

A famous Bible scholar - a Professor of New Testament at Oxford - once began a sermon, which I had invited him to preach, with an extraordinary remark. He said 'I blame Brussels and the European Union for the fact that we don't read enough of the Bible anymore'. Was I hearing things? Had he finally cracked under the pressures of scholarship? And he went on 'The trouble is that we now sip at delicate glasses of fine wine, rather than downing whole pints of ale - it's all the EU's fault, and now we just read little snippets of the Bible, like a single slurp of wine, instead of downing a whole Bible story'. I could see his point, but I was not altogether convinced the much maligned European Union could in any direct way be held guilty of this particular oddity.

It is perhaps true that we hear less of the Bible read in church, in terms of the length of the readings. However, it is undeniably true that with the three year Revised Common Lectionary we now hear read - over three years - a much greater proportion of the Bible than ever before. In addition, if you were able to attend Morning Prayer at St. James's (Mon, Wed-Fri at 0915) you would hear a huge amount of scripture read in a continuous pattern, day after day. If you would like to join us in person you would be most welcome, or if you would like to know what the daily readings are, we can provide you with them.

At the moment we are reading the whole of I Samuel and the whole of Matthew's Gospel in daily chunks. The great advantage of this is that it sets the isolated Sunday readings in a much clearer context. Have you ever wondered what has happened just before or what happens just after the set reading? Reading in a continuous form means that the Bible's story becomes much more the story of people engaging with God when we can hear, for example the whole of the Joseph story or the whole of Mark's Gospel.

One thing which strikes me about reading through a whole Gospel is just how often 'Jesus withdrew from that place'. Jesus obviously needed to recharge his batteries, have some time and space to himself every now and then, if he was ever going to be able to give of himself sacrificial for others. We, in our lives know this to be true, but we also find it hard to accept and put into practice. Many people in our parish will be able to do exactly that this month - 'withdraw from this place' - where we work or live and take a holiday, some time and space for ourselves, our families and friends and for our recreation.

If you do have the opportunity to take a break please enjoy it; we all need it! If you can't take a break of some days then even a few hours can be really refreshing. There are people in our community at St. James' who would be more than happy to help you 'withdraw' for a while from your caring responsibilities. All you need do is ask.

FREDA'S ORDINATION

On Saturday 3rd July, several of us travelled to St. Paul's Cathedral to be with Freda as she was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of London. Freda was one of 29 ordinands (12 women), who are beginning their ministry all over the Diocese.

The Cathedral was packed, standing room only, and St. James's people were scattered amongst the huge congregation, so we have all come away with different impressions and memories of the service.

My own impression was of a sense of great occasion and anticipation as we waited in our seats, halfway down the vast nave, watching the beautiful Cathedral fill with people of all nationalities and in all kinds of dress. As the Choir and clergy proceeded to their places, I turned round to see the huge west doors swing open and we watched Freda and her fellow ordinands walk up the aisle as part of the Bishop's Procession, to take their places under the Dome. A two hour Eucharistic service followed with readings, lots of wonderfully moving and rousing hymns, a (somewhat challenging) sermon and, of course, the ordination itself. We were a long way away from the "action" but, thanks to the excellent sound system in the nave, we were able to hear the Bishop very clearly as he ordained Freda with the words, "Send down the Holy Spirit upon your servant Freda for the office and work of a deacon in your Church."

The weeks of planning that must have gone into this very special service, culminated in Holy Communion being taken out into all parts of the cathedral so that everyone had the opportunity to partake.

It was an amazing and very spiritual occasion. It seems some time since, as a PCC, we first explored the exciting possibility of having a deacon in our Parish. A lot of planning and many prayers later, it was a great joy to be there at the beginning of Freda's ministry as a 'deacon in the Church of God', and to know that God has answered our prayers and brought her to St. James's.

Elizabeth Gossage

This was a fantastic and uplifting experience - congratulations Freda.

Gill Gostling

A memorable event I was so glad to have been there. God bless Freda.

Rosalie Meyerowitz

A celebration you will remember for the rest of your life. Peace be with you always.

