

VE Day Holiday Weekend I took off as my post-Easter break. We went up to my parents in Berwick upon Tweed - the first (or last) town in England. It was impossible to get a seat on the train so, acting on British Rail's own advice, we travelled by plane! The return journey was striking on several counts not least because due to an earlier Postal strike an extra five tons of Royal Mail had to be put on our plane at short notice, so the pilot had to re-do all his weight and balance calculations.

As we flew over the Scottish Lowlands the passengers were asked to keep the Two Minutes silence at 8.35pm. The whole plane was truly silent - no one talking or walking around, no service of meals or drinks. As we sat there it seemed odd to be flying over the sites of furious battles long since forgotten on the border between England and Scotland. Equally, as we sat there in the regular shuttle on our 757 with telephones in every arm-rest, literally the whole world of high technology surrounding us and at our fingertips, it seemed almost as far removed from the lifestyle of 1945 as it did from the ancient Battles of Prestonpans and Neville's Cross beneath us.

Here we were encapsulated in a world of our own seven miles up in the sky. As London came into view, so the fireworks in Hyde Park reminded us that it was 1995. And yet in this year, as in every year since 1945, war rages on earth. We can't even say we have had fifty years of peace in Europe, with bombing and injuries in the former Yugoslavia and Soviet Union, although, thank God, the seeds of peace in Ireland seem to be taking root. Our arms and weaponry have fed, and still feed, warfare throughout the world.

I'm grateful to John and Betty Rainbow for having invited me to a lecture to mark VE Day entitled "Religion: The Missing Dimension of Statecraft". It is truly frightening to think on how many occasions of warfare or persecution in the last fifty years 'religion' has been used as a justification for violence. And daunting to think that each 'religious' reason requires religious adherents, like you and me, to overcome them.

We can't live as if on a permanent aeroplane journey, sealed off from all around us, looking down on the earth from a great height.

Our faith is nothing if it is not rooted in the real world of human experience, but what purpose does our faith have if it collides with the principalities and powers to deny the presence of God in every human life?

The victims of warfare are surely best remembered by a struggle to create, establish and maintain peace - which is every bit as costly. To do this, not only in your own country, but God's world, needs you.

*Brian Leathard*



One of the most important aspects of the Church's ministry is to be part of the community. This is something which we hope the new cover of 'The Spire' will illustrate, the Church at the centre of the community. We hope you like the new cover designed for us by Gordon Stowell, and the fact that for the first time we are able to have the Magazine regularly printed on coloured paper. Our grateful thanks to Gordon for his imaginative design which shows so well what we aim to achieve.

In our Parish Magazine we have always tried to cover a wide range of topics, local, national, issues of the day as well as news of past and coming events. New regular features will include a Children's item, spotlights on either a Church group or activity in which the Church plays an important role such as the local United Nations group and a contribution by different people about the work they do (or did).

Ron's mantle has fallen to me, I hope very much to do as good a job as he did, but it is your Parish Magazine, so the contents are really what you contribute. Don't be shy, articles are always welcome although sometimes space is limited.



## The Bookstall

Could we all make more use of the Bookstall? At present its chief function seems to be for the periodic purchase of Bible Reading notes and books for Lent Courses and Study Groups.

There are up-to-date catalogues of Christian books of all kinds on the Bookstall, which can be borrowed, and any books listed in them can be ordered, if not immediately available at the three shops where our agency is registered - The Bridge, Hounslow; Wesley Owen Books and Music (formerly Scripture Union), Richmond and Dillons Bookstore, Margaret Street. Sadly 'sale or return' facilities are only available for special occasions.

Recently a small lending section has been started, do look to see if any of these books interest you. Terry Waite's autobiography is one of them and well worth reading.

Suggestions about improving the usefulness of the Bookstall are always welcome.

*Jean Western*

## Interesting Jobs - Personnel Director

I came late to Personnel. Having qualified as a public sector accountant, I worked for 25 years as external auditor of a variety of central government organisations before my employer, the National Audit Office, gave me a chance to move into the Personnel area. The opportunity to switch from the long-term and often frustrating task of 'helping the nation spend wisely' to something more immediate in impact and human in scale was too good to miss. I enthusiastically accepted the offer and in December 1984 became Personnel Director of the Office and its 900 mainly professional staff.

