

## NEW BEGINNINGS

There was a programme on television recently about a super-grass criminal beginning a new life. As a result of his confession his former colleagues had received long prison sentences, and for his safety he and his family had been given a fresh start in life with new identities.

While our lives may not be as dramatic as this, they are full of new beginnings. September is a time of the year when this is particularly so. For many it means new schools or different classes, starting at university or changing jobs; for others it may mean the experience of retirement. So how do we accept new opportunities?

For each one of us every day presents us with fresh challenges, however small. We should welcome them, yet often are we not tempted to say no? Perhaps one of the hardest things to accept is that the Holy Spirit is present in our every day lives and can affect the decisions we take, if we are willing. Yes, it can result in vulnerability. It can even result in our making choices which take us by surprise. It can also be the most liberating experience.

The Gospels remind us that no one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back, is fit for the Kingdom of God. While we are enriched by life's experiences, both the joyous and the painful, we should have faith and trust to be willing to look forward and welcome each day we are given. Let us remember that the Gospels are packed with examples of Jesus giving people the opportunity of a new start.

There were the ten lepers of whom only one recognised what Jesus had done for them and returned to thank Him. Though we might imagine ourselves to be more appreciative, every recovery from illness is a miracle but often we accept it as a matter of course.

Then there is the story of Zacchaeus. He took whatever opportunity he could to see Jesus as he was passing by, and became transformed as a result. What a contrast that story is to the account of the rich man for whom the advice given was too difficult and unpalatable, leading him to walk away, rejecting the new direction his life could have taken. No so Martha. She was enabled to change her priorities - to put aside her busyness and spend time listening to Jesus. We know this did not come easily to her. I have a lot of time for Martha!

Perhaps we could take a leaf out of her book and re-examine our priorities as we rush to water the plants or pack yet another engagement into our over-scheduled diaries. There is a wonderful poem called *The Difference*, which ends:

*I woke up early this morning  
and paused before entering the day.  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to find time to pray.*

For each one of us, every day is a new beginning, so let us pause and reflect whenever a fresh opportunity is offered and grasp it with enthusiasm and gratitude.

*Freda Evans*

## UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

### TWICKENHAM AND RICHMOND BRANCH

Dr. Vincent Cable, MP for Twickenham, will be the speaker at this year's annual meeting. His subject:

**"IS THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ASLEEP?"**

The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7.30p.m. in St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, Twickenham.

Dr. Cable, a staunch supporter of the UNA and a member of the Twickenham and Richmond Branch, will be discussing ways of stimulating the UN Security Council into more effective action.

You are all welcome.

*Margaret Hobbs Tel: 020 8970 2320*

## CALLING ALL ABLE-BODIED PARISHIONERS

Would you be willing and able to push an elderly parishioner to church occasionally on a Sunday morning, or to Open House on a Monday afternoon? We have a small group of people who can be called upon to push Chrissy from the other end of St. James's Road to Church, but occasionally we run into difficulties when one or more of us overlap with holidays, sickness or other commitments. If we could increase our number, we could ensure that Chrissy never has to miss church or Open House. These are generally her only outings. Please contact me on 020 8287 9550 if you feel able to help.

*Mona Gow*

## ALL FOR LOVE

Up to seven years ago, I had no knowledge of hospices and had only the vaguest thoughts of them as dreary places, without hope, where terminally ill people were sent to die.

Then my husband became ill with a brain tumour and I looked after him at home. When, in the last months of his life, it became impossible to continue his care at home, I unwillingly had to allow the Princess Alice Hospice at Esher to take over. To my amazement, I realised that not only was he being cared for tenderly and lovingly, but so was I, and all our family too.

Yes, people do come to hospices to die, but the staff and volunteers are dedicated to making the last days of a dying person as happy, comfortable and dignified as possible. It is a happy place to work; all the nurses and doctors have a deeply caring outlook and there is a striving for perfection that must surely come from a real love of the work that has to be done.

After my bereavement, I wanted to do voluntary work at Princess Alice Hospice but was told that I had to wait for at least one year, which I decided to do. Then I applied, with references, and was interviewed and finally accepted as a volunteer. I joined the flower team and was trained for the job. Every day, the flowers are attended to throughout the hospice and of course there is a "right way" to do this and we are trained in the methods. The flower arrangements are always a strikingly beautiful feature and enhance the hospice for patients, visitors and staff.

After some months, I was offered the place of volunteer ward clerk to assist the regular staff ward clerk on busy Monday and Friday mornings and also to be able to man the ward desk on my own on weekend mornings and Bank Holidays. There are 5 volunteers and we work on a rota basis.

