

WELCOME

Energy-saving begins at church

Shining a light on ways to tackle climate change

Last summer saw the launch of *Shrinking the Footprint*, the Church of England's campaign to enable the whole Church to address in faith, practice and mission, the issue of climate change.

This involves initiatives and partnerships developing at a national level and working locally and regionally to support individuals, parishes and dioceses wanting to respond to this crucial challenge.

The campaign first aims to encourage all dioceses and parishes to produce an 'energy audit' to help them reduce their energy consumption. All 16,000 churches are being asked to record their energy use and to find ways of reducing this prior to a survey in 2008. Here at St James', Catherine Gash and Janet Nunn have

begun that task, aided by the Parochial Church Council.

The campaign has distributed a simple audit for churches to help identify where savings can be made. The campaign's organisers want examples of 'good practices' and action being taken by churches. A few are fitting alternative energy sources, such as ground source heat pumps, solar panels or wind turbines, many more are changing light bulbs, renewing boilers, installing water butts and organising car sharing.

Churches may not be major users of energy, but they can be an example to their congregations and to the community. From next month we'll be printing tips on ways we can help - while saving money.

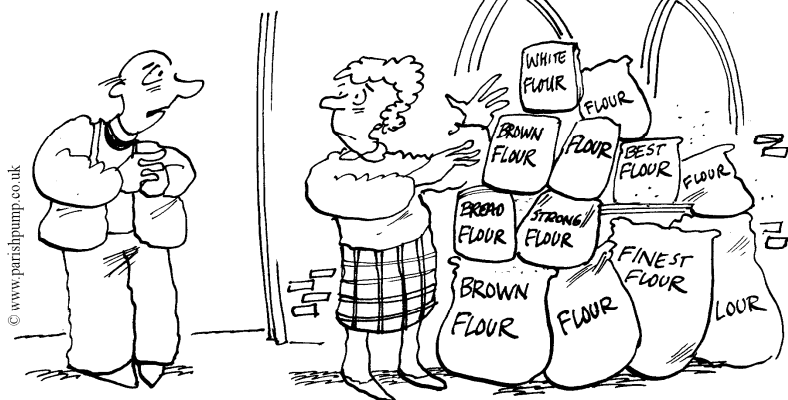
Join a group exploring South Africa in 2008

If you are interested in joining a small group of people next May on a 19-day trip to South Africa, starting in Johannesburg and visiting such sights as the Kruger National Park, Natal Battlefields, Swaziland, Drakensberg Mountains, Tsitsikamma, Cape Town and much more, then please contact either Gwynneth Lloyd (020 8943 0709) or Griselda Barrett (020 8979 3331) for further details.

■ David Hope is leading his first pilgrimage, since retiring as Archbishop of York, to the Holy Land next April, visiting all the main sites associated with the life of Jesus. For a tour brochure and booking form telephone 0845 610 6447.

■ In this country, and again next April, there's a week-long holiday exploring some of England's finest cathedrals. For a tour brochure telephone 0845 610 6420.

PULPIT HUMOUR



...er, 'sorry about this - but I think I completely misunderstood you on the telephone when you called to ask for permission to hold a festival in church...

☐ NOTES TO NOTE

Lost a copy of *The Spire*? Want to read an article again? All is not lost. Magazines are being put on the website. Whole magazines from January 2006 are online now, as are some of the archived magazines (this section will gradually be increased). Just go to:
Spire Magazine >Magazine Archives.

Access *The Spire* magazine in different ways.

Did you know that our magazine is also available on a cassette tape or could be enlarged on request?

If you would like it sent by email, send your details to:
p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk.
It is also available on our website.



All copy for the next issue of *The Spire* must be with us by: **6 August**. Send to the Parish Office (details in the left-hand column).

LEADER

I'm not scared of change, but I am of not changing!



PETER VANNOZZI

Is it possible for any useful thing to be accomplished without change? These are not the words of a contemporary politician desiring to change their political party, country, National Health Service, education system or whatever, but rather the words of a Roman emperor, Marcus Aurelius (121-180.)

Aurelius was a philosopher as well as a soldier and the leader of the then most powerful empire the world had ever known. He had a point. Any action we take changes what already is.