My first impressions of the job are still vivid. The volume of paper which arrived daily on my desk, from the Treasury, other organisations, my senior colleagues and staff, most of it requiring some action from me, seemed overwhelming. The breadth of my duties was also daunting: although responsible for only the 'normal' package of personnel activities - policy development, terms and conditions of service, industrial relations, recruitment, training, career development and staff welfare - I soon found that there were few aspects of National Audit Office activity which did not involve me in some way. However I soon settled down (and started to sleep soundly again at night).

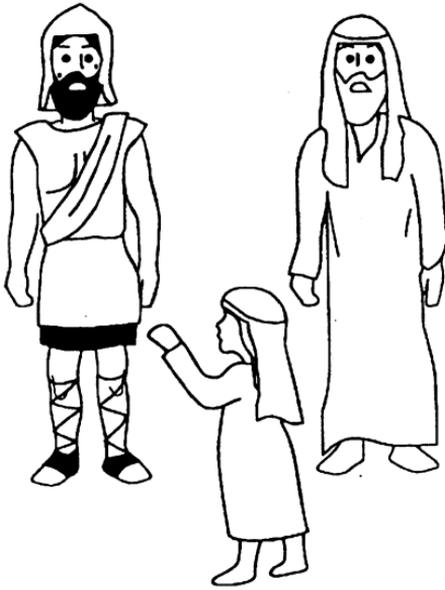
Overall, my work was extremely stimulating, interesting and satisfying. I greatly enjoyed being at the centre of things, in a key post, through a period of rapid change during which the National Audit Office moved out of the Civil Service and became fully responsible for its own destiny. I liked the variety of tasks and the many opportunities I had to meet and get to know people. Highlights included the development and implementation of performance appraisal and performance-related pay schemes for all our staff meetings of the Promotion Board, at which my fellow Directors and I sought to select for advancement those best qualified to manage and lead the Office in the future; the annual pay negotiations with representatives of the trade unions, which, if settlement was achieved were followed by a celebratory dinner; visits to universities in connection with the recruitment of graduates; attendance at the annual conference in Harrogate for the Institute of Personnel Management; visits to other organisations, including the major accountancy firms in London, the European Commission in Brussels and the European Court of Auditors in Luxemburg, to arrange secondments of professional staff to those bodies; and a four-day trip in 1993 to Warsaw, at the invitation of the Polish equivalent of the National Audit Office, to make presentations through an interpreter to about 50 senior managers about personnel policies and practices in the United Kingdom.

Of course there was also a downside. Some of my tasks were unpleasant to perform. Telling people that they were to be made redundant or would be dismissed on grounds of incompetence was distressing, though necessary from time to time. The preparation of policy papers for discussion by the Management Board could also cause worry and upset. And I did not like the modern title of my job, 'Director of Human Resources' - to refer to individuals as human resources seemed to me somehow to dehumanise them!

Eventually the opportunity arose for me, as for many others in the Office, to take early retirement. Again I did not hesitate; the lure of pastures new was strong. And I learned long ago that no one is indispensable!

*Brian Baker*

# Naaman and the Little Girl



This is a picture of Naaman. He was a soldier but he had a disease called leprosy. His wife's little Hebrew maid (she's the little girl in the picture) said she knew someone who could make her master better. His name was Elisha, a prophet who lived in Israel. Naaman went to see Elisha. He told Naaman to wash in the River Jordan seven times. Naaman was made better. Colour the picture in and think about people in the world today who have their leprosy cured with medicines and who are looked after by doctors and nurses. Soon we hope there will be nobody with this disease.

## Traidcraft

Traidcraft is a charity whose aim is to encourage groups of poor and disadvantaged people, mostly, though by no means all, from the Third World, to produce goods for sale in the more affluent countries. So Women's groups in India, Africa or Sri Lanka might weave and dye fabric to make duvet covers, scarves and other items. Or villagers might band together to produce pottery, toys and carvings, while others again might grow food on communal farms and we can enjoy their nuts, spices, honey and dried fruit or the tea and coffee. Profits go directly to the producers who can then not only raise their standard of living, but make their methods of production more efficient.

