

PEACE ON EARTH?

If Kuwait had exported dates instead of a large proportion of the Western World's oil supplies would the United States and Britain have been so quick and so keen to defend this small state (created quite arbitrarily by Britain) against its much bigger neighbour? The answer is obvious - of course not. Kuwait and its hostile and totally illegal occupation and annexation matter to us because we need oil. That is the undoubted nub of the matter.

But dare anyone admit it? We have covered ourselves with self-righteousness; we praise the unanimity of the United Nations Security Council and the end of the Cold War allowing joint Superpower decision making, and of course that is true and good. But it isn't enough. Britain, and its partners, has armed and encouraged both sides of the conflict to buy our weaponry and military advice. Britain, and its partners, has been painfully slow to show any unanimity of action on many other Security Council resolutions: how long it took to achieve independence in Namibia, how Israel still, contrary to Resolution 242, occupies with its military forces Gaza and the West Bank. Britain and its partners need Kuwait's oil to remain where we are. But that surely begs the question - have we come to terms with ourselves?

It is rather like the one chocolate left in the top layer of the box, gradually getting harder and more stale, because no one likes that particular variety, while we dig away underneath and indulge ourselves with our preferred varieties. We would rather not face biting into the truth. We have adopted what we might call the Chocolate Box mentality.

Self righteousness is so dangerous, so deceptive - it is cancerous, spreading its half-truths and lulling us into false security. We delude ourselves so easily and so completely but self-delusion cannot last.

During this month we have opportunity to observe the Week of Prayer for World Peace and material is provided in this magazine to help us.

World Peace - between Superpowers, among the United Nations is a wonderful goal. Of course we must urge total support for the Sanctions applied by the United Nations, but they must reflect a real commitment to a search for peace not only when it suits us. But it will remain a dangerous illusion unless we allow ourselves to face openly and frankly our own lack of peace in our jobs, in our families, and in our personalities. We cannot afford to live lives of deceptive self-righteousness but must first search our own lives and humbly work out how and where we can create peace and reconciliation.

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the Sons of God.

Churchyard Working Parties



Can you spare a couple of hours on Saturday morning from 9.30 on
October 6th; November 3rd; December 1st?

We can guarantee exercise, company and coffee.

Please value the Churchyard - we would value your help.

Hannah Stanton's visit to South Africa, after 30 years

My visa gave me three weeks, to be taken before September, so my brother Tom and I arranged my visit in August when he was on holiday and could go around with me; August is still very cold in South Africa, but we were undeterred.

I stayed for the first week with the CR Fathers at the priory, in Southdale, a Johannesburg Suburb, overlooked by an old yellow gold mine dump. Thrill: there were Africans, blacks, on the local busses; no segregation now. Jo'burg is a huge crowded black city; Tom and I were some of the few whites walking around: blacks going about their business, blacks crowding the shops, blacks driving cars, black ladies very smartly dressed. 50% of the staff behind the counters in the bank were black; my travellers cheques were changed for me by a black cashier. Black and white queued together in the banks and post offices; I saw no resentment anywhere. Here were the black middle classes in considerable numbers; this had obviously evolved over the years and was now taken completely for granted. I was very excited over this, it was very different to 30

years ago. Hillbrow, a congested area near the middle of town, lived in by all faces, is a mixed area now.

Two visits to see our dear friend Helen Joseph with whom I shared a cell in Pretoria goal in 1960: she is 86, frail but indomitable. We lunched with Archbishop and Mrs. Desmond Tutu in their Soweto home; they are enlarging their house possibly preparing for retirement. Nice to think he will still be in Soweto. We attended church at Holy Cross, Soweto, where Tom had been on the staff for three years and had a very warm welcome. The bits of that huge area we saw were very calm.

We visited Vlakkfontein, a squatter camp for 50,000, where Fr. Jeremy Platt CR has chosen to live in a mud hut by a tiny tin chapel. Millions of blacks live illegally in these camps under dreadful conditions round the urban conurbations, in mud huts, cardboard lean-tos, tin shacks and so on; these are the unemployed, those who have left the homelands, the families who try to keep together, the old and the ill. The nursery school a dark hut, no windows, earth floor, for 80. No sanitation laid on; for water they have tapped a neighbouring supply. The bulldozers could come at any moment and level everything. The churches are helping and opening accommodation to some squatters. Money for a massive building programme must be raised somehow.

We visited friends in Grahamstown in the Cape going down by night coach; black and white used the same loo on the bus, unbelievable a few years ago; anyway the bus would have been reserved for whites. Grahamstown, in the middle of a very English area, 1820 settler descendants etc, gave a very different picture; a beautiful town with Rhodes University, and white houses dating back to the mid-19th century. Lots of blacks as labourers and errand boys, little sign of any black middle class. A black ex-student of Tom's, now a lecturer at St. Paul's Theological College, said he felt OK on the campus but uneasy in the town. He is moving to a new job in Jo'burg which may mean living in a white area, and is very apprehensive. I tried to re-assure him that the atmosphere in Jo'burg seemed to me to be quite different.