If I choose to walk up the road to the shops I change in the process simply by the physical exertion of getting up and walking. I change by encountering someone I may not have met before or by hearing some piece of news that was new to me. I change by reading the paper I bought and discovering there a fresh perspective on widely reported events. Given all this, given the inevitability of change, why is it so many of us find change so difficult?

It may be that change is hard as it can seem to erode values we believe in passionately. Or because much-loved and familiar customs disappear or are belittled. Or because we are simply comfortable and do not want to be disturbed. All sorts of changes may unsettle us from the loss of a corner shop to a change of neighbour, to a change of the ethnic make-up of our area, to a change of government.

The Church, surely a bastion against change, not surprisingly finds change particularly hard along with other institutions. For members of the Church of England, change has particularly been evident in the past few decades with new services and women being ordained. Yet should the Church be anti-change?

If it is, it ignores the experience of Jesus and his disciples and simply adopts the conservatism of whatever age it may happen to be. Why should the Church be rather more positive about change?

This month, on August 6, a festival is kept, that of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Matthew, Mark and Luke all record in their gospels how Jesus went apart with his disciples. He did this often. Yet this occasion was different. Jesus takes with him Peter, James and John and they go up a mountain.

There's a clue here that something was about to happen. In the Old Testament the mountain in the wilderness was where God made himself known. Something is about to happen of importance.

'It is only by change that the disciples grasp who Jesus is... and appreciate the cross.'

We read that Jesus' appearance is transfigured - something of the glory of God shines out from him, and he is seen standing with Moses and Elijah, two great Old Testament figures and symbols of two different aspects of Old Testament religion. Moses points to the Law and Elijah to the prophets. This scene is depicted in our lovely east window in St. James' given in memory of the first vicar of the parish.

The disciples hear a voice proclaiming that this is the beloved Son of God. Peter wants to stay there on the mountain, immersed in the wonderful experience, but that is impossible. There is a journey that Jesus must accomplish - to the cross. What has this to do with change?

It is only by change that the disciples grasp who Jesus is. It is only when they eventually change their attitudes and cease to expect Jesus to be a violent, military ruler that they can appreciate the cross. It is only by changing from frightened to confident people that they can be real disciples. Without change, they would be stuck in an old mindset which does not free them for new life, but rather imprisons them in a false way of viewing the world.

Change as a theme or emphasis is present in Christianity whether the Church or Christians like it or not. Again and again we read of moving from old to new, darkness to light, death to life. When we consider 'rites of passage' (see this month's centre pages) they have change at their heart. So in baptism we change as we join the Church and make explicit that we are children of God. In marriage we change as two people become joined as one and begin a new life. If the Church and Christians are not willing to countenance change in their lives, something is missing.

This is not to say that all change is good, that the latest fad has to be adopted. (There is something quite sad about the Church catching up with the latest management speak, for example, ten years after the rest of society has moved on to something new.) Yet whatever our age, attitude, place in life, gender, and so on, there is always the possibility of more, and the Transfiguration of Jesus points me to that and gives me hope.

I do not much like the idea of being stuck as I am for the rest of my life with all the limitations that implies!

One politician's view of this is seen in these words from the late President John F. Kennedy: 'The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by sceptics or cynics whose horizon are limited by obvious realities. We need men and women who can dream of things that never were...'



The monthly column of news and events from Hampton Hill and beyond

Thank you to everyone who helped with our **St. James' Day** celebrations. The sun shone, the barbecue was delicious and there was a steady stream of visitors up the spire!

We are pleased to report that **Tina Bunce** is making steady progress after her hip operation.

Congratulations also to Tina and Michael on the **arrival** of their granddaughter **Tallulah Rose**, a daughter for Corinne and Charles and sister for Scarlett Lily.

At the end of July, our **Scouts** will be off to the **District Centenary Camp** at Phasel's Wood, near King's Langley. Over 100 members of our group, including Cubs, Beavers and leaders, will be there for the sunrise ceremony on 1 August, when Scouts all over the world will celebrate 100 years of Scouting. During the week, they will go visit the **World Jamboree** at Hylands Park, Essex, where our Group Scout Leader, **Richard Moody**, is helping to organise the water sports. Hampton Hill Scout **Alexander Lloyd** will be one of only two British Scouts at a commemorative camp on Brownsea Island.

