

If you haven't been to the cinema for a while - now is the time to make amends. There are lots of films about, which speak not only on the surface but also rather more deeply. I don't intend this to be an advertisement but I'm thrilled that in the last couple of months I've had the chance to see some films of great artistic and religious significance.

Of course there are the blockbusters - Schindler's List, which is the story of one man's tactics for economic survival in Poland during the Second World War - a man whose life is challenged and changed by witnessing the persecution and annihilation of Jews in the holocaust. It is at times a deeply distressing evocation of humanity having lost all moral value - indeed having lost any sense of common humanity, and certainly having lost any sense of humankind being made in the image and likeness of God. Sadly this is not only a thing of the past - but a reality in Rwanda or Ireland or Yemen today.

Shadowlands is the story of C.S.Lewis and his falling in love with a most unlikely lady. Joy is a divorced American poet - born Jewish, brought up agnostic. Lewis' cloistered Oxford and Anglican life is shattered by the arrival of this totally different Joy and her sons. The film speaks of the development of love, the glimpses of joy, the moments when Lewis and his new friend and wife experience a unity which illustrates incarnation - God dwelling in humankind - better than any textbook. Joy develops cancer and dies leaving two sons in Lewis' charge (although the film only mentions one) - son and husband face the emptiness with the words 'The pain now is part of the happiness then', because such radical commitment, true love for one another, carries extremes both of pain and joy within it.

Another film which reflects on the way we view each other and warrants a trip to the cinema, or the video shop, is Philadelphia. A successful, enterprising lawyer develops AIDS through homosexual relations and is fired by his law firm. The film portrays the anti-homosexual state of society - and also the quest for equality of treatment before the law. Yes, it is about the suffering of AIDS victims, but much more; for it challenges all of us in our prejudices and partial vision.

Then there is Mrs. Doubtfire. Superficially a very funny, well-made comedy about family relations. A married couple divorce and the father is desperate to retain meaningful relations with his children. He becomes Mrs. Doubtfire, the nanny, hired to care for the children on their return from school each day. The inevitable happens, amidst much hilarity, but the pain of family breakdown, the shattering of the bonds of trust, is very real, and happy endings rarely are happy or endings.

You may think this letter has got into the wrong magazine - perhaps the Vicar was writing for a Video Club. No! These films reflect real issues in our world today - some

very close to our own families or circle of friends. None of these films has any overt 'religious' theme but they all challenge us to dig deeper and ask 'How do I love God and my neighbour in 1994?' Indeed God moves in mysterious ways - including the movies - his wonders to perform.

Brian Leathard

Thank God for Hannah!

She was a remarkable person. Both venue and date of her memorial service were proof of that.

The fact that there was a memorial service in St. Martin in the Fields, a Central London church, showed that hers had been a life that affected many people - a life committed to others. And the fact that its timing, during the first South African elections after the end of Apartheid, was so poignant, was true because Hannah had not only committed herself to other people, but also to many causes. Anti-Apartheid was one of the great causes that she had fought - and suffered - for.

That was the point brought home to me as I listened to the many speakers who gave such moving accounts of Hannah's involvement in their lives and activities: She cared - passionately - both for individuals and for global causes. The whole spectrum of life received her attention. The frail parishioner who could no longer walk to a study group was fetched by car, regularly. The PCC who needed persistent nudging to carry through some charitable project was not let off the hook. And with the same tenacity and courage Hannah tackled political and philosophical issues of global concern. The smallest and the greatest were of equal significance.

Man is created in the image of God. Only, unless we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us, we reflect a very poor image of our Maker. Hannah was very close to God and therefore reflected His nature in such an inspiring way. Her concerns for world affairs and neighbours' needs reflect God's care for the whole of creation.

During our Lent course this year we looked at a drawing which showed Jesus kneeling in the grass looking attentively at one individual little plant. It was a strange picture: one could see human faces in the plants, and Jesus' shoulders seemed to be merging into some mountains in the background. It inspired a similar awe-inspiring thought. God - and Jesus - is all and in all; we find Him in the majestic distant mountains and in the beauty of each smallest flower. And none of our thoughts or anxieties are too insignificant for Him to care about them. The all-powerful creator who sent the galaxies on their way - and who is so magnificently praised in many Old Testament writings - is the same tender friend who calls on us in Jesus to throw all our cares on Him. He loves us and He will give us rest. Each one of us. Whenever we need it.