Traidcraft goods can be bought from the company by organisations such as churches and sold to the public (us!) and it has been suggested that we should do this at St. James's. The goods would be available for sale in the Church Hall on, perhaps, alternate Sunday mornings, but we do need a small group of volunteers to organise the sales, order the goods, deal with the money and so on. If you would be interested in joining such a group please contact either Margaret Taylor (977 3042) or Helen Taylor (979 7042).

# The Story of the Bible in English

From the earliest days of English Christianity the gospel story was told to people in their own language. A more permanent way of teaching people Bible stories was by wall-paintings and carvings. We have stained-glass windows in many churches today, though often no one looks at them, but hundreds of years ago parish churches had what can only be described as strip cartoons painted on their walls, telling well-know Bible tales. In the 7th century Bishop Wilfred adorned the church at York in this way.

Bede, a learned monk in Jarrow in the north of England wrote in 731ad about Caedmon, who was taught by the angels to sing Bible stories in verse. This supplied ordinary people, who couldn't read or write, with tales (that they could easily remember) from Bible books like Genesis, Exodus, and the book of Daniel. These poems were in what is now called Old English - the tongue spoken before the Norman Conquest.

Here is Moses speaking to the Israelites before the crossing of the Red Sea:

Ne beoth ge thy forhtran, theah the Faraon brohte  
Sweordwigwendra side hergas,  
eorla unrim! Him eallum wile  
mihtig drihten thurh min hand  
to daege thissum daedlean gyfan.

Be not frightened, though Pharaoh brought  
Sword wielders, vast troops,  
Men unnumbered! To them all will  
Mighty God through my hand  
This day give repayment.

Old English versions of parts of the actual Bible began to appear in the 9th and 10th centuries. The Lindisfarne Gospels, beautifully illustrated, still exist from this time, in spite of having fallen into the sea at one point in their history.

Alfred the Great (871-901) was unusually interested in learning, and did what he could to promote culture among his subjects. Towards the end of his life he published a Code of Laws, which contained the Ten Commandments, and other extracts from the book of Exodus.

The Norman Conquest of 1066 dealt a heavy blow to Old English culture, introducing a new ruling class speaking Norman French.

Translations of parts of the New Testament were made at the end of the 14th century. Here is how the Lord's Prayer is written:

Oure Fader that art in heuene, halewed be thi name.  
Thi kingdome come to us.  
Thi wylle be don, as in heuen, and in erthe.  
Our eche dayes breed yeue us to day.  
And foryeue us our dettys, as we foryeue oure dettourys.  
And lede us not in temtacyon, but delyuere us for yuel. Amen.

This is quite close to our version, and much easier to understand than the 8th century Old English.

But these extracts were made for monks, nuns, and priests. There was still no thought of supplying ordinary folk with the whole Bible in their own tongue. This idea began with Wycliffe.

*Stuart Ward*

## Music in Church

Do you remember that on the ninth of April we issued a questionnaire about the Choir at Parish Communion. A hundred blank forms were given out and sixty-six returned. Of those sixty-six responses here are the results - which will be looked at by the PCC as they make a recommendation about the music.



- (1) 73% of respondents came to Church every week.
- (2) 98% of respondents knew both the hymns and the tunes.
- (3) 83% said they knew the setting of the service.
- (4) 24% felt they can sing well themselves;  
37% felt that they sing not too badly;  
26% felt that they could not sing at all.
- (5) The singing: The body of the Church was found to be -  
58% better with a choir;  
32% no different with a choir;  
1.5% worse with a choir.
- (6) 60% found a robed choir helpful for worship;  
22% found a robed choir not helpful for worship.
- (7) 41% thought the choir sang very well;  
33% thought the choir sang well;  
4% thought the choir sang not very well.
- (8) 4.5% want the choir to sing less often;  
39% want the choir to maintain the present pattern;  
53% want the choir to sing more often.
- (9) Would you prefer to have an unrobed choir, not sitting in the Choir stalls?  
10% Yes; 77% No.
- (10) Would it be helpful if the choir were at the back of the Church rather than at the front? 21% Yes; 67% No.
- (11) Does the choir add to our Worship? 83% Yes; 3% No.

