

School holidays are over. The early morning trudge of children and parents to schools in the parish and beyond once again becomes a familiar sight. Our parish is lucky in having links with many schools - links which we value. The schools of the parish are remembered every month in our Prayer Cycle. Others too who are involved in education are to be found in our community; Head Teachers, Teachers, Governors, Classroom assistants, Ancillary staff and of course, students and parents.

Learning, however, doesn't stop when we leave school, college or university, nor does learning occur only in school, college or university. But so often we seem to live our lives as Christians as if our learning stopped with graduation from Sunday School or, for the high fliers, Confirmation Classes.

What we need to develop is not cleverness but wisdom. Wisdom is about living life to the full, absorbing the experiences of our daily lives and the teeming life of the world, and reflecting on what we find. In doing that we will grow in wisdom and our lives will be changed. Our vision of God will grow. It can happen everywhere, in church, in the images on the T.V., in discussion in the pub, in a family row, in a casual encounter. It may involve events of global scale or the smallest parish pump.

In an attempt to help us focus our thoughts and reflections, and to encourage us in delving deeper, Parish Housegroups are being set up to consider issues and areas of life which affect us all. Whether you have belonged to a Housegroup in the past, or feel a little nervous about it, please consider making the commitment to a group in which you will be welcomed and valued. This is a chance to meet others informally, fortnightly at a time and place convenient to you.

The 1928 Prayer Book includes in its Intercessions

Guide and prosper we pray thee, those who are labouring for the spread of the Gospel among the nations, and enlighten with thy Spirit all places of education and learning; that the world may be filled with the knowledge of thy truth.

Amen to that!

Brian Leathard

Parish Housegroups

Why not join one of the housegroups to be set up in the parish? Topics covered will include:

Home and Family	The Bible
Community Life	War and Peace
The State of the World	Education
Industry and Employment	Leisure
Affluence and Poverty	Ministry
The Consumer Society	Relationships

The housegroups will follow a programme of Christian Learning called 'New Course', essentially comprising open-ended questions for stimulating discussion. The

approach is non-directive - answers are not given!

To enable it to be really topical, New Concourse comes in ten monthly parts.

Please look out for further announcements in church. There will be housegroups meeting in different parts in and around the parish, and on different evenings of the week. Meetings will start in the week beginning 1 October. Do join a group.



Celebration of St. James's Day

This year St. James's Day, 25 July, was on a Wednesday. A service of Holy Communion was held on the evening of that day and a celebration was arranged and carried out by a united effort on the following Sunday, 29 July, in the form of an afternoon service followed by a tea party outside.

As this is a year of prolonged heat wave with temperatures climbing into the nineties, we had all anticipated a good party. It was certainly a warm day, but pleasant, and the congregation turned up in colourful party dress.

The full church was at a comfortable temperature and the congregation was alert to enjoy the cheerful hymns and the festival service, including some lovely music played by Olive, singing by The Travellers and the choir, and dancing round the church led by our Liturgical Dancers helped by some of the children.

At the end of the service the doors were opened to the garden where small tables and chairs had been placed in a friendly arrangement, some in shade and some in sunshine. Delicious home-made sandwiches, scones and cakes were handed round with welcome cups of tea, and the friendly chatter did not interfere with the enjoyment of the cooking results. Thank you to all our busy cooks and organisers.

I sat there and let my mind wander back through the years to other similar occasions. Particularly, I remembered the first tea with the Chubb family, and the recent coming of the Leathard family who are now so much a part of the St. James's community and have brought a youthful vitality into the services and social occasions.

Alison Thompson

The Rights of the Child

On 28 and 29 September, UNICEF is holding a conference of World Heads of State on the Rights of the Child.

In preparation for this, UNICEF asked the World Conference on Religion and Peace/International to convene a gathering of leaders and representatives of all the world's faiths to meet and prepare a declaration which could be forwarded to the September conference.

As a recently appointed Hon. President of WCRP, I was privileged to be present at this, and attended the preparatory conference 'The World's Religions for the World's Children' in Princeton, New Jersey, 25-27 July.

There were representatives of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zeroastrian faiths, from Japan, China, Australia, Ethiopia, Turkey, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zaire, South Africa, USA, Canada, Brazil, Columbia India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Israel, West Bank, Cameroon, Mali, Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Holland, Scandinavia . . . and I don't think I have named all. 150 women and men in all, plus officials from UNICEF.