We stayed at Stutterheim also in the Cape with the Rev. Martin Glover who took us to see some evicted farm labourers. The farm had changed hands and the new farmer dismissed the labourers who had lived on that farm for years. They were given three hours notice; no going back if anything had been left behind. Wages had been Rand 40 (about £9) a month, and food in kind if the farmer felt like it. There is a feudal system of farm labour, and the labourers are too scared of eviction to protest or to form unions. Martin Glover had got tents for them from the Cape Administration, but there was no unemployment pay, no money. A huge percentage of the black labour force in South Africa work on farms. The Transval farmers have recently met and have said that not one acre will they give up to blacks, and if the Government imposes changes they will fight.

My visit gave me much hope, but at the same time an appreciation of enormous problems, and another problem I haven't even referred to is education, after four decades of Bantu Education. A long way to go and much praying to be done.



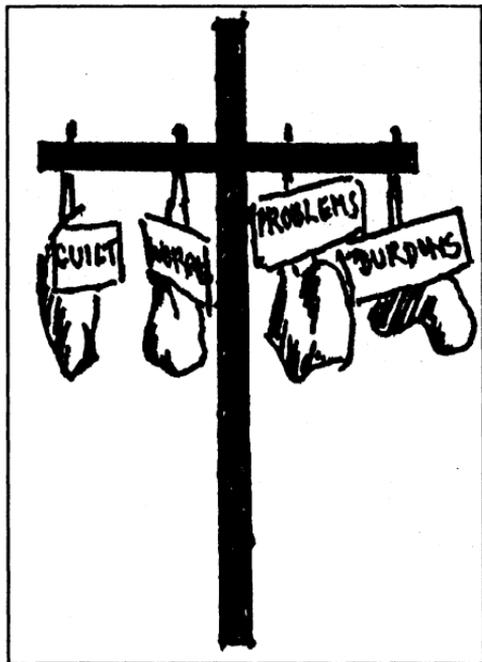
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE



21 - 28 October 1990

Take part in the Week of Prayer for World Peace this year. To help us focus our thoughts and prayers on areas of the world where there is little prospect of lasting peace at the present time, this suggested plan for the week may be of help to you. Why not cut it out, pin it up next to the sink, pop it in your diary or by the telephone to remind you to use it. Our prayers are echoed by many thousands of people scattered across the globe. This plan has been designed to reflect areas and concerns which are particularly close to our parish.

- Sunday 21st ISRAEL for peace in this land which is holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims. For Settlers and the Dispossessed, Jews and Palestinians.
- Monday 22nd IRAQ & KUWAIT for Refugees and Captives and for a diplomatic solution to conflict and aggression.
- Tuesday 23rd SRI LANKA for the divided communities of this small island: Sinhalese and Tamil. For all victims of terror and its perpetrators.
- Wednesday 24th UNITED NATIONS DAY for UN Peacekeeping Forces (in Cyprus and Lebanon) where peace is fragile.
- Thursday 25th LIBERIA for warring political factions, where murder is common and life is cheap.
- Friday 26th CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA for ordinary people caught up in the violence of land and property disputes and drug dealing.
- Saturday 27th NORTHERN IRELAND for the witness to peace and reconciliation by the Catholic and Protestant Churches. For the Corrymeala Community.
- Sunday 28th SOUTHERN AFRICA for a peaceful and just end to the violence brought about by apartheid.



"Pack up your troubles in your old kitbag and smile, smile, smile" as the old wartime song.

Well it isn't often that I go to the Informal Service on the first Sunday of the month but I did on the 2nd of September to the service taken by Alan Taylor when he gave us a modern version that reminded me of the old time song.

Alan and Helen gave us advice as to what we should do with our feelings of Guilt - Worries - Problems and Burdens.

With Helen's help he took an outside and fully packed rucksack and slung it on his back remarking on the weight. That he said, was the unnecessary luggage that we all are inclined to carry around with us and he wished to give us some advice on the matter.

Helen then took from his pack the first full plastic bag and attaching it to a large card on which was the word "GUILT" she tied it on the large black Cross which was standing at the side of the chancel. As Alan explained most of us carry around some feelings of guilt and although possibly nothing can be done about it we still let it rancour. He said we should take it to the Lord and leave it there.

The same procedure was taken with the next plastic bag from Alan's pack. This was marked "WORRIES" which we all know about and some of us magnify and let eat into our existence and affect our health.

Then there were "PROBLEMS" magnified no doubt, by all the literature which comes through our letter boxes.

And lastly our "BURDENS" - these may be real and they may be imaginary but just as heavy.

Each bag was attached to the Cross and Alan said as he took off his kitbag "That's better - it was very heavy".

So we should take our troubles to the Lord and not dwell upon them. If possible go one step further and listen for His advice on how to deal with them. Then indeed we can walk in God's Peace.

