

The Bible teems with stories about land. It begins with two stories about God creating the earth and everything that is. It talks of the patriarchs, the ancient fathers of the faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, leaving their land in obedience to God, of wandering across vast tracts of land to graze their flocks. Many of the stories about Jesus or told by him concern the land; sowing, harvesting, feeding. Most forcefully the Bible speaks of the Promised Land, the land which will prosper, and cause the people to prosper, providing that they remain true to the covenant which exists between them and God. In ancient thought there was a wise and clear link between living according to the way of God and living in harmony and prosperity with the land.

Without land we have nowhere to call our home, be it a maisonette or a mansion, a flat or a farm. In our suburban lives we can all too easily forget that land is crucial to human life. For millions of people possessing a piece of land to live on and work makes all the difference between mere existence and life. And it is life in all its fullness which Jesus of Nazareth offers.

Every year Christian Aid Week falls during May and this year door to door collectors will be out during the week 10 to 16 May. We will celebrate Christian Aid Week at Parish Communion on 17 May. Christian Aid is an official agency of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. It is our agency; committed, on our behalf, to stand alongside the world's poorest people; enabling them to take control of their own lives, to develop their own lives more fully.

This year Christian Aid Week will advertise on television as well as in the national press and its slogan is **Thank God for Life before Death**. For with 25 million children dying each year of hunger, preventable disease and lack of clean water, life in all its fullness is an empty hope for many. But even the smallest amount of aid and encouragement can help. One big area of concern is land. In some of the world's poorest countries the majority of the population are prevented from owning or working the land, often because vast tracts of it belong to the super-rich or to multinational conglomerates in distant Europe or the U.S.A. Christian Aid through its partners, is, for example, helping to achieve fair access to land in Brazil, the Philippines, Eritrea, fair access to a small plot on which to live and work. Such a plot of land brings in food for the family, a little extra income from that which can be sold, a plot of land brings work and human dignity, it allows a better, healthier diet, it encourages self-sufficiency, and the development of skills.

If, like me, you are not much of a gardener, you may well regard your plot of land as a burden, especially when it is time to drag the lawnmower out of its winter hibernation. But think of being landLESS, having no place to call your own, no means to support your family. That is a different story. But it doesn't take much to help change that

story - a gift of time or money during Christian Aid Week (or at any time during the year), a gift of prayer of solidarity and you could be giving life, the most precious gift. Let Hampton Hill be fertile ground this year, that others may break new ground in planting and growing life in all its fullness.

Brian Leathard



Land must not be sold in perpetuity,
for the land belongs to me,
and to me you are only strangers and guests.
You will allow a right of redemption
on all your landed property.

Leviticus 25.23-24

Thank God for Life before Death

Heather and Richard Scott are two young doctors from Hampton recently involved with several of St. James's congregation in the Ecumenical Lent Groups which have been very stimulating and rewarding. They were asked to write a little about their Mission Work for the last two years in rural Tanzania.

We work in a small 76-bedded Anglican Mission Hospital, 100 miles inland from the Indian Ocean in N.E. Tanzania, founded as a Christian Dispensary in the 1930's and run by English Anglican Nuns, it became a hospital in 1982 under Dr. Marion Bartlett, a lady surgeon. We arrived on Valentine's Day 1990! Together with our baby daughter Jessica, we are the only Europeans in the area, but enjoy great friendship and support from many local people.

Richard and I share hospital work: he is responsible for adult general surgery and medicine, administration, drug ordering and accounting. I am responsible for paediatrics, maternity cases, much of the gynaecology and also student teaching. Jessie maintains morale and has star status, being the only blonde child for miles around! In addition to running the hospital, we raise money, plan projects and improvements, and care for 56 children in the local polio hostel. After admission we surgically straighten the children's limbs and help them to use callipers and crutches. Then they are involved in a schooling and rehabilitation project.

