

Ten years ago a storm broke with the publication of the Church of England's report *Faith in the City*. Once again the church was accused, on the one hand, of meddling in politics and talking of things it did not understand. On the other hand, the church was also accused of platitudes and lofty vision - but how about putting its money where its mouth was! To this end the Church Urban Fund was set up and it has raised over £18 million to enable church and community based projects to get off the ground in some of the most deprived and impoverished parts of our cities and towns. It has proved, with tremendous effect, that the church is not only concerned to speak about justice, but also to back it up with practical action. Ten years on, a progress report called *Staying in the City* finds that despite many initiatives by government, local authorities and voluntary agencies, the gap between rich and poor is widening and for many people in Urban Priority Areas conditions have become even more severe.

Five years ago, the Parish of St. Saviour and St. Mary, Shepherds Bush (just up the road from here, really) became increasingly alarmed at the high proportion of people in their locality in temporary accommodation and placed in Bed and Breakfast rooms. The parish launched a project called "The Upper Room" which offered, at first, not much more than tea and friendship. However, it soon became clear that they were merely scratching the surface. Unemployment among young men was terribly high, and among young Afro-Caribbean men in particular. Only 10% of their clients were registered with a G.P. because to do so requires a permanent address. With help from the Church Urban Fund, a nurse's surgery was created; now there is also specialised care for the elderly and the very young. Support is given in job applications, benefit applications and housing matters. 'At The Upper Room we've found people who just help you get back on your feet - and then we'll manage', said one client.

Nearly two thousand years ago Mary and Joseph were of no fixed abode, searching for a place that was safe for the birth of a baby. They too were a vulnerable young couple with little help, set amidst confusion and risk, and facing political persecution. They were forced to become refugees and flee for safety. A cold cave was their temporary accommodation.

This year and every year we proclaim that God's nature is still revealed in acts of human love and compassion, in the regard for human life in all its fullness, for all humankind. That is why we give and receive presents at Christmas, to reflect God's gift of life and love in all creation. This year may we give God to the world, in giving some love and care every day. May we also be prepared to receive God in recalling not only the child in Bethlehem, but also in seeing the light of Christ in Shepherds Bush and Hampton Hill. Better to light a candle than curse the darkness.

As always, you will be very welcome at St. James's this Christmastide. Share a peaceful Christmas this year.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 1995

Sunday December 17 6.30 pm Parish Carol Service

Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve

9.30 am Parish Communion

4.30 pm Children's Crib Service

11.45 pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

Monday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

Tuesday December 26 St. Stephen

10.00 am Holy Communion

You are very welcome at these services

**As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem he wept over it saying,
"If only you knew today what is needed for peace" Luke 19: 41-42.**

The picture presented to us by the media in the UK is one of progress in the peace process. My recent visit, on behalf of Christian Aid, only confirmed that little has changed in daily life for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza since the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993. The Taba Agreement was signed days prior to my visit. This extends self-rule for the Palestinians from just Gaza and Jericho to include the cities of Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron. However, contrary to the spirit of peace, Israel continues to exercise control. Palestinian land continues to be confiscated and Jewish settlements are still being built at great speed.

Jerusalem was sealed off from the West Bank and Gaza for the duration of my visit. This ugly form of collective punishment imposed on Palestinians means that thousands of people are unable to travel to their jobs in Israel. In addition agriculture and trade are seriously disrupted and university students, medical staff and patients are unable to reach specialised institutions and hospitals in East Jerusalem. Palestinians in the West Bank were saying "we now live in a zoo and we need permits to move from cage to cage" referring to the self-rule areas around the cities.

In Gaza, Palestinians feel that they live in a "neglected big prison". The Gaza strip is the world's most densely populated piece of land. A mere 45 km long 6-10 km wide, (and 40% of the area housing only 3000 Jewish settlers), it is home to approximately one million Palestinians - 70% of whom are refugees. Even with the Palestinian Authority (PA) being based in this self-rule area Gazans feel neglected, but it won't be long before the PA moves elsewhere in the West Bank and then Gaza is likely to become even more neglected. In the last two years the number of people suffering from malnourishment has increased and the infant mortality rate in Gaza is more than three times that of Israeli Jews.

Within this context Christian Aid partners work tirelessly to provide services in health, agriculture, vocational training. For example The Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work has set up three Family Health Service centres to provide vital health care, especially to women and children in the poorest areas of Gaza meeting local medical and nutritional needs.

