own reserves. As a result, there will be increases to the parish expenses to meet interest payments, maintenance of the house, and Freda's parish expenses.

As a new Parish Treasurer, I have discovered that there are many people who put time and energy into keeping the parish's finances in good order, and I thank them warmly for all their efforts and for the help I have received.

Expenses



Paul Peterken

JUBILEE 2000 HUMAN CHAIN IN LONDON ON SUNDAY 13TH JUNE 1999

Calling all Jubilee 2000 supporters to London

Come and be part of a human chain around the River Thames to send the UK petitions off to Cologne for the G8 Summit the following weekend. For information on the programme of events, see the Jubilee 2000 display in church, look on website www.jubilee2000uk.org or contact Ann Peterken on 0181 891 5862.



Walk the City includes visiting beautiful churches such as St Bartholomew-the-Less

Sunday 16th May 2 - 5 p.m. Walk the City

This is a sponsored walk around the historic churches in the City of London. The walk starts at St. Giles Cripplegate. You visit fascinating churches and there are various entertainments along the route (music groups, face-painting, etc.). You can set your own pace on the walk, and if you wish you can join others for a picnic lunch beforehand and a service afterwards. Sponsorship forms available from Wendy Baker.

18th - 21st May Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher

Come along and visit Christian Aid's stand.

SUNDAY 9th JUNE

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 9.30 a.m. | Preacher: Christine Thompson from the East, West and Central Africa desk of Christian Aid |
| 6.30 p.m. | Churches Together Around Hampton at St. James's Preacher: Ramani Leathard |

SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID

**MAKE YOUR GIFT
GO FURTHER WITH
MILLENNIUM GIFT AID**

Christian Aid supporters have highlighted the plight of poor countries and communities, and shown God's care for the world. The UK Government has responded to people's concern for the poor with Millennium Gift Aid.

If you are a taxpayer, you have a special opportunity to make a gift on behalf of the world's poorest communities and **make it count for more.**

Until 31st December 2000, on gifts of £100 or more, the Inland Revenue will give to Christian Aid the basic rate tax paid on that amount, so your gift will be worth nearly one third more. You do not have to make your gift in one lump sum; you can choose to pay in instalments. More information from Margaret Taylor.

'Walk with the poor'

A thought for Christian Aid Week

'Jesus became more aware of his identity with God and his divine mission when he engaged himself with the poor; entering into their situations. When we walk with the poor we become more Christ-like. It is a holy moment.'

Bishop Simon Chiwanga of Mpwapwa, Tanzania.
(speaking in Lichfield Cathedral, July 1998)

Surfing the Net?

Christian Aid has a website which gives an overview of its work. The site is regularly updated with news and campaigning and worship ideas. It is easy to make secure donations on-line too. To find out more visit the website at

www.christian-aid.org.uk

6th - 11th July Hampton Court Flower Show

Look out for Christian Aid's garden. Speak to Margaret Taylor (977 1342) if you would like to be a steward.

Christian  Aid
We believe in life before death

OUTING TO SUFFOLK

Helen and Alan Taylor have again invited us to visit them at their home in Suffolk. The proposed date for this is Saturday 5th June. Please sign the list in Church if you are interested - by 16th May, please. Costs can be calculated when the number going is established. Any queries to David Lloyd 979 2964.

REPORT BACK FROM THE PCC

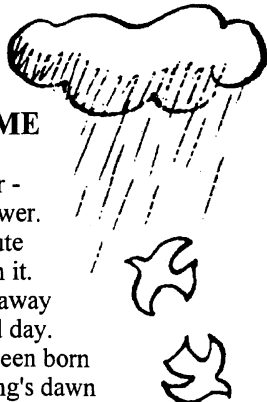
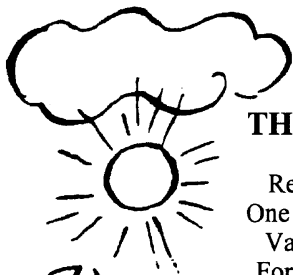
The final meeting of the PCC before the APCM was held on Thursday 18th March, when the main matter under discussion was the draft accounts for the year to 31st December 1998. Our Treasurer, Paul Peterken, presented the accounts and he explains them elsewhere in this issue. The PCC adopted and approved the accounts and thanked Paul for all his hard work completing them on our behalf.