# Around the Spire

Congratulations to Betty Stewart on receiving her official Licence to Minister at St. James's and to those people who also received permission from the Bishop to administer the Sacrament in Church, and if necessary, to the sick.

The Vicar has had a letter from someone who has half a ton of Welsh Nuts solid fuel that he cannot use, but would like to find someone who could make use of it. No charge is involved but it would have to be collected. If you are interested please speak to the Vicar.

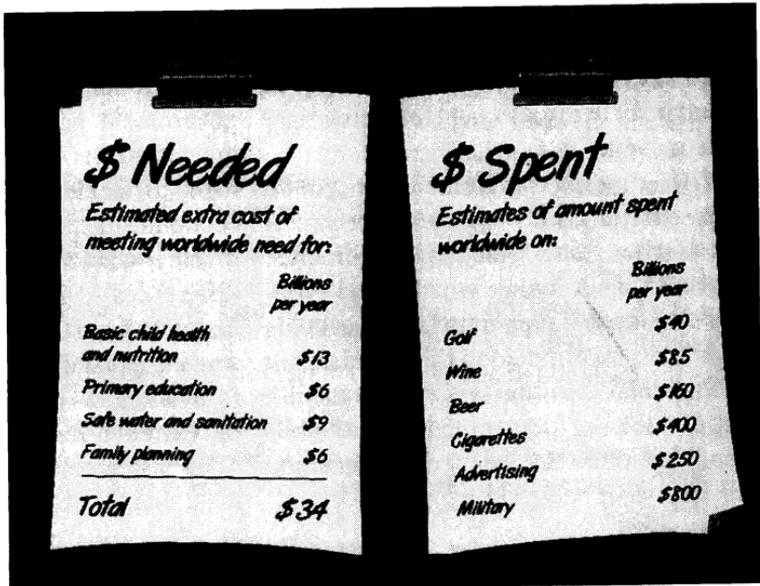
Now, several appeals for help. First, we would very much appreciate the services of someone to Audit the Church Accounts. If you feel you have the necessary experience please contact either John Smith, the Church Treasurer, or the Vicar.

A letter from the Children's Society has asked us to appeal for volunteers to help in their shop in Whitton. Last year the shop raised over thirty-four thousand pounds, their best ever, so you would be part of a very successful team.

We also need someone to run our own Church stall selling mugs, tea towels, postcards etc. This is not a demanding job, but just needs a little oversight on a regular basis. Anyone who is interested in doing this please speak to either Helen or Margaret Taylor.

The Friday night Family evening is proving very popular, especially with some of the younger member of the congregation. We do need some more adult helpers, there is a rota in Church, if you would like to help, please sign your name. This is a fun evening, if you have any queries speak to either Alan Taylor or the Vicar.

## Some statistics you might like to think about



# Letter from Zimbabwe

27th April 1995. There are so many things I would like to write about, it is difficult to choose. The very unpleasant, but as yet not disastrous, effects of the failure of the rains here is one thing. The nation is coping, though food will be short, and this means money for infrastructure development will be short too. My university, NUST, has had to borrow Z\$11 M just to continue its building programme, the government says it cannot pay. Boreholes are drying up, and our domestic water ration has been cut by 30%. Dams which should be brimming over are nearly empty. Mighty rivers are quite dry. Last weekend Mary and I walked along a sandy track, the bottom of a river which should have been running 4 metres deep. Dry Matebeleland looks with envy on the Zambesi roaring over its precipice. The Swedish pipeline survey team has started work; the survey alone will cost the equivalent of nearly £1 million.

ESAP, the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme, which is dictated by the IMF and World Bank, is beginning to bite hard; hardest on the poor. Work is hard to come by for the young. Today I met a young woman who had just graduated, and had been thrilled to be offered training in the UK. She could not raise the air fare, and lost the position.