Praise God in Hannah!

Hilde Bucknell

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Make this year of great hope the year you visit the Holy Land as a pilgrim:

20 - 30 October 1994

Mount Sinai - Jerusalem - The Galilee



Details and Booking Forms from the Vicar who will lead the pilgrimage.

St. James's Annual Parochial Church Meeting Friday 29th April

The meeting was held on the penultimate 'legal' day and was also a welcome home to our Vicar, Brian, and his family, who had returned the previous day from a four month 'sabbatical' absence, working in Sri Lanka and on holiday in Australia. There was a good turnout (especially for a Friday evening!) of about 60 people.

A big 'thankyou' was expressed to the Churchwardens and especially to David Bonner and Alan Taylor for their time and talent, both with services and with pastoral care, during Brian's absence. We are very fortunate in our parish, that we have people who are able and willing to help share the very considerable load that is placed on vicars these days.

The most visible difference during this last year has been construction work on the new Church Hall which was 'topped out' just before Brian left us last December. It was originally planned this should have been finished by this Annual Meeting. However, weather and other delays have caused this to be put back and we now expect completion near to, and hopefully before, St. James's Day.

Finance, especially considering the costs of the new Church Hall, continues to be a major pre-occupation. Thanks to work done by the stewardship committee and in particular to those in the stewardship scheme, planned giving was appreciably higher than in the previous year. However, much of our income is provided by a small number of people and we will be exploring ways to widen the basis of giving.

In the yearly election of P.C.C. members, about one third of those elected are new this year, many of them not having previously served on our P.C.C. This new blood is very welcome as it offers the scope for new ideas and a fresh look at some existing issues. Terry Baldwin, who has filled the demanding post of secretary with great skill and unobtrusive efficiency for the last nine years, stepped down. We owe him a great debt of thanks. We welcome a new P.C.C. member, Mrs. Julia Sharp, who has taken on this important role.

With Brian, Ramani and Anusha back with us and a new Church Hall opening this summer, we look forward to an interesting new phase in St. James's 130+ years of Christian Community development.

Pip Rowett

The Parochial Church Council for 1994/5

The P.C.C. comprises the Vicar (Chairman); the Churchwardens, Margaret Taylor and Ruth Mills; our Reader, Alan Taylor; our Deanery Synod representatives, Sue Blay, Lesley Mortimer and Pip Rowett; and the following who were elected at the A.P.C.M.:

Linda Cox	Ron Bridges
Susan Horner	Andrew Craig
Rosalie Meyerowitz	Paul Fitchett
Debbie Nunn	Jack Gostling
Kate O'Sullivan	David Lloyd
Ann Peterken	Richard Melville
Margaret Revis	John Meredith-Smith
Coryn Robinson	David Robotom
Julia Sharp	David Taylor
Jean Wilson	Stuart Ward

The New Hall

After many setbacks and delays, we can now see more rapid progress towards the completion of the work. At the time of writing, plastering is almost finished, and by the time you read this, we expect the decorating and floor finishes to be in progress.

If all goes well, the builders should be off the site by the end of June, by which time also we are committed to the removal of the Portakabin - and how useful that has proved to be!

An exciting few weeks ahead then, during which it will be necessary to remember that, until the building is formally handed over to us, we have no right to go onto the site or into the building, however great our curiosity.

Right to the end, patience must be the watchword!

Jack Gostling

Confirmation

A Confirmation Service will take place at St. James's on 11th October 1994. Perhaps this is the right time to take the next step. It is never too early or too late to explore. All enquiries to the Vicar.

Visiting

The visiting scheme mentioned some while ago is now operating, so if you would like a visitor to come to see you, please let David Taylor (977 1342) know.

Of course, our Vicar, Brian, will continue to visit as many as possible, but there is a limit to the number of visits he can fit in himself.

Would you like to help by being a visitor yourself? If so, contact David so he can add your name to his list of visitors.