Jean Wilson

A huge occasion - we were very glad that we were there.

Jack and Ruth Gosling

A very meaningful service - impressive yet also very personal - a privilege to have shared it. God Bless.

Anthony Ball





GREETINGS from
SOUTH
AMERICA!

Estanislao del Campo 1052, 4401 San Lorenzo, Salta, Argentina.
Tel: 0054 387 4921918

9/5/1999

Dear Brian and all our friends at St. James',

You will notice from the above that we decided not to stay in Buenos Aires finding it too much like London and not at all South American! We attended the English service at the Anglican cathedral there and met the Bishop, David Leake, and his wife over coffee afterwards. His grandfather had started an Anglican mission for the Aborigines in the north of Argentina in the province of Salta, bordered by Bolivia, Paraguay and Chile and he had grown up there.

We bought open tickets and flew here to find a beautiful 400-year-old colonial city nestling in the foothills of the Andes and have been here 4 weeks now. We've rented a fully furnished house in San Lorenzo, about 11 km north of the city, and are very happy here. Henry has started at a Spanish speaking kindergarten and loves it there so I hope he will be pretty fluent by the time we leave. My Spanish progresses too slowly, which is frustrating, but our delightful landlady is giving me classes and learning English in return.

We attend the Anglican church in Salta and already have a circle of new friends who all came to Henry's 4th birthday party last week. Although both the bishop and the vicar are English, all services are held in Spanish so we reckon that Dennis will at least be able to recite the Lord's prayer in Spanish if nothing else by the time we leave SA!!

Many people here are very involved with the mission, which was partly funded for some years by the Tear Fund in Teddington, and we hope to visit it soon. The Siwok are hunter/gatherers and much of the land they inhabit has been taken over by "white" farmers whose cattle and sheep have denuded the land so the Siwok are struggling. Much of the work done there in connection with the church is to persuade the government to move these farmers on to allow the Indians to continue their lives in the traditional way. Our friend Alejandro Deane draws up ideas for various crafts, mainly carved dishes and some exquisite birds, which are produced by the Siwok Indians at the mission in exchange for foodstuffs, etc. He then finishes these products at his workshop in Salta and either sells them within Argentina or exports. Tear Fund have just placed their first order for some of these crafts. It seems we may be able to help Alejandro in some way with running the business that will give us some

useful purpose here. They also have a CAD package for drawing up maps in order to outline the areas inhabited by the Aborigines and which they hope to reclaim on their behalf, but nobody is very sure how to use it so Dennis could be very useful there, too. I haven't been able to find out much about Jubilee 2000 here but I shall endeavour to keep asking the question.

Archbishop Carey is visiting Salta at the end of May and an open meeting with him at the library has been arranged for the 24th!! I believe he is visiting Northern Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. We have had to come a long way to see the Archbishop of Canterbury and we look forward very much to meeting him.

I hope all is well at St. James'. We miss you and would love to hear any news. The sermon this morning seemed even longer than the hour it took when we couldn't understand a word! Henry has settled into the Sunday School quite happily despite the language barrier.

With love and best wishes to you all,

Elizabeth, Dennis and Henry Wilmot

REPORT BACK FROM THE PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday 6th July, when we were delighted to welcome Freda. It has not been possible to find anyone who is prepared to co-ordinate our very important £2000 in 2000 appeal and at the moment the bulk of this is falling on our already overworked Social Committee. (Offers to Brian please!)

Two important matters that the PCC will be discussing at length in the autumn are to review our work with children and young adults, and the liturgical change happening at the moment due to the ASB becoming redundant on 31st December 2000. The drop in Sunday School teachers and numbers of children attending, particularly the Young Church, have prompted us to think radically and laterally about what we are providing for our young people. Possibly the present Sunday format is no longer appropriate - should we consider holiday clubs or mid-week meetings. Do you have any experience of how other churches do things? Have you, or your child, been through a first communion course? If so, or if you have any other views on this, please let a member of the PCC know before the autumn, or come to the meeting when it is scheduled.