Reports were given by many: on the desperate conditions under which the street children live in South America and elsewhere, in abject poverty and often victims of state violence; on children tragically exploited; on children denied health care. I quote a sentence from the section in the Declaration entitled 'Society's Responsibility to children':

'Societies are morally bound to address the obscene conditions which result in the deaths of fourteen million children during every year, two thirds from preventable causes, and other conditions of abject poverty which result in wasted bodies, stunted physical development and permanent handicaps.'

The Declaration 'The World's Religions for the World's Children', after many alterations and drafts, is, I think, a good one. It was adopted and so was our Action Plan. I have copies of both for anyone to see.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is very comprehensive: one of the first recommendations in the Action Plan is to encourage the ratification of this as a matter of urgency. About 60 nations have signed, but so far only 6 have ratified it. The UK has not done so yet. On enquiring from the UNA in London, I was told that the UK has to make sure that the small states still in our jurisdiction, like Hong Kong and Gibraltar, have been consulted and agree to the undertakings in the convention, and that this holds up the ratification procedure. I am writing to Timothy Sainsbury in the Foreign Office, who is responsible for our contacts with the UN, to urge on our ratification, if possible before the end of September.

Please give this whole endeavour your prayers and thoughts at this time.

Hannah Stanton

(received from South Africa!)

Hampton Deanery Summer Workshops

St Francis of Assisi

The summer workshops were held this year at SS Michael & George, Fulwell, between 23 July and 3 August. About 50 children per session were kept busy with a variety of activities, all based on aspects of the life of St. Francis.

There were two aims: one to help the children understand not only the stories of St. Francis but that for him to do the will of God was his life's work. The second aim was that, whilst learning, the children should enjoy themselves. It is difficult to assess how far the first aim was achieved, but I am sure that the second one was, thanks to Bridget Fairbairn and her band of helpers.

A St. Francis Day service is planned for September (date to be decided), when the children are invited to join in acting, singing, etc. and there will be an exhibition of work done during the workshops.

Gill Gostling

**"Lord,
make me
an instrument
of your peace..."**

St Francis of Assisi



**Saint FRANCIS
of Assisi**

The Jays

The Jays resumes after the summer break on Sunday 9 September from 9.15 to 10.05am in Wayside. Any child aged from 4 to 13+ will be warmly welcomed. Our aim is to provide an introduction to Christianity with the opportunity to learn about it in a happy and relaxed atmosphere. We have five regular helpers and one or two 'occasionals' but we would always appreciate any offers of help as there are some weeks when we are short.

We are missing Pam, Jeremy and Hannah Atkinson very much, as their contribution was great in so many ways. We thank the Lord for their witness and wish them well in Australia.

For further information, contact Debbie Nunn on 979 3078.

A Competition - Art & The Environment

Substantial prizes of art materials are waiting to be won in this competition which is open to all children and college students living or studying in the Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames. The theme is 'The Environment' interpreted in a representational, reflective, futuristic or allegoric manner and relating to any part of the globe or any era.

There are five age categories for five to twenty-one year olds, and the closing date is 1 October. Please contact Mrs. Fickling on 940 9762 for further details and entry forms.

Non-Violence

We have recently celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration, when Christians remember Jesus on the mountain top radiating the light of God. It was on that day of the year, 6 August, 45 years ago, that a blinding nuclear flash destroyed so many human bodies in Hiroshima. A poignant contrast!

On 6 August, members of the community at Iona Abbey confessionally remembered that destructive burst of light over Hiroshima, while also celebrating the creative light of God which shines through the matter of humanity and of all creation. They also took a vow of non-violence:

- to strive for peace within themselves and to be peacemakers in their daily lives;
- to accept suffering rather than inflict it;
- to refuse to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence;
- to persevere in non-violence of tongue and heart;
- to live conscientiously and simply so as not to deprive others of the means to live;
- to resist evil and to work non-violently to abolish war and the causes of war from our own hearts and from the earth.

One challenge of the vow is the recognition that the seeds of violence, whether it be the oppression of blacks in South Africa or the abuse of children next door, reside deep within ourselves. The challenge is to root the call for non-violence in society and nation in the core of our beings, in the belief that the simplest life of being non-violent, even if quiet and unobserved, is of immense value, and in the belief that the smallest act of non-violence in relation to another generates a light that helps transfigure our world.

To vow non-violence, like making any public religious vow, such as marriage or baptism, is not to claim a particular ability at successfully fulfilling the promise. Rather it is to acknowledge that left primarily to one's own strivings failure would be almost certain.

To make such a vow is to look for the blessing of God and the support and solidarity of others. It is to cry out for help and for company on a journey which is essential to the survival of the earth. It is not to become passive in the face of aggression but actively and imaginatively to resist evils against men and women and the earth.

