

Flags. I wonder if you have been as amazed as I have this year at the burgeoning number of flags, particularly English flags, that have appeared during the summer. I did wonder whether they were first and foremost for the Queen's Golden Jubilee but I guess really they were primarily about the England football team in the World Cup. It just seems so very un-English. It is very rare that we see a St. George's flag, the flag of England, and I wonder what it evokes in us when we do see it. But it is not only flags that have borne English football teams' hopes, and the fans' hopes, aloft this summer. Painted faces, every article of clothing is available in the form of the English flag and so much more besides. Even now despite England not winning the World Cup there are still a few remnant flags to be seen, albeit rather bedraggled, dampened and dirtied. I heard recently on the radio that the United States of America had imported 20 million flags since the events of September 11th 2001.

So just what do flags do for us? Clearly their origin lay in military history. The flag was a visible sign of who belonged to whom on the battleground. It was a rallying point for the troops to see and to gather around. It was a sign to follow into battle. To plunder the flag from the opposite side was a great achievement and carried a sense of victory. Our English flag, St. George's cross, is of course readily identifiable because of its simplicity but don't let's forget that it is first and foremost a cross. Much of the story of St. George is 'mythical' in the best sense of that word. It is about a Palestinian Christian who was martyred for his faith in Christ in about the year 304. He had absolutely nothing to do with England and is venerated throughout the Eastern part of the church in particular. His tale was brought back to England as a result of the Crusaders travelling through the Holy Land, but the cross, in red to mark the martyrdom of George, has somehow come to be the very symbol of England.

Sunday by Sunday we carry a cross into church at the beginning of worship and out of church at the end of worship, making the point that we follow Christ in our worship and in our lives. We walk behind the cross and this is not an act of pomp, it is a very real symbol of the fact that we do walk behind and in the footsteps of the cross of Christ. We follow in Christ's way. I guess I am fortunate enough to have grown up in a generation where the flag of England has not been synonymous with having to go to battle. However, the cross we carry before us does carry a sense of struggle. That struggle is to find Christ's way in the world today. It is what St. Paul talks about as a spiritual battle that we do have to tussle with 'principalities and powers', structures, institutions which are not as our Christian faith dictates they should be.

I readily admit I am not much of a flag person but I do think we have an opportunity with the flag of St. George as our symbol, to make the point that it is the cross of Christ which determines our identity as Christians in the world today. Remember the words in the Gospel of St. John: "God so loved the world that he gave his son Jesus Christ". Our faith doesn't detach us from the world or separate us from the world but rather gives us critical solidarity in the world. Walking behind the cross is never going to be easy but neither was it easy for Jesus. Why should we expect it to be any different for us to follow him?

Brian Leathard

FESTIVAL WEEKEND

St. James's Festival Weekend (5th to 7th July) was a splendid occasion, with something for everyone. Our organist, Christopher Cromar, started the weekend with a marvellous organ recital on the Friday evening. A member of the audience complimented Christopher with the words "that was absolutely stunning", and indeed it was. On Saturday evening the Apocalypse Singers provided a feast of music and song, as did the church choir and The Travellers Band at Family Communion on Sunday morning.

The culmination of the weekend was a Grand Family Barbecue on Sunday evening. About 130 people, across all ages from as young as 4 months, enjoyed fine food and drink, jazz music and fun activities that included a golf putting teaser and a bouncy castle. The youngsters especially enjoyed the chance to throw wet sponges at the unfortunate person in the stocks, including Brian as the first victim!

After his drenching, Brian launched the "Opening Our Doors" Appeal. The first donation to be received was from the Brownies (thank you ladies!), and within a few days we had received donations and promises worth well over £6000. A great start!

SUMMER ORGAN RECITAL

Friday 23rd August 8 p.m.

NICOLE MARANE

(Eastman School of Music, New York)

Programme includes music by Bach and Vierne

Admission £5 (concessions £3)



Advance Notice:

12th October Dream Auction
23rd November Bazaar

Make a note in your diary now!

A YEAR IN NOTTING DALE

It is just over a year since we moved to Notting Dale, and I can say, in all honesty that I have never known a shorter year! One of our first jobs was to get our girls, Rose and Katrina, settled into school. Rose had already been initiated into North Kensington culture as she started at Holland Park School a couple of weeks before we moved. Katrina was not so fortunate. She spent the last few weeks of the summer term at Avondale Park School, which is about a hundred yards from our house. This turned out to be a baptism of fire as Avondale ward is one of the most deprived in London. So it is that Avondale Park School has about 75 % pupils on free school dinners and most of them living in social housing.