So I would urge you to join in with this plea from a Palestinian Christian;

Pray not for Arab or Jew
for Palestinian or Israeli
Pray rather for ourselves
that we may not divide them in our
prayers but hold them together in our heart.

Ramani Leathard

Parish Weekend Update - Can you afford to miss this opportunity of improving your prayer life?

Application forms are now available for THE event of the year - the Parish weekend at Fairmile Court. There is quite a lot of information on them, but a little that did not get included. Several people have asked, for instance, about Friday evening. Supper is at 7.00pm. People may arrive any time after 5.00pm. Although there is no charge for babies, and cots are available, there is a hire charge. The news from a group from Teddington Methodists who went there recently, is that it is a marvellous place, where the food is excellent.

The detailed programme is being worked out, as is now well known, the theme is to be prayer. Brian, Alan and Betty will all be involved, but we also hope to have an outside speaker to stimulate our thoughts further. Any requests will be heard and included where possible, please make them known.

Please contact me for application forms and, if you want to pay any money towards your accommodation fee, (modest though it is, £60 is a lot of money for some people) contact Monica Heaford.

Volunteers are still needed to help with various aspects of planning. We are hoping that the young peoples' programme can be shared so that those involved do not miss out on the main programme, so volunteers for that side of it would be especially welcome. Requests from the young people who are coming would also be very welcome.

This is YOUR weekend. Make the most of it!

Ruth Mills 977 5165

Eva Ross

Eva was born in 1900, one of five sisters. She lived with her parents and sisters in Connaught Road and was a regular worshipper at St. Peters and St. Pauls Church. She married her husband Jim and moved to Lindsay Road when the houses were newly built, attending St. James's Church regularly and playing an active part in the Mothers Union. She nursed her Mother and her husband through illness and was widowed in 1959.

We came to know Mrs. Ross 10 years ago when we moved next door to her. She would often bring us flowers from her garden and chocolate biscuits for the children. Her only complaint was when we went away and she couldn't hear the noise of the children! Well into her nineties she used to look after her garden and would walk to Sainsburys frequently. Each Friday she would catch the bus to Kingston. Until her last year she attended church every Sunday at St. James's. She was an ideal neighbour and we shall miss her.

Karen, Gary, Lriura, Matthew, Thomas and Emily Hide

Edna Mary Salisbury

The funeral, on Thursday, 12th October, began with the coffin arriving on the shoulders of six strong young (well, one not quite so young) men - the beloved son and grandchildren of Mrs. Salisbury. Her strongest connections with St. James' Church were 30 or 40 years ago, before Christian names were routinely used, especially towards a member of an older generation. However, the warmth of welcome for the church's young people was never in doubt. She and her husband, Bob, to whom she was married 55 years, were the epitome of Yorkshire hospitality and humour - albeit in Wellington Road.

How would she have liked to have been remembered? She certainly was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, facilitating the fulfilment of the projects and ambitions of her husband, her doctor daughter, Jen, her civil engineer son, Rob and her "five young men" - the envy of all the other inmates of the old people's home where she spent the last months of her life. She was not, though, overshadowed by her physically much bigger and quite flamboyant (in the nicest possible way!) family. In common with most women of her generation, she gave up her job when she married. However, in middle age, she took a City and Guilds course and was subsequently employed at Kneller School to pass on her tailoring and dressmaking skills.

The dominating memory for me is of a little, blonde, smiling, kind woman presiding over a home full of laughter and love.

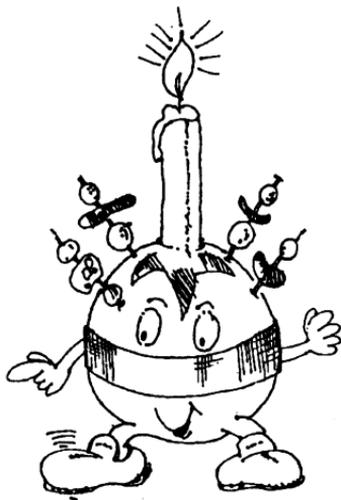
Children's Corner

Well, here we are in December at last - the month we have been waiting for since the summer holidays! In church there will be plenty going on, including the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, the Carol service and of course services on Christmas Day itself.

However we start at the beginning of the month, on Sunday 3rd December, with the Traditional Christingle Service. This family service is a beautiful occasion and we raise money for the Children's Society charity which helps the many children who are suffering in this country.