*(Based largely on an article in 'The Guardian' by
the Rev. Philip Newall, Warden of the Iona Community)*

Editor: In recent months there has been a renewed growth of violence in several parts of the world. Now, as we go to press, the world is faced again with naked aggression. Perhaps we should all, as Christians, consider taking a vow of non-violence? How should we react to recent events in the Gulf?

Liturgical Dance Workshop

The St. James's Liturgical Dancers group has now been in existence about ten years. During that time we have attended a number of Dance Workshops run by different organisations and from which we have gained much insight and experience. Over recent months we have had several new members (as well as working with the children) and this has given us new inspiration and encouragement.

As a result of our new-found enthusiasm for liturgical dancing we have taken a bold step and decided to run our own Dance Workshop in the autumn for beginners or anyone (male or female) who would like to explore a new dimension in workshop.



We have been very fortunate in getting Kevin Yell to agree to come and run it. He is a very experienced exponent in this field and was the leader of the Epiphany Dancers who first inspired us to start our own group.

The workshop will take place at All Saints' Church Hall, Hampton, on Saturday 13 October from 10 am until approximately 6 pm. The work done during the day will be presented at a service in All Saints' Church at about 5.15 pm to which everyone is invited. The cost of the day is £5, to include light refreshments. Application forms are available at the back of the church.

If you've always wanted to have a go but been too nervous to try, now is your chance. Come along and enjoy yourself with us and discover a new way of expressing a spiritual truth.

Helen Taylor

M.U. Evening Discussion Group

We are a small but keen group of ladies requiring an occasional opportunity for discussion, stimulation or entertainment. We meet on the first Monday in the month during school term times for an informal opportunity to get to know each other better and spend a pleasant evening together. All welcome regardless of age!

Programme:

October	1	Discussion of M.U. Aims led by Jean Wilson, Wayside
November	5	M.U. Video, 20 Embleton Walk, Hampton
December	3	Christmas 'Do', Wayside

For more information, contact Debbie Nunn on 979 3078.

HARVEST SUPPER

7.30 pm

Saturday 6 October

Parish Hall, School Road

Tickets - £2.50 (children £2) - on sale from mid-September

Supper and Entertainment to follow included

COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US



Looking Ahead

An evening of **Country/Barn Dancing** will be held on Saturday 24 November in the Parish Hall. Tickets, which are expected to be about £3 each, will be available nearer the time. These dances always produce lots of fun and laughter, so keep the date free and join us if you can.

David Lloyd

The Julian Group

The Julian Group will not be meeting during September but will start again on 9 October at 2.30 pm at 30 St. James's Road.

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The Richmond Office of the **London Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility** have vacancies for the following: -

Community Social Worker (18 hours per week) -

A third part - time worker, who should be an appropriately qualified committed Christian, is required by this established project specialising with pregnant single women and lone parent families.

An application form and job description may be obtained from Liz Thackray, telephone 071 821 0950.

Copy/Audio Typist (3 hours per week) -

For typing of confidential case notes, letters, etc. Training on an Amstrad word processor can be arranged.

Please contact Gaynor Chick on 081 891 5018.

St. James's Women's Tuesday Club

Meetings at 8 pm at Wayside, St. James's Road:

September 11	Members' Evening
September 25	Miss M. Groves - Talk on Iceland, with slides
October 9	Mr. Crees 'Dinner is served, My Lady'
October 23	Miss M. Payne - Churches and Cathedrals, with slides
November 6	Mr. Simco - Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest
November 20	Mr. Hiscock - 'Hair today and gone tomorrow'
December 4	Mr. T. Davie's prizewinning photographs - 'nearly as large as life'
December 18	Christmas Party

Violence in our Society

We live in a society in which violence is endemic. A conference on the subject has been arranged by the Area Social Responsibility Policy Committee at St. Mary's, Osterley on Saturday 22 September between 10 am and 4 pm with a senior lecturer in Criminal Psychology, a Police Superintendent and a family therapist as speakers. The fee is £5. Ring 979 3071 or 891 5018 for further information.

Vocation Day

What do the concepts of 'vocation' or 'calling' convey? Every christian has a vocation to serve God as the person he or she is with the love and the gifts given by Him . . . and it is within this understanding of 'vocation' that a Vocation Day to be held on 6 October from 9.30 am to 4 pm at St. Augustine's, Whitton, has its shape.

Besides vocations to the Ordained Ministry, the vocation to the Religious Life, to the Church Army, to the ministry of Reader, to teaching and social work have their place.