The matter of liturgical change is becoming urgent. By the end of next year we shall have to have made a decision either to go ahead with the new "Common Worship" or to revert to the Prayer Book. We cannot leave these decisions until it is too late to make choices, and this means we have to be pretty analytical about what is being provided. Again, if you have any views on this matter or would like to come to the meeting/s when it is discussed, please let a member of the PCC know. This is a very important matter which will affect how we worship at St. James for the foreseeable future.

CARDINAL HUME

When Jesus said to Peter: "Follow me", Peter did just that - he downed tools and followed Him.

I never saw, let alone met Cardinal Hume, but one thing in his life which seemed to me to be outstanding was his obedience to the call to become Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

His position as Abbot of a large monastery and one of our greatest public schools was the job for which his life and training had seemed so clearly to have been directed. In his middle age it must have seemed the pinnacle of attainment. Ampleforth was his home and it must have been comfortable in every sense. How must he have felt to be asked suddenly and unexpectedly to give it all up to take on such a tremendous new responsibility?

He accepted the call with the grace and humility that was the characteristic of everything that he did. It is this willing acceptance of duty that I find so admirable. That he went on to become one of the finest Cardinals since Newman was due to his wisdom and goodness. Like Peter he was called, like Peter he followed. A worthy successor; may he rest in peace.

Mary Wilde

Jubilee 2000 Campaigners travel to Cologne for the G8 Summit

About eight thousand British campaigners travelled to Cologne to join a day of action on Saturday 19th June, organised by the German Jubilee 2000 Campaign. Two coaches went from this corner of London and Margaret Ansell, Rose Frier and I were on one of them.

The weather on the day could not have been better. At our meeting point on the banks of the Rhine we were able to listen to speakers and music, buy refreshments or simply enjoy each other's company in the wonderful sunshine. Some of us were delighted to meet the group who had walked all the way to Cologne from Birmingham, as featured on the Archers. From about 1.30p.m. we helped form a massive chain of about 60,000 people along and over the Rhine and circling Museum Ludwig where the Summit was in progress. At 2p.m. the people-links of the chain made as much noise as possible for about fifteen minutes. It's an experience and a feeling that is hard to convey. Well worth all the travel!

The all important facts. Last year debt relief of \$55 billion was on the table. At Cologne an extra \$45 billion was pledged - or \$2,650 for every one of the 17 million signatures on the petition so far. These pledges are subject to full agreement on implementation at the IMF and World Bank meetings in late September. Even if this \$100 billion debt relief is fully agreed, Jubilee 2000

has calculated that it is debt relief beyond \$100 billion that will actually start to free up money for poverty reduction programmes. It is good to know that Tony Blair is aware of this. In the House of Commons on Monday 21st June he said: "I would like to see us go further still on debt; it is an issue whose time has come. I will personally do whatever I can to make that happen." So too will the campaigners.

Finally, some feedback for all those who took part in the Tearfund's Sign of Hope petition initiative on 10th June. A record-breaking one-day total of 232,000 signatures was collected.

Ann Peterken (020 8891 5862)

(Note: lots of excellent information on Jubilee 2000 on website www.jubilee2000uk.org)

NEWS! from 3rd Hampton Hill BROWNIES and GUIDES

On Tuesday 22nd June the Brownies and Guides held a fundraising evening. The Brownies held their usual stalls and raised £100 donated towards the use of the church hall, £20.00 for MENCAP and £20.00 towards their funds. The Guides did Acts of Service and raised £65 towards camp equipment.

The following week we said goodbye to our District Commission Mrs Brenda Stone with a service kindly led by Brian and held in the church. For Brenda it was an emotional evening with everyone from the Hampton District being involved but it was nice for us to all be able to say thank you for all she has done for Guiding in Hampton. We now have a new District Commission Chris Lloyd who successfully runs a Brownie Pack in St. Mary's Church Hall, Hampton. I am sure everyone from St. James's will wish her well.

The year ended with both the Brownies and the Guides going on a bike ride to Bushy Park. We went our separate ways but met up at the swings and enjoyed a picnic and an ice-cream supplied by a marvellous ice cream man called Ian! The weather held and an enjoyable family evening was had by all.