Together with our staff of 4 rural medical aides, 15 nurses and 30 students, we see 60,000 out-patients a year, have 3,000 in-patients, 55% children, and about 300 deliveries.

Patients pay a small fee for treatment but any contributions for medicine or equipment are always welcome.

Heather Scott

Another view of Latin America - Colombia

A friend of mine once told me that having lived in Colombia for a while he had noticed that Colombians didn't travel abroad very often. He asked a Colombian friend of his why this was. He was told that there was no need for Colombians to travel, Colombia had everything, sun, sea, sand, mountains, snow, tropical rain forest, countryside and town. Colombians are extremely lucky. Their country is especially varied both geographically and socially. Colombians are also extremely patriotic. They want their country to succeed and are keen to tell you of the wonderful things it has to offer.

The capital, Santa Fe de Bogota, is situated high up in the Andes. Along the east side of the city are the mountains, Bogota itself being on a plateau. Darkness falls at around 6 o'clock each evening and its close proximity to the equator means that it has a high level of rainfall each year, and no seasons as we know them.

Bogota is a huge metropolis, home to almost 10 million people. The affluent north of the city is in complete contrast to the extreme poverty of the south where the most desperate even take to 'living' in the sewer. Citizens of Bogota take security to extremes, no cars are left out on the streets at night and the city could surely boast the world's best selection of window bars. Despite this Bogota's reputation of crime and drugs is not evident to the visitor. It is a lively, bustling place where buses rule the roads jammed full of commuters and where taking a taxi is not for the faint hearted. At night Salsa clubs spring to life and even the tiniest Colombian seems to know how to sway to the rhythms of the Salsa band.

Out towards the Caribbean and life changes dramatically. The weather is hot, the rain has vanished and the bustle has become a gentle saunter. In Cartagena the old colonial buildings are a beautiful faded yellow below which street traders sit and display their wares. The juice sellers offer a spectacular variety of fruits - tree tomato, papaya, mango, guanabana, mora - deliciously blended to make fresh fruit milk shakes.

No golden sandy beaches like the Caribbean beaches of the brochures. In Cartagena the sand is grey but the beach is definitely the place to be if you can stand the heat. Within seconds of arriving beach sellers will have spotted you and a constant stream of goodies will pass before your eyes. Fresh pineapple, prawn or seafood cocktails, Aqua, 'Chanel' T-shirts, 'Rayband' sunglasses, watches, souvenirs, or genuine Indian wallhangings. The laidback approach to life is strongly appealing and the friendliness and charm of the people most welcoming.

From the city to the coast Colombia offers a fantastic contrast but the contrasts are endless. The Amazon basin or the Andes mountains; the Indian settlements or the drug barons' residences are examples of the extremes that this happy country seems totally capable of accommodating.

Ruth Taylor

The New Greenwood Centre

Anyone who can remember the stresses and strains of moving into a new house and furnishing it, can guess what the last few weeks of the building of 'The Greenwood Centre' in School Road have been like. It was the way rooms seemed to grow in size and then diminish and then grow again that was so extraordinary. One week the kitchen would seem big enough to launch a Tudor banquet; two weeks later there did not seem room to swing a skillet (let alone a cat) in it; then suddenly it contained two coolers and two sinks and a fridge and room for several people. The small office upstairs, intended for face-to-face counselling sessions seemed too small to take an easy chair at one time, yet rapidly expanded into a room with capacity for a small committee.



This elevation is reproduced from a drawing of the Architects, Conoley and Webb.

So here we are (at the time I write) expecting the painters to finish any day. We expect to move ourselves and most of the new furniture into the building over the Easter weekend and to be open for everyone else's business at the beginning of May. Bookings are beginning to pour in, including the AGM of the Hampton Hill Association and our own AGM. These two events, by fortunate tradition early May events, should give a large number of people a chance to see what the new Care Centre has to offer to the community at large and to individual organisations.