Everyone receives a Christingle which is made to represent our faith, each part having a different meaning :

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|-------------------|--|
| The Orange | represents the world . |
| The Ribbon | is God encircling the world with his love. |
| The Sweets | represent the fruits of the earth - all the things we are given by God. |
| The Candle | is Jesus Christ , the LIGHT of the world. |



So, colour this picture of a Christingle and come along to church this Christmas to sing Carols, hear the Christmas story and join in the celebrations at St. James's.

Ladies Casual Choir

Do come and join us for mince pies, coffee, sherry, chat and carols on Wednesday 13 December at 10.30 am in the hall. We hope to be able to make a contribution to our church funds and enjoy a little Christmas cheer at the same time. You may hear one or two unusual carols, but in general you will have a good 'sing' of the traditional, tried, trusted and well known carols! A good preparation for Christmas. Just turn up, we look forward to seeing you there.

Special collections during Advent

December 3 Christingle for the Children's Society

December 10 and December 17 Church Urban Fund

Advent 1995 sees the tenth anniversary of the publication of *Faith in the City*, the report which highlighted the poverty and despair in our own inner cities and caused the General Synod to set up the Church Urban Fund. The Fund has helped to change thousands of lives for the better and is an excellent example of our Christian beliefs in action. Let us help it's continuing efforts with a really good collection on these two Advent Sundays.

December 24 and the Christmas services

Christian Aid

Confirmation of St James's Candidates

This autumn nine members of St James's Parish were confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral. On Saturday 4th November Rowan Beentje, Peter Beentje, Joseph Coaker-Basdell, David Harris, Elizabeth Hodges, Natasha Ighodaro, Daphne Robey, Beatrice Taylor and Jonathan Warrens were confirmed by the Bishop of Edmonton in St Faith's Chapel in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. This Chapel is older than the present Cathedral and is what remains of a parish church demolished during building works at the previous St Paul's. In contrast to the ornate surroundings upstairs, it is quiet and whitewashed. On Saturday it was nearly filled with candidates and congregation as our candidates and those of other churches were confirmed.



The Bishop spoke in his sermon about the use of imagery from gardening and the appearance of gardens in the Old and New Testament. He reminded us that seeds need both planting and care if they are to grow and come to their maturity and bloom. Confirmation is but the beginning; encouragement and help are always of value to us as we follow our faith. After the Communion service the Bishop gave to each candidate a card as a record of their confirmation, and we emerged from the calm of St Faith's Chapel into the busy workaday world upstairs. The Communion at St. James on 19th November will be both a confirmation of the service on November 4th and a continuation of that process.

F M Hodges

Grand Concert

in aid of the Organ Fund Appeal

Saturday 28 October

A well filled Church which included the Mayor of Richmond in the audience, heard Cantanti Camerati, the excellent choir conducted by our organist Geoffrey Bowyer, provide most of the items which ranged from Purcell to compositions by Geoffrey Bowyer himself. It is always a pleasure to hear a Choir with such a high standard of tone, balance, musicality and diction as Cantanti and their performance of a setting of Purcell's "Nymphs and Shepherds" was especially enjoyable. Cantanti were joined by our Church choir for 3 anthems of which Charles Wood's "O Thou the Central Orb" was particularly well received.

The programme included several solo items by Robert Schuck (Clarinet), Michael Jones (Trumpet), Chris Hughes (Baritone), from St James and Andrea Rowett (Harp) which provided a pleasant contrast to the Choral works. Adding to the variety Philip Austin provided Cello obligato in an arrangement of one of the anthems. Robert Schuck was also joined by Rosemary Druce (Soprano) from Cantanti and accompanied by Geoffrey Bowyer singing Schubert's "The Shepherd on the Rock" which again was especially enjoyed by the audience.

Cantanti sang two items by Geoffrey Bowyer composed as "in remembrance pieces" and were joined by the Church Choir for his arrangement of "God be in my Head" which was most moving and poignant. Jeremy Martin, who has played the organ for us on several occasions, accompanied a number of the pieces with his usual musical skill and timing.

We are most indebted to Geoffrey Bowyer for his initiative in devising, planning and organising this Concert to provide a "launch off" for generating the funds needed for the enhancement and major overhaul of our organ - we don't currently have exact figures but an excellent start of £435 has been raised. We are also grateful for his high musical ability and enthusiasm in conducting the choir to bring out the high performance standard which made this such a pleasant evening. The concert was concluded by a spirited performance of Handel's well known anthem "Zadok the Priest" with trumpet and Judith Winstanley on drums providing a splendid finale.

We look forward to further musical events to raise more money for the organ and hope, with your support, that they will continue to be well attended.