The girls have done well to cope with all the changes expected at school, but the most difficult thing for them to cope with is having a Mum who is a "vicar"! The worst thing in the world is for me to wear my collar to a school meeting. One day I was asked to go in and speak to the children about my work in the parish. I had great fun telling Katrina I was going to arrive in my long black cloak and cassock.

The parish is busy and is made up of a very diverse community. We have two churches and a community project, which is run as a separate company. The church has a long history of being associated with education and social needs and this is reflected in the work of the community centre and also the strong ties with the church school. I visit the school twice a week to take assemblies and hear readers. Because of this, and because I am a governor at Avondale Park School, children all over the parish are constantly calling out to me in the streets. I am hopeless at remembering names but I have become very good at smiling with a look of absolute recognition while not having a clue who a child is!

One of the most exciting things that has happen since we have been here is the development of a community garden. The church and vicarage were built as part of a Victorian "social services". The vicar at that time organised the building of a mini complex where people with low income and no education could come to learn and socialise. At that time, Notting Dale was almost exclusively slums, and the famous Avondale Park was an open sewer. High rise flats are now in place of the slums and gardens are few and far between. The garden has been laid out in the grounds of the church and centre and we hope it will be enjoyed by the whole community.

I was ordained priest on 30th June at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington High Street. It was wonderful to share that day with friends from Hampton Hill. I miss you all very much.

Don't forget, everyone is always welcome to visit, so please call in if you ever venture into the big smoke.

Love to all

Alison Hampton and Family



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1902

Extracts from the August Issue



MY DEAR FRIENDS,

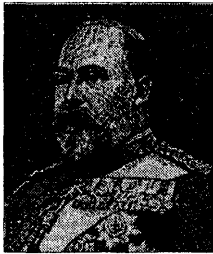
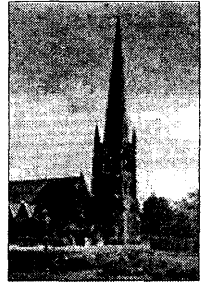
As usual July has been a month of parochial festivities, and notwithstanding some anxiety about the weather, these have passed off under most favourable conditions.

The Flower Show was held in the Manor House Grounds on the 16th ult. The flowers were not equal to what we are accustomed to see on these occasions, but the Cottagers' and children's classes were better than we have ever had before.

The prizes were most kindly distributed by Lady Hay.

The great event of the month, so far as our Church is concerned, was our Dedication Festival on St. James' Day. The Church was as usual beautifully decorated, and the services suited to the occasion. Many kind friends sent flowers or lent plants, and there was no lack of willing helpers to arrange them. The day has not yet arrived when crowds come to these services, but the numbers increase, and one day the desired end will be reached, when all who love their Church will show their gratitude by honouring its birthday. The eloquent sermon in the evening by the Rev. Moore Neligan will not soon be forgotten by those who heard it.

The Children's Procession in the afternoon was extremely picturesque. 560 children took part in it, and every fourth child carried a flag. Preceded by the Sunbury Art Works Band it marched up Windmill Road, along High Street and Park Road to the Church. The tradespeople and residents on the route most kindly put out their coronation banners which pleased the children and greatly increased the effect. The Day and Sunday School Teachers were present in full force, and they and many other willing helpers gave ungrudging assistance at the tea and in the games afterwards. The numbers present in the course of the evening, including the children, were considerably over 1000. On the whole it was the most successful festival we have had for many years.



We began last month under the cloud cast over us all by the King's distressing illness. We enter upon this month in the sunshine of his marvellous recovery. When our beloved sovereign lay low, all Britons turned to God in prayer that he might be raised up again. To-day we turn to God in heartfelt thanksgiving that our prayer is answered. The postponed Coronation is fixed to take place on Saturday, the 9th inst. There will be a short Special Service in the Church at 11 a.m. to correspond with that at Westminster Abbey, and special prayers will be offered on the Sunday following in the services.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,
CHARLES R. JOB.