My Work as a Deacon

Sunday, 3rd October 1993, when I was ordained a deacon in Southwark Cathedral, was a wonderful day for me. Then came the difficult part of settling down into a routine and getting on with the job of being a non-stipendiary minister.

I am licensed to the parish church of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common, from where I am able to continue my hospital chaplaincy work at Springfield Hospital - a large psychiatric hospital at Tooting. I work three days a week - Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, dividing my time between the parish church and the hospital, which seems to work well. Whenever I am able, I like to begin my week on Sundays with the 8.00am Holy Communion Service at St James's. This is my spiritual home and 'sets me up' for the week.

On one Sunday a month, I go to the parish church for 10.00am Parish Communion (Rite B), when I usually preach. After the service and coffee, I spend sometime at the hospital. Long stay patients have few visitors on Sundays, and always welcome me. Every Tuesday morning, I go to the parish church again at 11.00 am for a Holy Communion Service (BCP) attended mainly by elderly parishioners, who arrive by wheel chair, car, taxi or 'Dial a Ride' After the service we have coffee together, and sherry if it is somebody's birthday. I often think of Hannah as I sip my sherry - I am sure she would have approved! The rest of my time is spent at the hospital assisting at the services in the hospital church, visiting the wards and if invited, leading a short service on the wards for those unable to attend the church.

I am responsible for seven wards, which I visit once a week. At the present time a number of wards are closing, as patients are being moved into the community. Relatives are unhappy about the situation, because the staff who are at present looking after the patients will not be going with them, and the staff are anxious because they do not know where they will be working, or whether they will, in fact, have a job. Many of the staff have cared for the same patients for years, and have grown fond of them.

There is a good deal of unrest about the place. I spend a lot of my time listening and reminding myself that ministry is about 'being' as well as 'doing'. It is no help to staff for me to tell them that I have been through it all myself - having been in charge of four hospitals during my working life which closed!

I talk to the carers, husbands and wives, who faithfully visit their partners in hospital, sometimes for many years. One Sunday morning I was on one of the wards for elderly patients. I found an old gentleman giving his wife her breakfast. It was 9 am. I stopped to talk to him. He said he had been coming to the hospital every day for four years to feed her. There was no shortage of nurses on the ward - he said he came because he loved his wife, and this was all he could do for her.

On another ward I spend time with a group of wives, who come regularly to sit and talk to their husbands. I notice they bring little treats - a fancy cake or a tasty sandwich for them. Sometimes there is little response from the husband. I notice the love in the wife's eyes - she continues to talk and slowly the husband responds with a little smile and then I see a tear trickle down the wife's face, which is quickly brushed away.

I have worked at the hospital for nine years now - long enough to see the 'revolving door' patients admitted and discharged several times. Full-time chaplains come and go - the patients are pleased to see a familiar face to welcome them.

A psychiatric hospital may seem a strange place at first, but to some it becomes a place of safety and security. I have found much loving kindness and care amongst the staff and the patients. In the disturbed atmosphere of a locked ward on a Sunday morning I can feel the presence of God amongst us as I lead a shortened Holy Communion Service, and feel privileged to be there.

Betty Stewart

The Early Church 10

Discussion concerning the Persons of the Trinity is self-evidently fraught with problems. That no one can know the precise Nature of God has never deterred theologians from rending each other's doctrinal flesh with the ferocity of giant dinosaurs. The rival theories are difficult enough in themselves; to compress them requires great hardihood.

Shortly after Origen's death in 254 there were sharp reactions against his doctrine of the Trinity. He had been opposed to yet another 'ism' - Monarchianism, which came in two forms: that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are mere names which are not distinguishable in the Godhead; or that Christ was a prophet and teacher filled with God's Spirit to a unique degree.

Origen taught that Christ pre-exists in eternity as the mediator and Word of God - the Logos. He explained that Father and Son are distinct, though they are one in power and will; he allowed that the Son in some way is subordinate to the Father (the Church does not hold this last view nowadays). Though subordinate, Christ is not created, but begotten in Eternity, out of time.

Dionysius, a pupil of Origen and Bishop of Alexandria from 247-264, was alarmed at meeting Christians who believed in a coming earthly Golden Age (as do present day Jehovah's Witnesses), deriving their beliefs from the Book of the Revelation of John the Divine. He set about an analysis of the style and grammar of Revelations, proving it could not have been written by the author of John's Gospel.