Congratulations to **Jane Gibson** on achieving outstanding examination results at the Inns of Court School of Law. She will be called to the Bar in October, Lincoln's Inn.

Do you have any news to share? We always welcome contributions, care of the Parish Office.

Registers

For June:

Baptisms

24 Callum Matthew Alexander, Hampton Hill.

Funerals

5 Victor John MacColl, Hampton Hill, 63.

22 Polly Dawes, Teddington, 57.

The circle of life: rites

Are we on our own in the universe? To put it more sharply, am I on my own in the universe? This is not a question resulting from watching the agonising of *Doctor Who*, the last Time Lord, but rather a simple and yet profound human question. The Christian answer is a robust 'No!' We do not exist alone. We do not travel alone. God is with us every step of the way, and we can walk our way through life with other human beings, too. We can do so as members of the community of faith, the Church. At key points in our life we are on the move and the Church is on the move, too, responding to our basic human needs and offering the grace of God in them. It offers 'rites of passage.' 'Passage' suggests movement and journey and a 'rite' is a ceremony that helps us to make that movement and go on that journey. Here, Peter Vannozzi explores some key 'rites of passage' for the Christian Church and part of what St. James' has offered since 1863 and continues to offer.

Baptism

The central aspect of a baptism is the use of water in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (The word 'baptism' literally means to 'dunk' or 'immerse' in water.) In the Anglican and other traditions the water is poured into a 'font' which comes from 'fountain': a bowl which can be made of metal, stone, glass, etc. and can be as simple or elaborate as desired. In baptism we journey. The service speaks of our separation from all that is wrong in the world, and our reception into a community which seeks to be centred on God. We join this community, the Church, through baptism. Once 'in' the journey continues. We are to grow and change and then bring others to know that God is love as we have come to know this. This rite of passage is literally the beginning of a new life. For those baptised young, this is at the beginning of their physical life. For older people, it comes later, but is still the start of something new, whatever their age.



Sharing in the rites of passage

In the first instance, any interest in any of the both should be addressed directly to the vicar, Peter Vannozzi. As this feature makes clear, the journey through life is one in which we are accompanied by the Church and by God.

Specifically at St. James' Church:
Baptism: no child is baptized without a visit first from a member of the congregation who will explain the service, and also be a friendly face within the church community. For two years after the baptism, the child will receive a card and be invited to a tea party to continue to celebrate their membership of the Church.

Confirmation: whether young or old, there is preparation for this. Separate groups for adults and young people look at the basics of Christianity.

Weddings: again, the couple are not on their own. Besides meeting individually with the vicar, couples will be invited to meet together to share common experiences and learn from one another.

Funerals: at the very least, anyone for whom a funeral is conducted by Peter will be visited first so that they can meet him, if they do not know him, and that the service can be as personal as possible. There are people, also, who can visit after a funeral if that is wished.

Confirmation

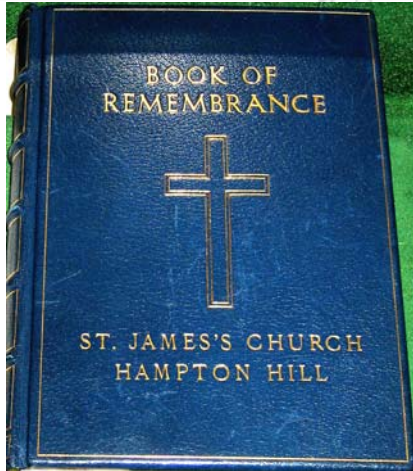
Confirmation is secondary to baptism, but is a way for the baptised person to affirm for themselves what was done for them at their baptism if it happened when they were an infant. If they were baptised as an adult it is perhaps more of an underlining with prayer of the choice that person has made to undertake a journey of faith. It is a rite of passage to confirm, strengthen, establish and secure the person as they walk their journey. The key outward sign at a Confirmation service is the laying on of hands by a bishop (or a priest in the Roman Catholic Church) pointing to the Holy Spirit coming down upon that person, and the touch of God upon that person's life. The bishop may also anoint the person with oil. Anointing is a very ancient sign of someone being set apart, and in the context of Confirmation underlines the very serious nature of the choice that has been made in being confirmed.



of passage

Funerals

There is a sense in which a funeral service is the end of a journey. It marks the ending of a person's physical life and human journey. Yet it is itself a series of journeys. If someone wishes it, the Church can accompany them through illness to the time of death and then on and through the funeral seeking to be supportive to bereaved people in the future. Any accompanying of people along this journey involves both the proper acknowledgement of the intensity of loss in this world yet also pointing to what is to come. We move from the human to the divine, from earth to heaven. We remember a specific life in the setting of a wider belief about the purpose of life and belief in God. Funeral services today are much more tailored to being personal for those who are bereaved than once was so and this is expressed in tributes, music, and so on. Yet still the Church journeys with people and points to the journey that continues to be made as a person draws ever closer to God even after the end of their physical journey. Be certain – we are not alone in the universe!