Our work consists of visiting each patient to obtain their orders for midday meals and newspapers. We are therefore in a position to listen to patients who often want to talk and we can get to know them quite well. Of course, it is very saddening when patients that we have become fond of die, but I know that in most cases they have died peacefully without suffering too much and that they have always been looked after with love and respect by the doctors and nurses. This is very consoling. Ward clerk is a very busy job as the phones are ever ringing and demands of many kinds are there to be met.

Two years after my loss I wanted to become a bereavement counsellor for the hospice. I had been counselled by a social worker and found it very helpful during my husband's illness and after his death.

I applied and was accepted for training and later qualified to become one of the team of Princess Alice Hospice Volunteer Bereavement Counsellors. There are 24 volunteers and we are allocated a minimum of 2 clients each. These are people who have lost relations or spouses at the hospice or are linked to the

hospice by referral through their G.P.

We visit each client one-to-one in their homes by appointment. Occasionally, clients will ask to be met at the hospice if the home visit is not appropriate. We are supervised by social workers and are obliged to keep and submit written records of each case. We have regular monthly training and also special whole-day training days which are open to social workers and volunteer counsellors from other hospices.

Counselling is very rewarding but also very demanding. It is necessary to listen intently and concentrate deeply to empathise with the client. One's own thoughts and problems must be left behind and have no place while counselling. However, it is still necessary to understand one's own feelings while listening to another person's problems.

Bereaved people are very vulnerable. They need to be reassured and supported. They need to feel safe and accepted while they express these painful emotions and to be assured that their feelings are normal and natural. Then they can slowly begin to rebuild their lives.

The Princess Alice Hospice is a very beautiful and happy place to work and I feel very privileged to be able to contribute just a little to that wonderful place.

*Rosalie Meyerowitz*

## LETTER FROM SIPOVO

The road from the Adriatic to Sipovo climbs steadily away from the hot, humid and comparatively affluent Croatian coastal plain into rocky hills covered with sparse, stunted trees. At the border lorries queuing to enter Bosnia tail back nearly a mile. Every load has to be checked for contraband, drugs and other illegal imports that support the threatening black market economy. Crossing from Croatia into Bosnia is marked by geographical, social and economic change. Bosnia is much poorer, the towns and villages neglected, the animals lean but the vegetation is lush. Because the growing season is relatively short and the winter long and harsh, planting, nurturing and harvesting must be done against time. During the very hot and rainy summer months, when temperatures exceed 37°C, the crops grow rapidly, watched by the men and tended by the walnut-skinned women, who also care for the animals. By autumn all must be prepared for the deep long winter in the mountains with temperatures of down to -25°C. Moving north the climb is gentler but the trees gradually disappear as one reaches to plain south of Kupres. A vast open expanse of grassland that is neither harvested nor grazed, the plain is an enormous minefield, punctuated by the wreckage of tanks and vehicles that have never been retrieved or even cannibalised for spare parts because of the danger. There are still between 800,000 and a million undefused mines. The

solitary, wingless, upended fuselage of a MiG fighter serves as a war memorial. At Kupres there is a military police check-point and then on, past the rubble of the destroyed modern church, along roads which deteriorate mile by mile with deeper pot-holes and scattered deserted homes and small-holdings. Some are almost completely destroyed by shellfire with the marks of blast and shrapnel on the remaining walls, others are solid concrete frames with the brick in-fill blasted out and the roof burnt off. In the war it was most economical to break in, light a candle, turn on the gas cylinder, close the windows and let the explosion destroy everything. By the roadside what appear to be rubbish tips marked with a religious memorial are mass graves, within sight of the crumbling trenches and the booby-trapped emplacements used by the advancing, cleansing army. In the midst of this eerie desolation is the uneasy divide between the two halves of Bosnia designated in the Dayton Peace Accord of 1995 the recovering Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the south and the Republika Srpska, the new, poor Republic of Serbia to the north. Beyond the plain the road, in even worse condition, falls below the tree line and gradually down into deep, beautiful, waterfallled gorges. The unspoilt scenery is breath taking, enhanced by river spray and wisps of mist. With the descent into Sipovo the temperature and humidity rise. The town sits at the confluence of river valleys, the focus of chilly, bounding, crystal-clear, mineral-rich rivers. It is in the Republic in a largely Serbian Muslim area, identified by its Cyrillic signs, which experienced extensive devastation by the retreating Croats during the war. Sipovo is a small, mostly modern market town with a population of 10,000, that prospered before the war from the income generated by the gypsum works, an engineering yard, the saw mill and the Levi jeans factory that now houses the SFOR (the NATO Stabilisation Force) Multi-National Medical Treatment Facility. This is a Field Ambulance in tents and Portacabins within the factory, augmented by a surgical facility and a helicopter transported Incident Reaction Team that can reach any casualty in Bosnia within 45 minutes. The British, Dutch, Belgian, Icelandic and Canadian staff, aided by local interpreters, are here to provide medical support to SFOR, but also treat local emergencies and try to facilitate the recovery of local medical services. Many of the villages and small towns are totally devastated and abandoned but some are being slowly and painstakingly patched up as the DPRES (Displaced Persons, Refugees and Evacuees) trickle back. In the hillside village of Besnjevo the minaret of the mosque lies by the road as it fell, surrounded by skeletal houses, looted and depersonalised, scarred by graffiti identifying Muslim houses and their former occupants. Nearby a few families survive supported by their plot of land, growing maize, potatoes, onions and beans and harvesting grass for hay to winter-feed the cow for milk, the horse for transport and the few goats for meat. Wood is gathered in for winter fuel to warm the few patched-up rooms in the ruined house. These are the survivors. It is