He was against Monarchianism, but went too far in his arguments, denying that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are 'of one Substance'. To the Western Church this looked like belief in three separate deities, while its more Monarchian beliefs (called Sabellianism, after Sabellius, who held these views) looked to the East like saying there was no distinction except in name between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This led to a split between East and West.

Stuart Ward

The Therapy of Praise

When so low thou canst not deeper go,
Clasp the weak hands of thy faith, be still,
Breathe deep, breathe slow; breathe in
The spirit of thy faith, thy God to know.

When in the depths and far from thoughts of praise,
Lift the weak hands of thy faith, offer God
Your sacrifice of praise, and it shall truly be
A bridge, a mounting block to Him for thee.

Give thanks for every little good thou hast -
For thou hast truly plenty - and thou shalt truly see
That praise will lift you from your darkness
And draw you into worship - gradually.

Give praise for Love that suffers still for thee
And clasps thy clasping hands so caringly,
And breathes with thee, restoring thee,
And stills thy depths and calms thy fretting sea.

Put on then the mantle of God's praise *
'Gainst spirits of heaviness, be free,
And wrap the arms of thankfulness
Around thy faith, thy God, thy praise, and thee.

[* From Isaiah 61.3.]

Margery Orton

Zanzibar

The very name evokes the exotic smell of cloves and spices, and images of silver sand, warm oceans and perhaps even too the odd dusky maiden. Well Zanzibar, which is a large island off the East coast of Africa, part of Tanzania in fact, does have all these things and many more besides. Many travellers have visited Zanzibar. Dr. Livingstone set out from here, as did Samuel Teleki, a German, who 'discovered' Lake Rudolph, now known as Lake Turkana, but the dark side of this vibrant and beautiful place is its place in history as the last outpost of the infamous slave trade.

The coastline of East Africa was for hundreds of years dominated by Arab traders and ruled by Omanis. One of the principal items of trade was people, black people, taken from the interior of Africa and brought to the coast - often to Zanzibar.

We know enough about slavery to know what terrible suffering these people endured and we shudder at even the mention of it. But in Zanzibar, on the very site of the slave market, stands an Anglican Cathedral, built in the late nineteenth century. Alan was

very glad not to be the Churchwarden of Christchurch (if cathedrals have churchwardens) as the heat and humidity have taken their toll on the fabric. Because the number of Christians, let alone Anglicans, is very small, and there is no ex-patriot community to boost the numbers (and the giving), the place has a rather neglected air.

Right in front of the altar a marble roundel marks the place where the whipping post stood - where erring slaves were punished. Perhaps the thought of all that horror adds to the atmosphere. On reflection, however, it seems that a whipping post and a cross are not much different, and if one is at the heart of our faith why not the other?

Tanzania is a vast country with many problems. Zanzibar is very fertile but the people are poor and the infrastructure inadequate. The old stone town of Zanzibar itself is a fascinating place with its quaint (but dirty) streets and alleys, beautiful wooden doors and the chance to see a very different way of living.

The growing of spices is still very important to the island's economy. The clove was king, less so now, but cardamoms, cinnamon, nutmeg, peppercorns and vanilla are all grown here, and from time to time one catches the smell in the air. Zanzibar is still a name to conjure with.

Helen Taylor

LET'S CELEBRATE '94



'A STORY TO TELL'
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY JUNE 19TH
6.30 PM

This will be another major celebration at St. Paul's Cathedral. Last year's celebration filled the Cathedral; we heard how the Gospel is being proclaimed by local churches and a variety of projects around the diocese. This year the focus is on those who are new to the Christian Faith and to the life of the church; the aim is to encourage them and be encouraged by them. Do come and come early - the Cathedral will be open from 5.30 pm.

Around the Spire

Comings and goings - this is the theme of this month's news. Coming back from Sri Lanka and all places east and west, the Vicar and his family - lovely to see you all again and welcome home.

At his first appearance in church after his return, the Vicar remarked on the number of new faces in the congregation. Among them we welcome the coming of John and Elizabeth Gossage (and Mrs. Gossage Senior from time to time) and all the members of the de Mel family from Sri Lanka.