THE UN AND LOCAL SCHOOLS

St. James is an affiliate of the United Nations Association (UNA), an organisation that exists to promote the ideals of the UN, and one of the main activities of the local Twickenham and Richmond Branch of UNA has involved working with local schools.

State secondary schools are obliged to teach Citizenship from this September and UNA had successfully lobbied for the specific mention of the UN in the new curriculum. It now sits along side membership of Europe and the Commonwealth as part of a grand concept of Global Citizenship in the new curriculum.

This term has seen Teddington School and The Mall School in Twickenham research Citizenship using the UN's work with poverty as the topic. The local UNA Branch has been helpful in much of the preparatory work here using well-researched UNA materials. Both schools have had local M.P. Dr. Vince Cable make introductory talks and Vince is a keen supporter, having been President of the London and S.E. Region of UNA. The classes have each led up to a rather grand event, a "Model UN General Assembly", where delegations from different countries debated their causes, just like the real thing, trying to agree on UN resolutions which will successfully tackle world poverty.

Pupils meet many of the new curriculum's requirements including the skills of research and analysis of information, development of arguments, making ethical judgements, negotiation and persuasive speaking. The ideal of teaching children about the UN, and about global issues like poverty or peacekeeping and most importantly about how they personally might make a difference, is surely worthwhile and we therefore hope this project will run and run.

Dennis Wilmot
Twickenham and Richmond UN Association

RON BRIDGES

The commemoration service for Ron Bridges on the 1st of July was an occasion for us all to remember, and be thankful for, his life of generous and unfailing service to his family, his friends, the church and the community.

Most of Ron's work before his retirement was with the Patent Office. He was keenly concerned with the personal problems of some of the staff who worked for him; he also saw a similar need in the parish. In 1974 Rupert Brunt, the vicar, suggested that it would be helpful for some parishioners to have some training in counselling. Ron and Roma, a husband and wife team, joined a group of twelve undertaking this

training. Subsequently they were founder members of the parish's "Wayside Monday Centre", offering company and a listening ear for those in difficulty. Under Ron's guidance this later became the present "Open House" with a wider and more general social purpose. His friendliness, patience, common sense and practical competence made him an ideal leader for these activities.

The skill and precision required of a patent examiner was brought to bear when Ron became the parish Stewardship Recorder. Meticulous and innovative, he computerised the records, and week by week ensured that the stewardship and other giving was precisely accounted for, recorded and banked. The intricacy of reclaiming income tax was handled with his unfailing efficiency. In due course he handed over a smoothly-running system to his successor.

Ron became a churchwarden in 1982. Until that year churchwardens had an indefinite period of office. Although we had been excellently served by Len Rockliffe and Bill Robinson for many years before 1982, at Ron's suggestion the P.C.C. decided that it would ease the task and widen the pool of expertise if, in future, churchwardens were to have only a five-year period of office. Thus Ron served until 1987, firstly with Bill Robinson, later with Eila Severn. Much was accomplished during that period, and starting a most valuable tradition, much work that Ron had done as a warden he continued after he retired from that office. In particular he continued the demanding work of Stewardship Recorder. He also edited "The Spire" for several years, and continued to support "Open House".

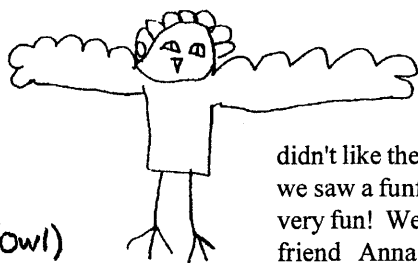
Ron was always a prominent and invaluable figure in parish administration. However, his deepest concern, perhaps less obvious, was even more important to both himself and the parish. A committed Christian, he studied and worked with groups, deepening his own faith and guiding others. His death is a bitter loss to his family and especially to Roma who supported him in all that he did. His warm friendship will be sadly missed by us all, but his example and his work will live on.

R.W.W

Roma and family wish to thank all those who so kindly sent messages of sympathy and prayerful support. These they have found a great comfort.

Roma also thanks all those kind friends who took her to the hospital, and those who visited Ron separately, during those difficult three months. Ron was always delighted to recognise another voice and I'm sure this was a great comfort to him.