Pip Rowett

Around the Spire

Readers of this magazine will surely remember Don Rawlins , who was for many years a Reader at St. James. Don recently presented a Chalice in memory of his wife, Muriel, to Rustington Parish Church. Jean Weston was able to attend the Family Communion Service when the Chalice was dedicated.

We send our love and sympathy to Megan Parry and her family as they mourn the loss of Trevor, Megan's husband. Trevor died peacefully in the Princess Alice Hospice at Esher on November the seventh after a long illness. At the funeral service, part of which was conducted in his native Welsh, we heard something of Trevor's life, his quiet ways and his life-long commitment to his work and his family, he and Megan had been married for fifty-three years. The hymns too had a Welsh flavour and were sung very movingly. Megan would like to thank everyone who has written to her, sent a card, telephoned, or expressed in any way their sadness at her loss. She feels very touched that so many people have cared so much.

There was such a moving and comforting service on All Soul's Night for the bereaved families in the Parish. The service was well attended and the many people that came along seemed to appreciate being invited to come, and were touched by the warm welcome they received.

Bill Robinson is now recovering from his viral infection. Roy Brooks has gone back into hospital after being at home for a few weeks and Olive Wright is also in hospital.

Remember those who are sick among us, and those who mourn, in particular those who have died recently and whose families have to cope with their loss in practical terms as well as with the fact that the other person is no longer there.

On a lighter note - Chrissie Hockley was taken trout fishing (aged nearly 91 !) while on holiday recently by her Great-nephew. She caught five trout, one of which she enjoyed for her supper. WELL DONE CHRISSIE.

The season of Carol Concerts for the schools will soon be here again. We are always pleased to see the children and their families.

There were babies galore and young people at the Informal Service on Sunday November 5th and there have been quite a few Baptisms also this month. This is indeed a very encouraging state of affairs, long may it continue.

DECEMBER - Dates to note

Dec. 3rd	09.30	Christingle Service
Dec. 6th	14.30	Women's Forum
Dec. 8th	14.30	Lady Eleanor Hollies (Junior) Carol Service
Dec. 10th		Second Sunday in Advent
Dec. 11th	19.00	Rectory School Carol Service
Dec. 13th	10.00	Hampton Hill Junior School Carol Concert
Dec. 17th		Third Sunday in Advent
	18.30	Parish Carol Service
Dec. 22nd	19.00	Carol singing starting from Church Hall
Dec. 23rd	11.00	HCC Carol singing Hampton Sainsburys

For details of Christmas Services see previous pages



Forthcoming Social Events

Do come along and join in Carol singing around Hampton Hill on 22nd December at 7pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall afterwards.

The New Year Party is on 13th January and will have a Royal theme (Princess Di look-a-likes, this is your moment!). On the 24th February we hope to hold a Whist Drive and the 16th March should see a Dream Auction, if we can arrange it. Celebrate the arrival of Spring by coming to a Tea Dance on April 20th.

Look out for further details in Church notices nearer the time.

Hampton Council of Churches Carol singing will be on December 23rd at 11am outside the small Sainsburys in Hampton.

From the Registers

OCTOBER

Baptisms

8	David John Paul and Charmayne Monika Rabbetts (couple married on 14)	
	Barnaby Samuel Shelton Chadwick	54 Windmill Road
	Amanda Louise Cornhill	28 Maswell Park Road, Hounslow
	Callum Jospeh Smith	44 Connaught Road
	Ben Samuel Walker	47 Wordsworth Road
29	Jospeh Ross Allen	66 Myrtle Road
	Charley Nicole Moss	Flat 3, Sheffield House, Park Road
	Thea Gillingham	10 Browning Close

Weddings

14	David John Paul and Charmayne Monika Rabbetts	
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Funerals

5	Dorothy Mildred Pratt	Meadow View Old People's Home	90
10	Robert Frank Newell	Marling Court	87
12	Thomas James Rowles	27b Dean Road	57
	Vivienne Rosaline Prentice	12 Oxford Road	97
16	Mary Gladys Nelson Allen	King Edwards Nursing Home, Teddington	96
26	Jospeh Stewart	120a High Street, Hampton Hill	84
27	Edna Mary Salisbury	formerly of Wellington Road	89
30	Alice Mary Jane Proctor	4 Wolsey Road	97

SINCE Ramani wrote her article about her visit to the West Bank and Israel we have seen the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin. What effect this will have on the Peace Talks we don't yet know, we can only pray that the process will continue.

THE Church Bazaar on November 18th raised £740 for Church Funds. Thank you to everyone who came or helped in any way.

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