Coming to new jobs nearer home are Martin Hinckley, now Schools Music Advisor in the Borough of Hounslow, and Claire Ighodaro to a new job with BT based in London. Martin had previously been travelling to Redbridge every day and Claire was based Monday to Friday in York.

Catherine Jones has gone - from Park Road - and come - to a new home on the ground floor in Laurel Road. We hope she will be very happy in her stairless new home! She wishes to say a very big 'thank you' for all the help and support given before, during and since her move. It has been much appreciated.

Going too is the Rev. Kitty Platt from St. Mary's, Hampton into retirement in Cheshire. We wish her well. Jo Bradley is leaving the post of Deputy Head at Hampton Hill Junior School but will remain as a teacher at the school, and we look forward to her son George's Christening in the near future.

Both Chrissie Hockley and Dorothy Edmonds are now recovering at home from their broken limbs. Eva Ross and Betty Redman have also had bad falls but fortunately have not broken any bones. The Rev. Robin Rogers, Vicar of St. Mary's, Hampton, has been ill again recently and Len Orton is in West Middlesex Hospital under investigation. We hope they will all soon be fully recovered and be coming and going again.

From Further Afield

Nicholas and Susan Chubb's younger daughter, Naomi, would like to thank those many friends who sent the card with their best wishes to her and Jonathan on the occasion of their wedding, which took place in Peterborough on Easter Eve. Naomi and Jonathan are now living in Newark.

Nicholas and Susan send their love and good wishes to all. Their son Andrew is now head of Modern Languages in a Roman Catholic Aided Secondary School in Coventry, while he and his wife Maxine attend Riverside Church in Birmingham where they live. The nearest equivalent is an independent Baptist Church. The Chubb's elder daughter, Sarah, has been a G.P. in Yorkshire for some time now and is about to join a practice in Selby, where she seems very settled now after travels abroad in recent years. Susan herself is still teaching in a Secondary School in an ever-increasing Special Needs Department in Peterborough. Nicholas is meshing with all the changes consequent upon the Peterborough Hospitals having become a NHS Trust. They have a very happy ecumenical team of chaplains, but he does not much relish being a Budget Manager under the new order of things!

Some may remember Vernon Bridges, although it is now nearly twenty years since he left Hampton School to go to sea and later to university at Norwich. When not abroad in connection with his work, he has been living near Norwich for some years. Now he has married an East Anglian girl, Kerry Easto, and we wish them both every happiness in their life together in Norfolk.

Children's Society

Will all those people who have Children's Society boxes please bring them to church during the month of June and give them to Anne or Pip Rowett to be emptied.

The Brownies

Help is badly needed by St. James's Brownie Pack (3rd Hampton Hill) from September of this year. If you are interested in this useful and enjoyable work, please speak to either the Vicar or Lesley Brough (Brownie Guides) on 943 0683.

From the Registers - April

Baptisms

- 17 Matthew Jonathan Brice 2 Percy Bryant Road, Sunbury
24 Kerry Michelle McLaughlin 33 Deacons Walk

Marriages

- 2 Charles Michael Roland Bunce and Corrine Anne D'Souza
9 Mark Richard Bulford and Angela Dawn Bull

Funerals

- 6 Norman Cyril Jackson, V.C. 177 Burtons Road Aged 74
12 Peter Swaine 135 Burtons Road
21 Violet Bethia Challoner 14 Langley Ave., Surbiton Aged 90
29 Eric William Dunn 56 St. James's Avenue Aged 68

Dates to Note

- Jun. 1 14.30 Service for All Senior Citizens, All Saints' Church, Hampton
 6 14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
 8 14.30 Women's Forum, Church
 20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
 11 **St. Barnabas the Apostle**
 19 18.30 'Let's Celebrate',
 St. Paul's Cathedral
 22 14.30 Women's Forum, Church
 24 **The Birth of St. John the Baptist**
 26 17.00 Laurel Dene Service
 29 **St. Peter the Apostle**

Advance Notices

- Jul. 3 **St. Thomas the Apostle**
 18 20.00 P.C.C., Vestry



Saint JOHN
The Baptist

COPY DATE FOR JULY ISSUE: 12 JUNE