Weddings

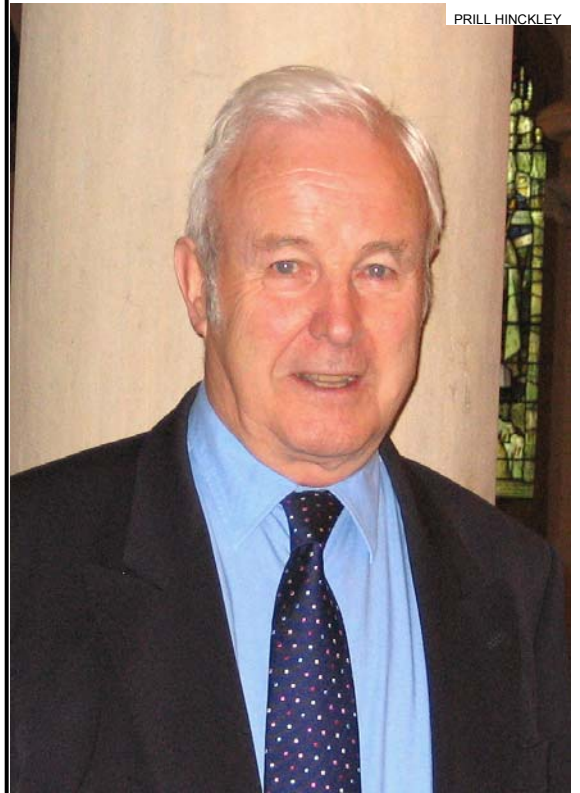
Unlike baptism, marriage is not for everyone though here the Church is again present on the journey, this time with a couple seeking love, support and prayer as they commit themselves to one another. A wedding is a great moment in life – joyous, but also solemn as two people pledge to be with one another until the end of their lives. A wedding is a very public occasion. A wedding dress of whatever style makes a bride rather obvious! In a wedding service there is a ritual of separation as bride and groom enter with their supporters, but are left alone with the minister to make their vows. They then leave the church together having journeyed together from being two single people to being a married couple. At St. James the couple walk the length of the church at the end of the service - their journey continues as they head out through their families and friends and out of the door, into the world. Briefly they have separated from that world, and now return to it in a new way. Just as in baptism we have the visible sign of water with spoken words so in marriage we have the visible sign of joined hands with spoken words. A ring or rings worn on a particular finger is further physical evidence of a new life that has begun.



YOURS FAITHFULLY

Peter Hale

PRILL HINCKLEY



Peter Hale writes: I did my National Service from 1951-3, then in 1954 joined the Metropolitan Police, serving 36 years on the driving side as Class 1, and the last 12 years on Thames Division. I met my wife Anne working at Marylebone Lane Police Station, and in 1960 we married. We were later blessed with two wonderful children, David and Caroline. They have since made us very proud in their respective careers of engineering and the law. They were both married at St James' Church, David to Jan, and Caroline to Andrew, who is also a lawyer. They have given us three lovely grandchildren, Jon, Amanda and Alexandra.

When and why did you come to St James?

We moved to the area in 1961 and still live in the same house with a few extra bricks added! Both our children were baptised at St James' Church, as were Jon and Alexandra. Our son David went through cubs, scouts and venture scouts.

When did you become a Christian?

I had a very religious upbringing, as my brother Clive and I were both looked after by our grandparents who took us to church on a regular basis. This continued when I went to boarding school, age seven, and I was confirmed, age 12, at Canterbury Cathedral.

What difference does being a Christian make to you?

Being a Christian is important to me, and it isn't just going to church. It is helping others in your day-to-day life, which was important in my career in the police, and since.