Incidentally the name 'Greenwood Centre' has not been chosen because of any connection between Hampton Hill and Robin Hood. It comes from the names of two of the founders of the Community Care Group - the Rev. Denis Green, then curate of All Saints' Church, Hampton, and Dr. David Woodroffe, the Hampton general practitioner. The third founder, Hannah Stanton, could not be left out, so we are calling the main hall, one of the features of the building, 'The Stanton Hall'.

As many people may know, the site itself was purchased by the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, and the generosity of the charity has funded all the building work. The site and fabric remain the property of the charity and the CCG has been given a lease of the building at a peppercorn rent. The CCG has been saving up for many years and with many fund-raising efforts (not least the Bookshop in the High Street) and has

built up 'Premises Fund'. Virtually all that money, which has been contributed by the people of Hampton and Hampton Hill, is being spent on furnishing and fitting the building. Mops, brooms and buckets; lavatory roll holders and filing cabinets; tables and chairs and a trolley to move them; crockery, glasses and spoons; saucepans, curtains, easy chairs and a coffee machine, have all had to be found and bought. That has amounted to much hard work and travelling by our President, Diane White, and her busy team.

For those who have not yet been able to visit the Greenwood Centre, let me explain that we have retained the old 'Hall', but reduced its size and removed the stage. Other downstairs accommodation provides kitchen, toilets, coats store, main storeroom, our own CCG workroom, an office for our Coordinator, Deirdre Curran, and a very welcoming foyer with coffee bar. Upstairs there is a large 'function' room which we think is very elegant, a smaller committee/work room and a small office or counselling room. A lift large enough to take a wheel-chair has been provided so that everyone can have access to the first floor.

So it is our intention that the Greenwood Centre will be used for the sort of activities that we remember in the old St. James's Parish Hall plus a whole variety of extra 'caring' activities, such as outreach work by the Citizens Advice Bureau and the District Health Authority. However we hope that the provision of this new resource with its high standard of furnishings and fittings will stimulate new forms of activity in the neighbourhood. We think, for instance, that it will provide an excellent setting for exhibitions of work by local artists or craft groups or modelling societies. It has facilities, too, which will make it attractive to more educational or business meetings.

David Wilson, Chairman, CCG

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TEEN CLUB

14 years upwards welcome

Opening Thursday 21 May, then every Thursday from 7 pm

THE NEW GREENWOOD CENTRE'S COFFEE BAR

School Road, Hampton Hill

Come and meet your friends

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Letters to the Editor

Those Lights

As one who was involved in the re-decoration and re-lighting of the church, may I offer some background to the decisions taken?

Firstly, the P.C.C. does not have an entirely free hand in such matters. The Diocese has an advisory Committee (D.A.C.) of architects and other experts, experienced in all aspects of the construction and maintenance of church buildings, and a panel of architects approved to oversee such work. The P.C.C. had to obtain a formal permission (a faculty) from this D.A.C. for the proposed work.

In consultation with a small sub-committee our appointed architect, John Deal, designed and specified a new wiring and lighting system, and the colour schemes, which were first approved by the D.A.C., then by the P.C.C. Six tenders were obtained, and the lowest, very competitive, price was accepted. Included in this was the architect's provisional estimates for the roof level lights and the chandeliers. Originally, these were to incorporate panels of red stained glass with etched designs to give extra warmth and brightness to the decorations. However, the glass was subsequently found to be prohibitively expensive, and the plain red perspex was substituted by the architect to keep within the provisional estimates.

On the chandeliers eventually installed, there are sharply divided views: some highly critical, others enthusiastically favourable. I think they greatly enhance the new decorations, but would have been dramatically better with stained glass panels.

Were we justified in the total expenditure? The church was last decorated in about 1963. The old lighting was dismal, and the wiring nearly worn out. Our building maintenance costs over the last twenty-nine years, apart from major items like the organ and the spire, have been very low. A great deal of voluntary work has perhaps concealed the market costs of keeping the fabric in repair. The P.C.C. considered whether we could ourselves tackle the re-decorations. The eventual decision to use outside firms entailed not only labour costs and V.A.T., but also professional fees. That is perhaps the downside of the D.A.C. system.