We looked at the new Vision and Principles for Churches Together around Hampton, which are based on Jesus' Prayer for Christian Unity in John 17:20-22, and were able to agree with them with only minor linguistic amendments.

We discussed the arrangements for the forthcoming APCM and a proposal to reconstitute the PCC. Some time ago, the membership of the PCC was agreed at a maximum of 20, including five ex-officio members, but over the past years this has crept up to 23. The discussion centred around whether this was too large a body to effectively make decisions on behalf of the Parish, and thus meant that members were not committed to attending regularly. A proposal was put forward to reduce the membership to a maximum of 12 elected members. The majority of the meeting were not happy with such a proposal, feeling that members of the congregation should not be discouraged from taking part if they are keen to do so, and that elections would be divisive and give a sense of failure to those not successful. It was agreed that the previous maximum of 20 should be adhered to, which will mean that elections may have to take place from time to time.

There was an update on the purchase of the house for Freda, who is being ordained on Saturday 3rd July. The proposed purchase of the house on the Poets Estate had fallen through and we are now buying a very suitable house in Pigeon Lane, behind Rectory School. It is almost certain that this will go through in April.

By the time this is published, the APCM will have been held on Sunday 25th April, and the new PCC will have met for the first time. There will be a full list of members in the next issue.



THE VALUE OF TIME

Regard each passing hour -
One is sunshine, one is shower.
Value every passing minute
For our precious Lord is in it.
Second by second life ticks away
From our God-given blessed day.
Give thanks then that we have been born
And praise the Lord each morning's dawn

Margery Orton

PARISH WEEKEND

If you have not already done so, please put these details in your diary:

Parish Weekend - The Grail - 22nd-24th October 1999

Application forms will be available soon. Anyone wishing to start saving, please contact me. A few people have expressed anxiety about the lack of single rooms at The Grail. Rooms will be allocated on the basis of "first come, first served". However, if people do insist on a room to themselves, it will limit numbers. Anyone who feels that he/she cannot cope with sharing a room, please speak to me. There may be a solution. In any case, if you asked first, then you have priority. As in previous years, I would not ask anyone to share a room without the agreement of both occupants.

Ruth Mills

Don't miss this chance to hear the outstanding boy soprano

JASON MUSIL

in a programme which includes songs by Purcell, Arne, Handel and Faure,
popular songs such as Funiculi Funicula

and Czech and English folk songs to Jason's own guitar accompaniment
together with Geoffrey Bowyer and friends

on SATURDAY 29TH MAY

at 7.30 p.m. in St. James's Church.

Admission free.

Collection in aid of the Shooting Star Children's Hospice Appeal.



Ten Guides have been enrolled in our recently- formed company and it has been good to see Guides at recent Church Parades in addition to the Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Sue Blay would be glad to hear from any adult willing to help at Guide meetings.

Ramani has now returned from Gaza and the West Bank and Margaret and David Taylor have been to Trinidad. On Easter Sunday, we bade farewell to Dennis, Elizabeth and Henry Wilmot who are spending a year travelling in South America and Australasia.

By the time you read this, the new sound system will have been installed in Church. We would also like to thank the anonymous donor who has paid for new chairs for the hall. The Soup Lunch and the Messiah from Scratch have raised approximately £1250 for our £2000 in 2000 Appeal. We thank all those who were involved in organising these events and getting the appeal off to such a great start. Ideas and suggestions for further events would be welcome.

Congratulations to Jennifer McEvoy who will be working with the Royal Shakespeare Company for the next twenty months. Best wishes also to Alan Taylor who celebrates his 60th birthday on 5th May.