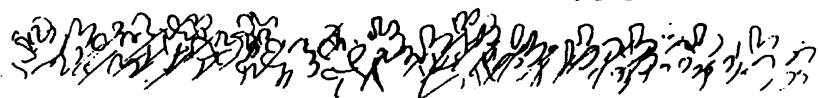
The Guides are planning a weekend camp at the beginning of September and will have a full complement of Guides when term starts the week following.

In reply to my short notice in June I had 7 enquiries about Brownies and will yet again have a full pack come September. It is nice to think that St. James's can offer girls aged from 7 to 14 the opportunity to join in the delights that Guiding has to offer.

Sue and Lesley



A VISIT TO TRINIDAD



When our children were very young, we had the great fortune to have living with us, whilst studying for degrees at Kingston, two Trinidadian sisters. Their stay with us covered six years which included the birth of our youngest child, and were made so happy and easy by their presence. We all loved them both, Tara independent, capable, domesticated, and India who came straight from her home in rural Trinidad, unlike her sister who had already been in England for two years and who was much more integrated into our daily family life.

In April, after more than thirty years, we spent a holiday in Trinidad and found that our mutual affection was as strong as ever. We stayed with Tara in Port of Spain, and enjoyed a wonderful holiday amongst her family and friends. There were several expeditions - five days in beautiful Tobago where we buzzed around on rather chancy roads in a little jeep; a night on a tropical beach waiting for and seeing leather backed turtles lumber out of the sea and lay their many eggs; a boat trip through the mangrove swamps to watch the magnificent bird the red ibis flying home to roost at sunset; a picnic with India and family at the site of a grand plantation up in the forest, and a trip to the mountainous rain forest to another gracious plantation house, now a nature centre, where the birds were quite literally fabulous in their amazingly bright and varied colours. Trinidad itself is indeed amazingly brightly coloured - I could not quite believe what I was seeing - so much lush, luxuriant greenery, so many beautiful exotic tropical plants, both trees and flowers. Tara is an expert on all these natural wonders and we learned the names of many and tasted all the fruits, mostly straight from the trees. The mangoes and peppers in our friends gardens, the many varieties of banana, the spondillo, the pawpaws that we ate for breakfast every day. Tara is also a good cook and was determined that we should eat every local dish and every Trinidadian food, so there were lots of kinds of fish, curried chicken and goat, roti, rice and exotic vegetables.

We saw the village where India and Tara were brought up and having seen Oropouche, I realised what a tremendous culture shock had faced India when we first met her at Heathrow and brought her home - climate, food, clothes, house, colour of skin. The family into which India and Tara were born is Indian, and has been Trinidadian for several generations. We met many of them and everywhere were greeted with generosity and affection. We remember especially the wedding to which we were invited and which we found fascinating, though as the only white woman amongst all the gorgeously

clad and bejewelled Indian ladies I felt slightly too plainly dressed and too large! I was also particularly impressed by the peace and dignity of the Hindu crematorium where Tara's parents had been buried, in the open air near the sea in the glowing sunshine.

I don't know whether we will ever visit Trinidad again but sufficient of its beauty, kindness, wonderful sunshine and loving friendship will remain in our hearts and memory for a very long time.

Margaret Taylor

One or two occasions on the holiday particularly stay with me. The palm trees, clouds and breakers during full moon, and the southern constellations when the moon had set, while we were waiting for the turtles to appear. It was very romantic.

Another evening we sat in for part of a practice session of one of the steel bands. There were 40 or 50 pans, one player for each except for the bass pans where one player had up to 6 pans. Included was a boys section with smaller pans. Each period of cacophony was followed by everyone playing together (at 120 decibels) with great panache. I particularly remember a chromatic scale played superbly several times. I cannot imagine what the Carnival is like! The Indian wedding was an elaborate affair in which the pandit (religious teacher) gave instruction to the bride and then the bridegroom, in which each had to promise five or seven conditions to the other, ranging from being punctual to support of parents facing dishonour.

The whole holiday was indeed an eye-opener, both to the life we experienced and the care and attention of our hostess Tara.