difficult to understand what hell they have been through or to know what they really think. The language and cultural differences constrain anything more than superficial understanding. They are pragmatists, maybe fatalists, victims as well as survivors. They lost almost everything, yet keep going in the face of abject poverty and almost total unemployment. There is no sign of a religious life, church and mosque are destroyed. Peace is uneasy, driven by outsiders. But life goes on, as they wait to see a future.

*Rodney Taylor*

## ST. JAMES'S ANTIQUE SHOW

Academy Auctioneers & Valuers will be visiting St. James again on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 12 noon to 2p.m.

For another Antique Show.

Please note the date and bring your valuables along for an expert valuation.

Light lunches will be served.

Cakes and Jam to buy.

There will also be a short auction for which we need auctionable items.

This event is aimed at fundraising for the £2000 in 2000 appeal.

Please support us.

## 2000 IN 2000 - OUR MILLENNIUM PROJECT AT ST. JAMES

### Two opportunities for you to contribute to this Appeal

1. The Antiques Fair on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 1999 from noon to 2p.m. Details below.
2. Harvest Festival on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1999. The theme will be *The Water of Life* and there will be an opportunity to give to £2000 in 2000. Money raised through 2000 in 2000 will help to create a self-generating community development programme of primary health care based upon Milo Mission Hospital in south-west Tanzania. We will donate the money via Christian Aid.

Contributions to the appeal are of course welcome from anyone at any time. Cheques (made out to St. James PCC) or money should be put in an envelope marked 2000 in 2000 and put in the weekly collection or given to the vicar, the treasurer, or the churchwardens.

## 1549, 1662, 1666, 1999. . . . AND ALL THAT

Yes, 1066 we remember, perhaps even 1666 - the Great Fire of London - maybe even under Charles II another revision of the Book of Common Prayer of 1662, but 1549? What? Actually, 1549 really was a crucially important year for the Church of England. It was the year in which was published the very first "Booke of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacramentes, and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church after the use of the Church of England".

The book was composed principally by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, with help from his friends in England and Europe. Parliament ordered that it must be used in every parish church in the realm. So it doesn't take much mental maths to work out that this year is 450 years since the publication of our first prayer book.

On **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1999 at 6.30p.m.** - 450 years after its publication - we will have a unique chance not only to hear, but also to worship with our forbears in the faith as we pray Cranmer's service of Evensong.

Evensong is in fact a service of profound significance to us, as one of the three services - Mattins, Holy Communion and Evensong - at the root of the Protestant Reformation. First, these three were ordered to be in the language of the people, English as opposed to Latin. Second, they were specifically designed to be accessible to the people. The daily monastic chanting of the Divine Offices - matins, lauds, prime, terce, sext, none, vespers and compline - was impossible for ordinary people outside large institutions to observe and could not continue anyway after the suppression of monasteries. With profound mastery of tradition and reforming principles, Archbishops Cranmer, and then Parker, produced new liturgies for the newly created Church of England which were intelligible to, could be observed at parish level by, and genuinely mean something to, ordinary people. Cranmer had the inspiration of combining matins, lauds and prime into Morning Prayer (Mattins) and vespers and compline into Evening Prayer (Evensong).