Maggie Revis is looking for sponsors for a 5 km run she will undertake in July in aid of research into female cancers.

May French, Dorothy Weston and Sandra Carson have all died recently. We send our love and sympathy to their families.

Finally, good luck to all those who will be sitting examinations in the next few weeks.

EVERYONE CAN JOIN IN!

A campaign which could help prepare minds and spirits in 1999 for the Churches New Start in the Millennium year has recently been launched. Known as **Clean Slate Campaign**, its eighty patrons to date have each signed the basic promise "to take at least one practical step during 1999 towards wiping my Slate Clean." They include our own Bishop of London, Cardinal Hume, the Chief Rabbi, Dr Zaki Badawi and Indarjit Singh amongst leaders of other faiths. There are also those particularly known in other fields such as Dr Sheila Cassidy, Lisa Potts and Rugby sportsmen Roger Uttley and Gavin Hastings.

The Clean Slate Guide - available from the undersigned or PO Box 1143, Oxford OX2 7WA - states "It is all too easy to be weighed down by the baggage we carry from the past. For instance a backlog of matters undealt with in the home or at work. Deeper things such as hurts, resentments, fears, guilts and prejudices can be excess baggage as well....much could be left behind in the Old Millennium instead of being carried into the next."

We personally would not reckon to stop at just one step. The hope of the organisers, born out of their own deep experience, is nevertheless that it "will give those who try it a taste for new beginnings - and that living with a clean slate will become the habit of a lifetime".

John and Betty Rainbow

FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 7 Victoria Burn, 11 Hanworth Road
14 Kate Eleanor Davies, 71 Park Road
21 Tania Susan Hunt, 23 Langton Close, Addlestone
Henry Nettleton, 66 Tudor Road, Hampton
George Daniel Segal, 128 Hanworth Road

Funerals

- 1 Beatrice Mary Elderton, 125 Uxbridge Road 88
3 Arthur Frederick Aston Blandford, 38 Wolsey Road 96
12 Sidney Arthur Peach, Laurel Dene Nursing Home 74
15 Maud Florence Kyle, 5 Gordon Court, High Street 72
23 Winifred Sinsbury, Oketon Nursing Home, Teddington 86
26 Tom Tyler, Whyte Leaf, Hampton Road, Feltham 82
29 Minnie Pearcey, Oakfields, Walton-on-Thames 79
Ellen Armstrong, Houblon Almshouses, Richmond 95
31 May French, 3 Cranmer Road 82

DATES TO NOTE IN MAY

- 2 St. Philip and St. James, Apostles
9.30 a.m. Informal Service and Holy Baptism
3 Bank Holiday. Have a great day!
7 Magazine Committee: Vicarage 2 p.m.
8 Dame Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, 1417
Evening Concert in Church by Cantati Camerati
9 Easter 6 Christian Aid Week commences
6.30 p.m. United Service for Christian Aid Week at St. James's
Preacher: Ramani Leathard
10 Properties Committee: 60 St. James's Avenue
13 ASCENSION DAY 8 p.m. Parish Communion
14 St. Matthias the Apostle
22 Churchlink West London: Service at St. Mary Abbot, Kensington
Preacher: The Rt. Revd. Lord David Shepherd
Church Hall Cleaning Day
23 PENTECOST
24 John and Charles Wesley, Priests, Evangelists and Hymn Writers
25 The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, 735
8 p.m. Stewardship Committee with Mary Spreadbury, Kensington
Area Adviser
26 Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
29 7.30 p.m. Concert in Church by Jason Musil with Stuart Ward and
Geoffrey Bowyer
30 TRINITY SUNDAY



*Remember to keep the afternoon of SATURDAY 3RD JULY free,
when Freda will be ordained as deacon in St. Paul's Cathedral.*

**COPY DATE FOR JUNE
MAGAZINE: 12TH MAY**