What do you most value about St James?

I value the friendship, it is an extended family. The church itself is beautiful, it is a landmark from Richmond Hill, and if you're lucky from the air!

We are most fortunate to have a new, caring and understanding vicar in Peter. If you read *The Spire*, and haven't experienced one of his uplifting, yet down to earth services, you are missing out. It is well worth giving it a try! And you will meet some good friends as I have, and be assured of a very warm welcome from Peter and his flock.

What is the most useful lesson you have learnt in life so far?

Love your neighbours, and do unto others as you would expect them to do unto you.

YOUNG SPIRE

Holiday Quiz

What do you know about churches?

Another rainy day? Not sure what to do?

Have a look at this quiz. If you need help with the answers you can look them up on our website.



- What is this? (on the left)
- How many sides has it?
- What is it made of?
- Where can you find it?



- What is this?
- What is it used for?
- Who uses it?



- What is this?
- Who plays it?
- What part of the church is it in?
- Who built it?
- When was it installed in our church?
- What are the words over the top of the pipes you can see from the Nave?

- When was St James' Church built?
- What was the name of our first vicar?
- Do you know where his grave is?
- How long was he our vicar?

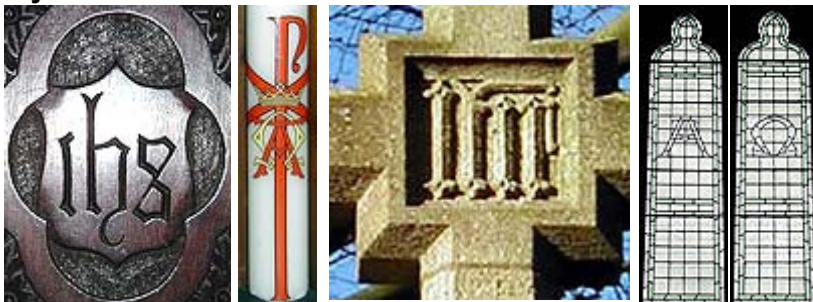
- **Belfry** - Is it part of a church tower or type of a window?
- **Corbel** - Is it a piece of music or a support for an arch?
- **Gargoyle** - Is it a fancy doorway or a decorated water-spout?
- **Lectern** - Is it a reading desk or a collection bag?

Stained Glass has been used for hundreds of years to add beauty and colour to our churches.

- What different things can you see in our stained glass windows?

- Where can you find the pulpit?
- Who generally uses it?
- What is it generally used for?
- What is it made of?
- What can you find on the pulpit?

Symbols



There are various symbols in the carvings, embroideries and stained glass of our church.

- Where can you find the symbols shown here?
- What does each one stand for?



JAYS NEWS

What we did in June

We first looked at an Epistle of Paul which emphasised how he was true to his firm belief that God had called and transformed him. We explored the theme of changing and how God wants us to be true to what we have been created to be. We learnt that there are different ways of experiencing and expressing God's love and power in our lives. In our games we did this by playing the True/False game and doing a Spot the Difference cartoon to show the odd one out.

We then looked at Faith and how it is important to be aware of faith in Jesus. We discussed Faith and what it meant to us in general terms and in every day life and came up with the following acronym:

F Forsaking
A All
I I
T Trust
H Him

Finally in June we looked at the story when Jesus healed the man who was mentally ill. We explored how not to judge people and how God is everywhere. Jesus met problems head-on and showed us that there is no situation that God cannot or will not be involved in, however, scary, dreadful or 'uncool'.

Mary



On 15 August we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus.

This picture is in our church as one of the beautiful mosaics. Can you colour the picture in the correct colours?

JAYS AT LARGE

Alexander Saul has just been for his first Karate grading which he passed gaining a red & white belt (he was white belt before).

Read any good books lately?

What will you be doing during the holidays? A recent survey discovered that people in Britain spend nearly half of their free time watching television. But what about reading? This is not as popular as watching television. However, it is a much better way to spend your leisure time as it is both entertaining and educational.



CHARITIES & LINKS COMMITTEE



Home from home in W12

The UR4Kids Breakfast Club

The Upper Room 4 Kids breakfast club is a welcome addition to childcare facilities on the White City Housing Estate. Operating in the church hall of SS Michael and George it swings into action from 06:30 every school day.