David Taylor

WEDNESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER AT 2.30 P.M. (Note change of date)

The Women's Forum start their "new year" with a service in the Church Hall.

The theme is *A Fresh Start* and it is hoped that Freda will give a short address.

Tea and cakes will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN	St. James's house to house collection	£1777.96
AID	D.I.Y. Messiah	<u>£1112.39</u>
1999	St. James's total	£2890.35
	Churches Together Around Hampton	
	Grand Total	£9825.06



We were sorry to learn that Rose Frier had a fall during the Jubilee 2000 trip to Cologne and is still unwell. We hope that she will be feeling better soon.

Julia, Christopher, Andrew and Jonathan Warrens have moved to Church Street, Hampton. We hope they will be very happy in their new home.

Thank you to those who opened their gardens in June. In spite of poor weather on the day, over £100 was raised. Thank you also to all those who have worked on the garden at the base of the tower and on keeping the courtyard clear. The whole area is now a pleasure to see.

The Young Church have enjoyed their term, and finished it with a barbecue. We owe a great debt of gratitude to all those who give so much of their time to the Young Church and the Sunday School, particularly Wendy and Lou. If anyone has children of 4+ who would like to join the Sunday School, please contact Lou on 979 2040. Potential new members of Young Church (11+) should speak to Wendy on 979 3654.

Margaret Taylor has recently taken on the role of vice-chair of the Voluntary Care Group, of which she is also a trustee.

Six of our congregation are celebrating their 50th birthdays this year: Liz Butler, Gill Gostling, Richard Melville, Lesley Mortimer, Coryn Robinson and Janet Taylor. Our congratulations to them all; 1949 was obviously a vintage year! In these days of increased mobility, it is interesting that all except Janet have known each other since early schooldays. Coryn and her husband Ian also have a second cause for celebration, as their son James has gained a first class degree in construction management from de Montfort University, Leicester.



THE NEW INITIATION SERVICES - BAPTISM

On Saturday 5th June, I travelled up to St. Mary Abbot's Hall, off Kensington Church Street, to take part in a training day for those involved in Baptism Preparation. It was organised by Laurence Smith for the Kensington area. There were only about 25 people there, some from the same church, which was disappointing. We took a packed lunch - drinks were provided.

The main speaker was Mark Earey, Education Officer at Sarum College, Salisbury. The new Baptism Service, which must be adopted by December 31st 2000 when the ASB is due to run out, is quite different from the present one. Mark went through it carefully and there was opportunity for discussion and ideas about the practicalities and difficulties of introducing the changes. He had much useful literature, some of which I bought.

After a short service of worship, which Laurence freely admitted he had

downloaded from the Internet that morning (!), we had lunch and a chance to relax.

We resumed with Rev. David Wilson giving a talk, with demonstrations, on music to go with the new service. He also provided a list of suggestions for Baptism and other services which will prove useful.

The day ended with general discussion on how individual churches approach Baptism visiting, which was at times quite amusing! I think we all picked up one or two tips and what had been a most useful and interesting day drew to a close at 3.30p.m..

This was not just a theory session - it will soon have to be put into practice and we will have to get used to the Common Worship services by the end of next year.

Debbie Nunn

FROM THE JUNE REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 6 Alfred Merlin Battle, 63 Uxbridge Road
Lily Isabella Rhia James Prescott, 33 Wolsey Road
- 11 Amy Olivia McMillan }
Susan Denise McMillan } 12a Charles Court, Hampton Road

Blessing of Marriage

- 11 Carl and Susan McMillan

Funerals

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 4 | Christopher Kreiberg, 13 Fairlight | 76 |
| 15 | Leonard William Barnes, 55 New Road, Staines | 83 |
| 17 | Florence May Hitchens, Laurel Dene | 90 |
| 21 | Betty Place, Norfolk House | 80 |

DATES TO NOTE IN AUGUST

- 1 0930 Parish Communion
- 6 The Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 15 The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 24 St. Bartholemew, Apostle

MONTHLY EUCHARIST

Starting in September, there will be a Eucharist at 2p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, followed by a cup of tea. The dates for this year will be 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE: 11TH AUGUST