The Zimbabwe elections have just concluded with a resounding victory for Mugabe. There are three reasons for the predictable result. Firstly, there are no credible opposition parties, the ruling party, ZANU(PF), has dissidents, but there is no cohesion amongst those opposed to it. Secondly, Mugabe can nominate 20 of the 150 seats without election. This is a constitutional hangover from the days of transition to independence. Thirdly, Mugabe is not perfect, but he is a clever and effective politician, and has managed to hold the three main sections of the country, the Shona, the Ndebele and the whites together peacefully. A democracy at peace with itself, an incalculable blessing in Africa.

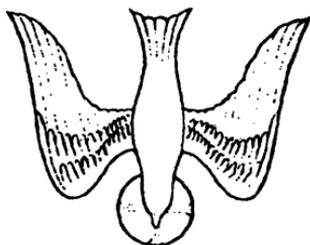
Last weekend we stayed at a safari lodge, built and run by a white farmer. He had worked through UDI, seen independence in 1980, and then through a civil war which we hardly kenw had happened. The Mugabe-Nkomo struggle was a period of great evil and viciousness. Resolved at a stroke by Mugabe, the more powerful, saying to Nkomo: "Let's stop fighting, and you can join me as my deputy". And it has worked. Our host, a born Zimbabwean, owned 10,000 hectares of veldt, some farmed, most a game park. Unlike most game parks, which have dangerous animals like lion and buffalo, we could walk by ourselves in this one. There were leopards, cheetahs and snakes, but they are wise enough to keep well clear of humans. A remarkable weekend for many reasons. We learnt a lot of politics, or at least one view of Zimbabwean affairs.

*Dick Wilde*

# Dates to Note

June

- 3 **The Great Banquet**  
Bread and Cheese Lunch organised by the Hampton Council of Churches  
All Saint's Hall, Hampton 12 noon onwards. Funds raised for 'SPEAR' hostel  
for homeless and mentally ill in Twickenham.
- 4 Pentecost
- 10 **Stuart Ward Entertains**  
Church Hall 7pm in aid of The Leprosy Mission
- 11 Trinity Sunday
- 12 St. Barnabas the Apostle
- 15 Corpus Christi: Thanksgiving for the institution of Holy Communion
- 18 Pentecost 2: 'Let's Celebrate' St. Paul's Cathedral 6.30pm
- 20 Hampton Deanery Synod at St. James's  
Bishop of London will be the Speaker.
- 24 St. John the Baptist
- 25 Pentecost 3
- 29 St. Peter the Apostle



July

- 2 Pentecost 4 Preacher at Informal Service: Therese Broadbent

## PATRONAL FESTIVAL WEEKEND

July 22nd & 23rd St. James's Day

Saturday: OPEN DAY and BARBEQUE

Sunday: only one service 11am Parish Communion

# Parish Weekend

Some people may want to begin saving for the weekend. We appreciate that for some people, the very reasonable fee of £60.00 (£55.10p for accommodation and all meals plus enough to cover the cost to the church of running the weekend) is hard to find, especially for those with several members of the family who would be involved. We will, therefore, start collecting money as soon as you like. £3.00 per week, starting now, will ensure the fee is paid well by its due time, and still allow you time off at Christmas and holidays!

Money can be paid directly to Monica Heaford or me if you can't find her. Please make any cheques out to "St. James's Church PCC" and make sure you are given a receipt!

*Ruth Mills*

April

## Baptisms

3	Samuel Christopher Wilstead	28 Wolsey Road
	Jonathan Michael Wood	13 Randle Road, Ham
23	Megan Victoria Warman	16 Hanworth Road
30	Angharad Eleanor Ball	23 Oxford Road, Teddington

## Funerals

5	Dilys Cyster	300 Hanworth Road	aged 73
7	Cecil James Phillips	19 Browning Close	aged 68
12	Roger Bowers	39 Rectory Grove	aged 44
18	Ronald Charles Birchall	9 Rectory Close	aged 72
20	Cherry Pauline Berwick-Bricknell	5 Wellington Court, Wellington Road	aged 66
25	Annie Mary Higgins	37 Myrtle Road	aged 84

**COPY DATE FOR JULY ISSUE: 12 JUNE**