When we saw the Queen



(Owl)

First we had a long walk to Bushy Park. When we got there we saw some owls. Next we saw the army. They were pretending to have a battle and Henry didn't like the big bangs! We walked around. In one corner we saw a funfair. Isobel and I went on a high swing. It was very fun! We had a picnic on the grass. Then I saw my best friend Anna and Henry's best friend Patrick. Then we heard the Queen was coming so we went to the gate. Everyone kept shouting "We want the Queen". I was sitting on the top of Daddy's shoulders. When the Queen came everyone cheered and waved. She had a yellow dress on and a big black car. She sat next to Prince Philip. Then sadly we had to walk home.

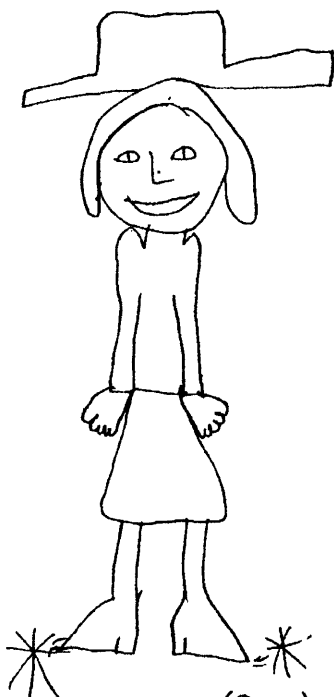
Olivia Nettleton, age 7

I was my class representative and we went by train. I dressed up as a Cavalier. The music from the carousel was really loud. We saw the Queen and her husband and took photographs. When we got back we all had an ice-lolly.

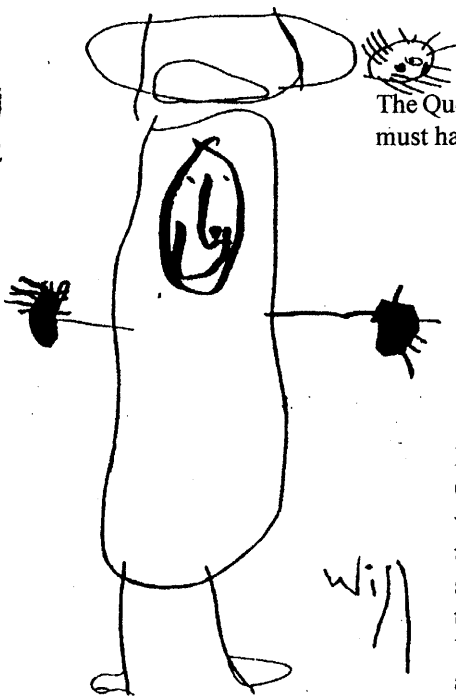
Alice Coaker-Basdell, age 7

we Had a day off
School. We Went to
Bushy park on our
bikes. Archie Went on
MUMS bike.
My Mum poot the
picnic in her basket.
we met Lots of friends
I danced with some
teddies. We saw the
Queen she smiled at
me.

Emily Taplin



(Queen)



The Queen was wearing my favourite colour -- yellow. She must have known!

William Hird, age 4



I was so excited wen we got to the plas whear the Queen was going to be. The ferst ride that we went on was the bouncy castle then we went on the merry-go-round then we went on one of the swings that to me looked like boats. In the quooe to get on the merry-go-round I sor my friend Nick. We bort two flags one big one and one smool one and thats wen we went to see the Queen. Then we went to have are pic-nic. Wen it was time to go I was upset but mum sed every day comes to an end if it didnt we wod stil beon the ferst day of life. So I got up and we went home. By by.

Emma-Lee Peterson, age 6



I went to Bushey Park and I saw the Queen. When everybody was waiting for the Queen to arrive, they shouted "We want Queen, Queen".

Isobel Nettleton, age 6



WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BOOTH

One Sunday morning as I was leaving church I met a Salvation Army Officer coming from the Teddington Citadel. I thought how little I knew about the Army except for its music, hostels for the homeless, sandwiches and hot drinks for down and outs, and the search for missing persons. On the tally of the saintly this month there occurs the names of William and Catherine Booth, co-founders of this great evangelical movement.