It is to be an 'open day' for you to come and go, ask questions, reflect, discuss and meet and talk with others. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout. Further details from the clergy.

IF...

If you stand very still in the heart of a wood,
You will hear many wonderful things –
The snap of a twig and the wind in the trees
And the whirr of invisible wings.



If you stand very still in the turmoil of life
And you wait for the voice from within;
You will be led down the ways of wisdom and peace,
Through a rough world of chaos and din.

If you stand very still and hold to your faith,
You will get all the help that you ask;
You will draw from the silence the things that you need –
Hope and courage and strength for your task.

Scout Group News

The Scouts organised the Fun Day and Children's Sports at Holly Road Recreation ground in July. This was much enjoyed by all who took part, and culminated in a Tug-of-War between the children and the adults; won, of course, by the children!

The Scouts finished their summer term with a Superscout competition and a barbecue. During the summer, some of them have camped in Wales with the 1st Sunbury Group. Nineteen Cubs camped at Phasel's Wood, near St. Alban's, and enjoyed swimming, a visit to Whipsnade Zoo, and a boat trip on the Grand Union Canal, when they helped to open the lock gates.

All sections of the Group will be resuming their weekly meetings in September. Anyone wishing to join, or help with the Group should contact John Nielsen on 941 0352.

Susan Horner

The Children's Society

Once again a big thank you from Helen Taylor to all Children's Society box holders, now in excess of 30, for raising the magnificent sum of £500, our best ever total. Last year, after the society's speaker, the Rev. Paul Bond, came and spoke to us, many people took a box home with them and it is their contributions which have helped us to attain such a goodly amount. Keep up the good work!

Around the Spire

Many people in the parish will remember with much love and affection the three Miss Brownes - Laurie, Merlin and Coral. They moved to Southampton several years ago now, owing to their 'great age', to be nearer to other members of their family. Both Coral and Merlin have died, leaving Laurie, the eldest of them. Though frail, we understand she is well, and on 13 August she celebrated her 100th birthday. We all send her our love.

The older members of our congregation will be sorry to learn of the recent death of Mrs. Edith (Dido) Forrow, widow of Stephen - a former long-serving secretary of St. James's P.C.C. Both Mr. and Mrs. Forrow were very concerned about the welfare of the elderly folk of Teddington, and were deeply involved in the founding of 'The Silver Threads', and in the acquisition of 'Homestead' in Park Road as a home for Senior Citizens. After giving up her home in Sunnyside Road, Mrs. Forrow was a resident there in recent years.

A new excitement occurred in the churchyard early in August - after storms and vandalism, we now had fire! Luckily the grass fire, which was probably started by a passer-by throwing a cigarette end into the hedge in Park Road, was quickly spotted and the fire brigade soon arrived to put out the flames. Many thanks to those who came out with cans of water to help put the fire out. In the very dry conditions the smallest spark can be dangerous. The flames spread to the chancel wall, but thanks to prompt action a serious incident was avoided.

Regular Weekly Services in August

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion (except, normally, first Sunday in month)
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion (with Ministry of Healing on the first Thursday in the month)

Other Services and Dates to Note

Sept.	1	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	2	09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Choral Evensong
	3	16.00	Church Uses Committee, Vicarage
	4	10.30	Editorial Board, 68 Park Road
		20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road
		20.15	Liturgical Committee, 30 Burtons Road
	8		The Blessed Virgin Mary
	9	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	11	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Members' Evening, Wayside
	15		Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival
	16	18.30	Choral Evensong
	19	20.00	Housegroup Leaders' Meeting, Vicarage
	20	20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. Richard's, Hanworth
	21		St. Matthew the Apostle
	22	10.00	Conference on 'Violence and our response', St. Mary's, Osterley
	23	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	25	20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Iceland' - talk with slides, Wayside
	29		St. Michael and All Angels
	30	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise

Advance Notices

October	1		Parish Housegroups begin this week
		20.00	M.U. Discussion Group: 'M.U. Aims', Wayside
	6	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
		09.30	Vocation Day, St. Augustine's, Whitton
		1930	Harvest Supper, Parish Hall
	7		Harvest Festival
		09.30	Children's Eucharist
		18.30	Choral Evensong
	8	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	9	14.30	Julian Group Meetings re-commence, 30 St. James's Road
		20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Dinner is served, My Lady', Wayside
	13	10.00	Liturgical Dance Workshop, All Saints' Church Hall, Hampton
	15	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	17	20.00	H.C.C. Talk by Jack Dominian