The upside is that we have considerable financial support from the Diocese, already reflected in a grant of about 50% of the spire costs, and the expectation of further grants towards badly needed repairs to the stonework and masonry.

Jack Gostling

The first sight of the new lights in church made me gasp slightly, I admit it! But I have since that first moment given them much thought.

We are often now having services in the Chancel: Morning prayers, Holy Communion, Evening prayers, the Healing Service, Compline. If you sit and look down the length of the church to the tremendous Transfiguration Window over the West Porch, the bright red surroundings of the new lights lead up beautifully to the intense reds in that brightly coloured stained glass window. Granted the congregation does not view the back of the church until they leave their pews and turn round; but give it a thought, go to the chancel, look back at your church, and see for yourself.

Do the red surrounds of the new lighting add to the beauty of the Chancel? Yes, they call attention to the new red colouring picked out in gold in the rafters which are a lovely new feature. Not so much red in our altar window, but it's there, still apparent and in keeping with the quiet reflective air of the Chancel.

Our church has been redecorated and repainted in good neutral shades, quiet and churchlike. In my opinion it can take the astonishing red surrounds of the lights; it is also large enough to give them room. They add to the liveliness of our St. James's atmosphere and to the services which are drawing more and more people, particularly the young. Never mind if they remind people of the world outside; that is what the church and its congregation are partly there for! So often churches have a rather remote atmosphere when one enters them; perhaps our red lights will make them gasp as I did, and think 'well, here there's something new'.

The lighting as a whole is a vast improvement. We need a little troop of angels to fly up and put new bulbs in when required in the enchanting roof lights! And perhaps they will arrive!

Hannah Stanton

My first reaction to the new lights was one of shock horror! Never had I seen anything like them in a church - wrong colour, wrong shape, flashy . . . But my views have completely changed. The red is perfect, it picks up the red in all the stained glass windows and actually accentuates their beauty, and what colour could be warmer?

Our son, a choir boy at St. James's for many years, recently home from Australia with his family, came to church on Mothering Sunday, and quite unprompted and unaware of the controversy over the lights, remarked how warm and welcoming the church now is. His memory is of a cold, dull building!

My verdict. The Architect was right, the lights are great. Please do not do anything to them now - leave them just as they are.

Eila Severn

Just a few words in defence of our new lights in the church. Just at first I was not sure about them, now I think they are really lovely. They have made the whole building really bright and welcoming. The colour is right.

We must remember that the lighting of a church must be adequate for everyone with no shadows. This has been achieved.

Vivienne Prentice

Christian Aid Service

There will be a United Service at the end of Christian Aid Week at 4 pm at the United Reformed church in Hampton Hill on Sunday 17 May. The Lent Course this year 'Living the Good News' was produced by Christian Aid in association with CAFOD and SCIAF, and it is hoped that all those who attended the Lent Groups will come to this service. There will be exhibits to illustrate the work of the groups and, if it can be arranged, the service will incorporate a liturgical dance, relating one of the stories from Latin America to Christ's Passion, that was a part of the Passion Sunday service at St. James's. Do come - all are welcome.



A Prayer of Praise

The world belongs to the Lord
The Earth and all its people are his
How good and how lovely it is
To live together in unity
Love and faith come together
Justice and peace join hands
If the Lord's disciples keep silent
These stones would shout aloud
Lord, open our lips
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise



Iona Worship Book

Around the Spire

Congratulations to Denis and Margaret Leatherdale who celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary at the beginning of May. Over the years they have both undertaken numerous jobs in and around the church, as well as pursuing a variety of other interests. We send them both our love and best wishes.