William Booth, born Nottingham 1829, became a street preacher when he was fifteen. Shortly after arriving in London in 1846 he began preaching on street corners in the East End. Totally lacking theological or 'bookish' education he felt neither embarrassment nor inhibition though he was often insulted and sometimes assaulted. He spoke from the heart of his task for God - "Go to the people with the message of salvation, get them within earshot, push them towards the given end and employ those you have saved to save others." He met, and in 1855 married a fellow religious revivalist Catherine Mumford who felt strongly that women should have rights and responsibilities that were equal to those of men. She wrote "the thing which next to the revelation of salvation endears Christianity to my heart is what it has done and is destined to do for my own sex." Catherine became an ardent preacher and looked ahead to the time when women were given equal responsibilities with men in preaching and the work for which the Salvation Army was to become well known. Indeed William Booth said in later life "my best men are women".

Booth's Whitechapel Christian Mission was re-organised in 1878, renamed the Salvation Army and preached repentance. Vocal and instrumental music played an important part in services which echoed with clapping and shouts of joy. As the Army grew in strength the Booths became aware of the alcoholism that added to poverty and disease in the East End. Catherine in particular worked for the rehabilitation of women whose desperate plight often drove them to prostitution. The soup kitchens that fed the poor became an extension of the Army's mission to save souls.

Inspired by William and Catherine's fight against poverty the work of the Salvation Army developed into a powerful enterprise. When parliament proposed that the age of consent for girls should be lowered to the age of ten Catherine wrote to Queen Victoria that she "could not have believed that in this country such a discussion among gentlemen should have taken place". Cheap food depots were opened and in 1887 the Army sold 116,400 gallons of soup, 46980 gallons of tea and 192.5 tons of bread. The Lost Persons Bureau was set up in an effort to trace the thousands who disappeared into and from the Victorian cities, William Booth became interested in prison reform and the Army provided workshops for the unemployed, hostel accommodation for men and places in their homes for single mothers.

"The Salvation Army" wrote Roy Hattersley "can boast a million little miracles - wounded soldiers in the front line given tea and sandwiches; drunks sleeping under hedges persuaded to dry out, wash and look for work; girls escaping from tyrannical parents persuaded to live under friendly supervision rather than in the unprotected company of pimps. It is not necessary to believe in sanctification to admire and applaud the work of social redemption".

Margaret Taylor

OUR NEW ORGANIST

Christopher Cromar was born in Scotland in 1977 and studied at the Paris Conservatoire. His organ teachers have included Naji Hakim, Nicolas Kynaston and Marie-Louise Langlais. Acclaimed as one of the most brilliant organists of his generation, Christopher has given recitals at Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral, King's College, Cambridge, Notre Dame and Sainte Clotilde, Paris. He was appointed organist at St. James's at Easter this year.



Last year Christopher gave the world premiere of a new work by Errollyn Wallen at the Oundle International Festival and subsequently gave the work its London premiere at St. Paul's Cathedral, after which Errollyn Wallen wrote ". . . Christopher Cromar really is a most brilliant young musician". He has also given first performances of new works (or newly discovered works) by composers as varied as Jean Langlais, Naji Hakim, Judith Bingham and Graham Fitkin.

Equally at home in earlier repertoire, Christopher is particularly admired for his Bach interpretations and will devote a recital to this towering figure at Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair on 30th July at 1 p.m. Christopher regularly gives recitals on both organ and harpsichord throughout Europe and future plans include recitals in France, Japan and the USA.

ALMOST ON THE DOORSTEP

It's just a small step from her Uxbridge Road home to The Greenwood Centre where Scotswoman Fiona Brennan has recently taken up the Directorship of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group (V.C.G.).



Fiona is excellently suited to this high-profile and exacting task. As a Hampton Hill resident she knows the locality well, and her work with no fewer than five national charities has given her extensive experience of the voluntary sector.

Daughter Kirsty is also very much a part of the community, attending Hampton Hill Junior School and belonging to the Brownies pack based at St. James's Church.

Fiona is approaching her assignment very positively:

" The Greenwood Centre is firmly established as a focal point of health and wellbeing in the Hamptons and I have been greatly encouraged by the warm and friendly welcome I have received from the Centre staff and our many volunteers. We have a number of exciting new projects in the pipeline and I look forward to helping to enhance V.C.G.'s reputation for innovatively matching needs to resources."

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at The Greenwood Centre or in the community (volunteer drivers especially welcome) will find it a most rewarding way of putting their skills to use in a good cause.