Since February 2004, the club has been providing a safe and friendly environment for children (aged five to 11) to play, socialise, and enjoy a full, nutritious breakfast before being accompanied to their various primary schools by the UR4Kids staff.



Ann Peterken received a very warm welcome when she visited the club on 5 July and was very impressed with the happiness and order that she found. In her photo

below, Bertrand Williams is seen playing with some of the youngsters. He has been site manager of the club since it started and is deeply respected by the children.



The club also provides an excellent forum for youth training and personal development. It depends on support from volunteer helpers, often young people from local secondary schools on work experience placements. Two 18-year-old helpers have been awarded National Millennium Volunteer Certificates and a third is well on the way.

St James has supported the Upper Room charity for many years and the UR4Kids club is part of its ever-broadening scope. The charity is dependent on funding from many grant-giving organisations, but given its Christian roots it is deeply appreciative of support and prayers from churches.

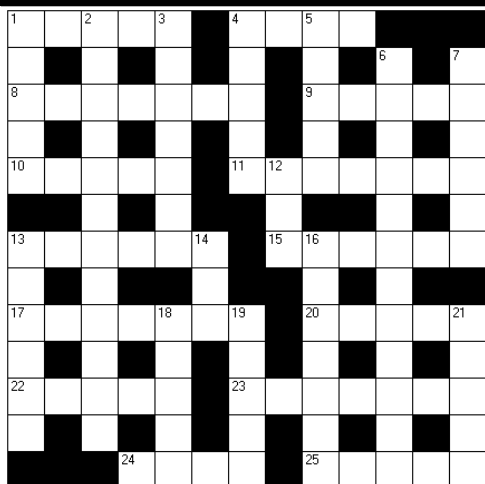
The vision and commitment of the Upper Room project manager, Bruce Marquart, never cease to inspire one. He can be contacted by email at: infoupperroom@yahoo.co.uk or by telephoning 020 8740 5688.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Great West Window depicts the Transfiguration of Christ



*To the Glory of God and in loving remembrance
Fitzroy John Fitzwygram first vicar of this parish 1863-1881
This window is erected by his parishioners and friends
"A faithful man and feared God"
He entered into rest August 13th 1881*



Crossword No 200708

Across

- 1 Animal ridden by Rebekah in Genesis ch. 24 (5)
- 4 The idol in Exodus ch. 32 was shaped like this animal (4)
- 8 Like the account written for Theophilus in Luke ch. 1 (7)
- 9 Parish priest (5)
- 10 I will send fire upon the ____ of Hazael (Am 1.4) (5)
- 11 Playhouse (American spelling) (7)
- 13 British persons (N Am slang) (6)
- 15 Parson (6)
- 17 Contravenes the sixth commandment (7)
- 20 Person in charge of an abbey (5)

- 22 ..the measuring line of ____ (Isa 34.11) (5)
- 23 Person in 1 Sam ch. 25 who sounds like a large bear (7)
- 24 Ten-stringed instrument in Psalm 33 (4)
- 25 Slang word for medals (5)

Down

- 1 Hazael took a thick one in 2 Kings ch. 8 (5)
- 2 June 24th (9,3)
- 3 Crime contrary to the eighth commandment (7)
- 4 Underground chapel (5)
- 5 Morning reception of visitors (5)

- 6 Person incapable of sustained attention (12)
- 7 Resting place of Noah's ark (6)
- 12 Jacob's was wrenched in Genesis ch. 32 (3)
- 13 Father of Noah in Luke ch. 3 (6)
- 14 Word of respect prefixed to the name of a knight (3)
- 16 ..devote yourself to the public ____ of Scripture (1 Ti 4.13) (7)
- 18 Written composition (5)
- 19 Moses made a bronze one in Numbers ch. 21 (5)
- 21 Stories told by old wives in 1 Timothy ch. 4 (5)

Answers to July Crossword (200707): Across 7 Rotten 8 Solemn 10 Numbers 11 Tribe 12 Eden 13 Jesse 17 Flask 18 Lama 22 Psalm 23 Obadiah 24 Images 25 Stanza Down 1 Cranmer 2 Stumped 3 Jewel 4 Hostess 5 Debir 6 Andes 9 Ascension 14 Slumber 15 Nations 16 Yashmak 19 Spain 20 Canal 21 Faith