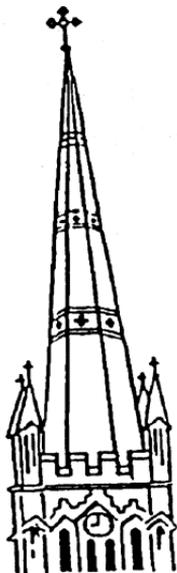
Alison Thompson

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity

The Charity has at its disposal funds to distribute to the residents of Hampton and Hampton Hill who are in particular financial need or hardship. Grants are made, for example, to cover or assist with fuel bills (electricity, oil, gas, coal), clothing for school-children, items of equipment for the disabled and in many other ways.

If you have been in receipt of a grant in the past or wish to apply for one now, you can do so easily and confidentially by calling at the Vicarage for an application form and returning it to the Vicar.

Do you know anyone who would benefit from such financial help? Any enquiries, please ring 979 2069.



Around the Spire

Sad to say that a few days after her hundredth birthday Laurie Brown died. She had spent her birthday in bed but had been able to join in the celebrations. We send our best wishes to her niece Clare and will always remember with affection "the three Miss Browns" who for so long were a part of our congregation.

During the next few weeks a large box will be in Church in which we hope to collect babies and children's clothes to send to the Milo Mission Hospital in Tanzania. We sent them a similar gift about eighteen months ago for which they were most grateful and have now asked us if we could do the same thing again.

We of St. James's all know that prayer, meditation and concentration on recovery of health or ease of pain, often called 'positive thinking' can effect our general condition and outlook.

Thus when we meet together for Communion Services and healing prayers and blessings we must find comfort and help in our troubles, either physical or mental. If you are in need why not join us at 7.15pm on the first Thursday each month. Come and lay your troubles on the Lord.



Christmas Bazaar

After the success of last year's Christmas Bazaar, it has been decided to hold another one this year. The date chosen is November 17th. To make this event a success depends on everyone doing something to ensure that it is successful. Last year's Bazaar was ably organised by Ann Rowett but as she feels unable to do it again this year I have undertaken to do so. I shall be looking for stallholders very soon and hope people will volunteer willingly to act in this capacity, and that people will start making things to sell and collecting together anything which they think is suitable to sell.

As well as people to run the stalls we also need people to take responsibility for the publicity, organising the teas, counting the money and running the Raffle. We raised best part of two thousand pounds last year, let's see if we can better that figure this year.

Helen Taylor

The Bible Reading Fellowship

Is there anyone who would be prepared to become Local Secretary of the Bible Reading Fellowship branch at St. James'? The work involves ordering and distributing Bible notes published by the Society, collecting the subscriptions and paying the bill. It is not an arduous task but an important one.

I have been secretary for ten years and am no longer able to continue. I have cancelled our present membership and therefore any one interested would have to re-open it.

I would be pleased to give advice.

Janet Jeffries Tel: 979 7982

From the Registers

August

Baptisms

5 August Christopher David Archer 189 Charlton Road, Shepperton
5 August Joshua Dean Bartram 18 Myrtle Road

Weddings

4 August Robert Louis Henman and Angela Joy Mills
11 August Kevin Giles Hall and Yvonne Janice Pain
18 August Keven Cowdery and Deborah Taylor
18 August David Anthony Taylor and Susan Anne Clark
31 August David Cole and Fiona Spong

Funerals

9 August Reginald William White 155 Uxbridge Road Aged 67
10 August Herbert Arthur Makepeace 34 Windmill Road Aged 78

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

CHURCH FABRIC LOAN INVESTMENT FUND

**A new and relatively painless way to help your Parish Church
find some of the money it needs for maintenance
of the fabric of the Church**

The scheme involves individuals and families making loans to the Church for an agreed term, which are then repaid. The interest that the money earns during the loan period goes to the Fabric Fund. The money will be safely invested and, should a financial emergency arise for the investor, it can be returned immediately.

WATCH THIS SPACE - MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

Regular Weekly Services in October

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

Oct.	6	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
		09.30	Vocations Day, St. Augustine's, Whitton
		19.30	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 recommence, 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
	14	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	15	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	16		H.C.C. A.G.M., St. Mary's, Hampton

17	20.00	H.C.C. Talk by Jack Dominian, Hampton Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton
18		St. Luke the Evangelist
21	18.30	Choral Evensong
23	20.00	Tuesday Club: Churches and Cathedrals, Wayside
28		St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles
	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
Nov. 1		All Saints
	20.00	Eucharist

Advance Notices

Nov. 3	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
4	09.30	Informal Service
	18.30	Choral Evensong
5	20.00	M.U. Discussion Group: M.U. Video, 20 Embleton Walk
	18.30	Choral Evensong
	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
6	20.00	Tuesday Club: Queen Victoria Seaman's Rest, Wayside
14	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
17		Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall
24		Barn Dance, Parish Hall



The Ministry of Healing
now forms a part of the
Holy Communion Service
at 7.15pm on
the First Thursday of each month