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October we will have an opportunity to reflect afresh on the meaning of Evensong as a service of prayer and praise specifically designed to be accessible to all. We shall cheat a little, as the music will be sung by a professional quartet of Chris Hodge's friends, but it will be simple music, setting Cranmer's marvellous 16<sup>th</sup> Century words, and written almost contemporaneously with them. There will also be a treat in the form of a motet appropriate for Michaelmas, describing St. Michael's victorious war in heaven. Do come and join in this quintessential act of worship for and by ordinary people, which is at the heart of what the Church of England has always been about. And bring your friends!



Jill and John Goddard will be holding a **coffee morning at 249 Uxbridge Road, Hampton on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 10.30a.m. to 12 noon.** RNLi souvenirs and Christmas cards will be on sale, as well as plants, books and cakes. Admission 50p. Donations of cakes, plants and books welcomed.

*Jill Goddard 020 8287 7438*

A NEW MILLENNIUM



A NEW START

THE APPEAL CURRENTLY STANDS AT  
**£2,144**

### WOMEN'S FORUM

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30p.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*

Tea and cakes will be served afterwards  
All are welcome

### CHILDREN SOCIETY BOXES 1998-9

I have sent the Children's Society a cheque for £378.10 representing the money collected in your boxes for the last year. A very big thank you to the 23 box holders who contributed this money. We have not yet counted the Sunday School box, but that last year, was the largest single contributor! Have you got a box by your front door? Just 5 pence change per day would provide the Children's society with over £18 each year! Please contact Pip or Anne Rowett (Tel: 020 8892 4736) if you would like a box.

*Pip Rowett*



## HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

We are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Methodist church Hall, Stanley Road, Teddington from 10.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.

BRIC-A-BRAC, CAKES, ETC. AND RAFFLE.

ALL ARE WELCOME

*Megan Parry*



There is much to report on in this month's *Around the Spire*. Firstly our congratulations to Elizabeth Hodges on winning the J14 single sculls in the National Championships - very well done!

Ann Rowett has retired from her work as a physiotherapist for Hounslow and Spelthorne Health Authorities - we wish her great enjoyment of her new found leisure time.

Sadly we say goodbye to the Haddens - Maud, Paul, Andy, Stuart and Sarah. They are moving to Sunningdale - best wishes to them.

Moya and John Meredith Smith have become proud grandparents. Their new baby grandson Julian was born to Laurance and Lewis. Love and congratulations to all the family, and also to Ann and Peter Hale on the birth of their grand daughter, Alexandra, to Andrew and Caroline.

We send our love to Ruth Gostling who became ill and had to be admitted to hospital while on holiday in France. She was brought home to the Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor. We were sad to hear of this sorry end to their trip and hope she will be well again soon.

Our thanks to the choir and friends from St. Frances de Sales who helped in our Patronal celebrations by singing on St. James's Day.

Best wishes to Hampton Community College, formerly Rectory School, as they begin a new stage in their life, offering various courses and activities to the community as well as continuing as our local secondary school.

75<sup>th</sup> Birthday greetings to Hal Severn in September, and many congratulations to Vera and Stan Bannister on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Many more years of happiness.

Our Harvest Festival this year will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. All the proceeds will go to the £2000 in 2000 appeal. The theme will be "Water", in keeping with the main aim of the appeal for primary health care in Tanzania - safe, clean water for the people there.

Charity Christmas Cards will be on sale in the hall after the service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

## BAPTISMAL TEA PARTY

Our annual **Baptismal Tea Party** for all who have been baptised at St. James in the last two years, and their families, will be held on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 3p.m. in the Church Hall.**

Invitations will be sent out to all concerned, but all are invited as this is a wonderful occasion for those who worship at St. James.

### DATES TO NOTE IN SEPTEMBER

- 2 Martyrs of Papua New Guinea 1901 and 1942  
14.00 Holy Communion
- 3 Gregory the Great
- 5 09.30 Children's Eucharist
- 8 Birth of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12 Holy Cross Day (transferred)
- 13 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople 407  
20.00 PCC Meeting
- 16 Ninian, Bishop of Galloway 432
- 17 Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen
- 19 St. Matthew the Apostle (transferred)  
From 15.00 Baptismal Tea party
- 24 Ember Day
- 25 Ember Day  
12.00 noon to 14.00 Antique Show in aid of £2000 in 2000
- 26 St. Michael & All Angels (transferred)
- 30 Jerome, Translator of Scriptures

### ERATUM

Please note that Freda's phone number is 941 4424  
and not as on the Church Staff and Officers page  
in the front of this issue

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**FROM THE REGISTERS WILL APPEAR NEXT MONTH**

**COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE: 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**