Many thanks to all who in any way supported the Hunger Lunch at Wayside on 13 April. All the home-made soups were delicious. £86 was raised for Christian Aid.

Among several well known people who have died recently were Derrick Hyde, Alice Cooper and Tom Newman. Derrick was for many years the Pharmacist at Boots in

Teddington and latterly he was to be found in the same capacity at Harry Hall's. Alice was for a few years housekeeper to the Rev. Coad-Pryor. A well known figure about Hampton Hill, like Derrick, she will be much missed. Shaking a collecting tin under the noses of shoppers outside Sainsbury's was one of Tom Newman's many and varied occupations on behalf of the disabled and various other disadvantaged groups. He and Mary, herself disabled, worked hard for those less fortunate, and the many who attended the funeral at St. Theodore's attested to this. We offer our condolences to all their families, and to the families of Bessie Clements and David Clarke.



MAY FAIR - Saturday 9 May at 2pm

THE NEW GREENWOOD CENTRE, School Road

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

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Enough Said . . .

February 16

Education Sunday

No Readers

[From our Readers' Rota]

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From the Registers - March

Baptisms

15	Lilly Brennan	200 Hanworth Road
	Benjamin Michael James	11 Lindsay Road
	Michele Elizabeth Helen Lay	22 Fairlight, Uxbridge Road

Funerals

16	Alice Selina Cooper	4 School Road Avenue	Aged 97
23	Bessie Emily Clements	13 Wolsey Road	Aged 79
24	David Waldo Clarke	17 Denning Close, Hampton	Aged 84

Sunday Evening Services

The present pattern of Sunday Evening Services, at 6.30 pm, is as follows:

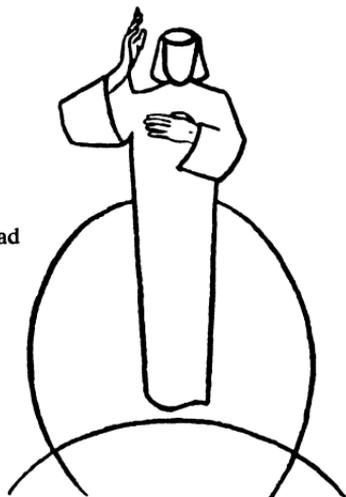
- First Sunday in Month - Choral Evensong
- Second Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise
- Third Sunday in Month - Service of Prayer or Healing
- Fourth Sunday in Month - Open Forum - a short act of worship and time to think or speak together
- Fifth Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise

Dates to Note

Apr.	30	20.00	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Church
May	1		St. Phillip and St. James, Apostles
		15.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	6	14.30	Women's Forum, Sunday Trading?, Wayside
	9	14.00	St. James's Nursery School May Fair, The Greenwood Centre, School Road
	10 to 16		Christian Aid Week
	12	20.00	Tuesday Club, Members' Evening, Wayside
	14		St. Matthias the Apostle
		19.30	Community Care Group AGM, The Greenwood Centre, School Road
	17	16.00	United Service for Christian Aid Week, United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill
	19 - 22		National Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park, Esher, 10.00 to 17.30 daily
	20	20.00	Women's Forum, Sunday Trading?, Wayside
	21	19.00	Opening of TEEN CLUB at The Greenwood Centre, School Road
	26	20.00	Tuesday Club, Margaret Groves - Holiday in Formosa, Wayside
	28		Ascension Day
		20.00	Parish Communion

Advance Notices

Jun.	3	14.30	Women's Forum, Wayside
	9	20.00	Tuesday Club AGM, Wayside
	11		St. Barnabas the Apostle
	17	20.00	Women's Forum, Wayside
	23	20.00	Tuesday Club, Tony Kirkham - Plant Hunting in Korea, Wayside
	24		The Birth of St. John the Baptist
	29		St. Peter the Apostle
July	17 - 19		Rise like the Sun, a Festival of Freedom and Hope, Bristol (Christian Aid/CAFOD)



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