Ring Fiona on 020 8941 3902 or email her on fiona@greenwoodcentre.co.uk

CHURCH BAZAAR

The months are ticking by and **Saturday 23rd November** will be here before we know it. That is the date of the **Church Bazaar**. We want it to be bigger and better than ever before as the proceeds will be going to the '**Opening Our Doors**' project. We need your help and ideas please. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 18th September at 7.30 p.m. at 143 Burtons Road to discuss the organisation of the bazaar. Please come along with **ideas and offers of help** or telephone Wendy Baker on 020 8979 3654. Thank you very much.

LIVING CHURCHYARDS

The following article is from the magazine of St. James's Church in Rowledge. Perhaps we should give more thought to preserving the old city churchyards rather than the present tendency to over-tidy and regiment them like the council cemeteries.

The 'Living Churchyard Project' has the objective of raising awareness of the vital and growing importance of churchyards and other burial grounds as havens for wildlife in an increasingly hostile environment. The object is to achieve this without losing sight of their primary function as dignified resting places for the dead and places of peace and comfort for those who mourn. This year the project is concentrating its efforts on giving more help and advice to medieval churches on how to make the most of their special environments. The project operates with the help of local wildlife trusts in conjunction with parish councils and local people. A book about wildlife in churchyards is available from Church House Bookshop. The old churchyard at the back of St. James is managed to promote wildlife and in a way sympathetic to its needs. This is why it is only cut back in the autumn and late winter.



*Sing with your voices, sing with your hearts,
sing with your lips, sing with your lives,
be yourselves what you sing.
If you live good lives
you are his praise and his song.*

Saint Augustine of Hippo



On 27th July, Rachele Lloyd, daughter of David and Jennifer, will marry Kevan Walker at St. James's, and on the same day Oliver Taylor, son of Ian and Helen, will be married to Elizabeth Julien in Suffolk. We send our congratulations and best wishes to both these couples.

Kath Brooks would like to thank everyone who sent good wishes and cards while she was in hospital. They were most encouraging.

The Christian Aid garden at Hampton Court Flower Show was very popular with visitors. It showed how the landless in Brazil struggle to regain the farm land, contrasting the harsh landscape of a shantytown with the luscious planting of a co-operative organic farm.

We send our sympathy to Jack and Ruth Gostling on the recent death of Jack's brother Peter in Birmingham.

As a result of recent boundary changes, the parish of St. James has expanded. We have gained a number of roads around Wellington Road to the northeast of the old parish. Paul Peterken has been exploring the area with map and clipboard, so that we get a good idea of all the new addresses. He thinks there are 380 new houses, 10 new roads, and one new golf course. Welcome everyone!

DANCE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

This group was formerly known as the Liturgical Dance group.

Our meetings will be re-convening in the church in September on Monday evenings at 7.15 p.m. We have recently changed the format to include more discussion, music and prayer as well as dance.

Following biblically based discussion/study we use appropriate music to inspire us in developing interpretive and imaginative movements.

It is planned to meet for approximately six to eight weeks at a time and further details of the dates of the meetings will be found in the weekly church notices on Sundays.

If any one is interested and would like more information with a view to joining the group, please ask any of the members, or Brian.

FROM THE JUNE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 2 Lucy Catherine Napier, 14 Park Place, Hampton Hill
16 Thomas Nicholas Barber,

FUNERALS

- 17 Cyril Brown, 3 Bayleaf Close 84
26 Andrew Ansell, 61 Mason Close, Hampton 48
27 David Thorpe, 5 Carmon Close 90
28 Irene Gillingwater, Laurel Dene 89

INTERMENT OF ASHES

- 24 Ellen Wile, 97 Burtons Road, Hampton Hill 82

DATES TO NOTE IN AUGUST

- 4 The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord (tr)
5 Oswald King of Northumbria, martyr, 642
8 Dominic, priest and founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221
9 Mary Sumner, founder of the Mother's Union, 1921
10 Laurence, deacon and martyr, Rome, 258
11 11th Sunday after Trinity
12 Florence Nightingale, nurse and social reformer, 1910
13 Maximilian Kolbe, friar and martyr, 1941
18 12th Sunday after Trinity
20 Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, teacher, 1153 and William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, 1912 and 1890
25 St. Bartholomew the Apostle (tr)
26 Bank Holiday. Have a great day!
27 Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387
28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo teacher, 430
29 The beheading of John the Baptist
30 John Bunyan, spiritual writer, 1688
31 Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 651

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH AUGUST