

"There is" says the Archdeacon "perhaps no greater hardship at present inflicted on mankind in civilised and free countries than the necessity of listening to sermons. No one but a preaching Clergyman has, in these realms, the power of compelling an audience to sit silent, and be tormented. We desire, nay, are resolute to enjoy the comfort of public worship; but we desire also that we may do so without an amount of tedium which ordinary human nature cannot endure with patience; that we may be able to leave the house of God without that anxious longing for escape, which is the common consequence of common sermons." So speaks the Archdeacon, on hearing the odious Mr. Slope preach for the first time in Trollope's novel set in Barchester Cathedral.

BUT...I guarantee you, come to church on St. James's Day, Sunday 28 July, for Parish Communion at 11am and you will hear eloquence indeed from our own Archdeacon, Timothy Raphael, as we welcome him to St. James's for the last time before his retirement at the end of September. Tim has been a tremendous Archdeacon; always available, wise and provocative, deeply sensitive and caring about the 100 or so parishes in his charge. He was appointed by Bishop Mark and has constantly built up relations with clergy, churchwardens, readers, as well as the hundreds of lay members of synods and committees beyond all counting. During the last few difficult years, and especially in the last two years, Tim has single-handedly steered the Kensington Area of our Diocese of London. Anne, too, has borne the load and they have, with enormous generosity given an extra two years of service, thereby denying themselves two years retirement.

One of the largely unseen parts of Tim's ministry has been the regular publication of a document to the clergy, called Middlesex Roundabout. Rather like Tim really, it is difficult to put a name to it. To call it a newsletter is to belittle it, for although it contains news there is always wisdom. It is not a journal, for amidst its wisdom is also a deep humour which allows for no self importance or over-inflation of ego. It is not a devotional tract, for although there is always much to meditate upon, there is also the reminder to check gutters and return forms on time.

Personally, I have been delighted to serve alongside an Archdeacon who will pull out a volume of poetry during a lull in synod, turn up unannounced 'just to say hello because I was passing', and who finds time for a beer when one needs a chat. Tim has been a great friend to St. James's. Of course we have had our differences, but we have always benefitted from Tim's experience, thoughtfulness and care. Gaiters have not been Tim's style of Archdeaconing, for after all, does not the Psalmist caution us, "Put not your trust in any man's legs"? But holiness and faithfulness, in caring for people and parishes is a much more costly garment. Such a discipleship is surely what RS Thomas was hinting at when he wrote of Easter Morning (and therefore of every morning, noon and night!)

*"Am I too late?
Were they too late also, those
first pilgrims? He is such a fast
God, always before us and
leaving as we arrive."*

From all of us at St. James's, Tim and Anne, Godspeed in your retirement, to stay with God who is always moving on and begs us so to do. To all our friends around Hampton Hill we look forward to welcoming you to any of the events listed in the details of St. James's Day festivities.

Brian Leathard

St. James's Day 1996

Saturday 27 July: Games and Activities for Children
2.30 pm Vicarage Garden

4.00pm Beating the Bounds by Bike

5.00pm Barbecue in Cloister

Sunday 28 July:
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION
Preacher: The Archdeacon of Middlesex
followed by Bring and Share Lunch

Monday 29 July: Parish Prom: Tickets available
7.30 pm Royal Albert Hall.



THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

Our parish of St. James, Hampton Hill is only one of 411 which together form the Diocese of London. Roughly speaking the diocese is that area north of the River Thames within the arc of the M25, from Staines in the west to Tower Hamlets in the east. Over 550 stipendiary clergy, and many more non-stipendiary clergy and readers, serve the diocese. About 25 years ago plans were adopted to sub-divide the diocese for reasons of pastoral oversight and to enable more localised mission and ministry. However, even with this pastoral division into Episcopal (Bishop's) Areas, London still forms one diocese, with one Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, whose 'cathedra' or seat is to be found in St. Paul's Cathedral. Several new appointments have recently been announced, so it may be timely just to give a reminder of what is what! The Diocese of London is made up of the following elements;

Central Episcopal Area: Bishop Richard Chartres

Archdeacon of London: George Cassidy

Archdeacon of Charing Cross: John Klyberg

comprised of 73 Parish and Guild churches in the deaneries of The City, Paddington, St. Marylebone and St. Margaret (Westminster).

Kensington Episcopal Area: Bishop Michael Colclough (from September 96)

Archdeacon of Middlesex: Malcolm Colmer

(from September 96)

comprised of 91 parishes in the deaneries of Hampton, Hammersmith, Hounslow, Kensington, Chelsea and Spelthorne.

Willesden Episcopal Area: Bishop Graham Dow

Archdeacon of Northolt: Pete Broadbent

comprised of 85 parishes in the deaneries of Brent, Ealing, Harrow and Hillingdon.

Edmonton Episcopal Area: Bishop Brian Masters

Archdeacon of Hampstead: Peter Wheatley

comprised of 102 parishes in the deaneries of Central Barnet, West Barnet, North Camden, South Camden, Enfield, East Haringey and West Haringey.

Stepney Episcopal Area: Bishop John Sentamu (from September 96)

Archdeacon of Hackney: Clive Young

comprised of 60 parishes in the deaneries of Hackney, Islington, and Tower Hamlets.

The Bishop of Fulham, John Broadhurst (from September 96), has pastoral oversight of the small number of parishes which do not welcome the ministry of women as priests and acts across the diocese as assistant to the Bishop of London.

In addition to its parish structure the diocese also pursues its work through a variety of chaplaincies, for example in education, hospitals and prisons, and through its specialised boards, for example Schools and Social Responsibility.

ASAS

On Sunday 2 June Rachel Prance came to talk to us about the charity she has founded to support AIDS sufferers in Recife, Brazil. ASAS (Associacao de Acao Solidaria) is a non-profit, registered charity, guided by the Christian faith, whose goal is solidarity with people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, particularly those from low-income families. It is a new venture, having started its services in November 1994.

Rachel spoke of the services and activities that ASAS provides, which include support groups, counselling, a drop-in centre and limited temporary accommodation. At the drop-in centre the sufferers can have a nutritious meal, a basic need for many of them, and they can also help with the centre's financial needs by their work in a T-shirt silkscreen workshop. Although a potentially depressing environment, Rachel expressed very well just how uplifting it is to see people from diverse environments come together, form friendships and want to give something back in return. ASAS is becoming well known in the large city of Recife and many people undergo long and difficult journeys to visit the centre.

After the church service there was an opportunity for people to meet Rachel and her Brazilian husband Eduardo, both in the church hall and then later on at a buffet lunch at my home. Rachel has written to tell me how touched she and Eduardo were by the interest people showed in their work. I know she would want to thank everyone for the £200 that was raised from a plate collection in church and from the lunch, but for now I will express both her thanks and mine.

For all of you who heard Rachel speak it is obvious that her Christian faith is the foundation of all that she does. Although her work is far away from Hampton Hill she does have a very local connection as her father is Ghillean Prance, the Director of Kew Gardens. If you would like to find out how Rachel's love for Brazil arose then I suggest you take a look at a very interesting biography of her father. "A Passion for Plants" written by Clive Langmead and published by Lion in 1995.

Ann Peterken

RECIPE FOR HOME-MADE LEMONADE

At the recent Open Garden afternoon several people asked for the recipe of the Home-made Lemonade that went down so thankfully. This recipe was given to me many years ago by Doris Warwick and is one which both I and my daughter Ruth use frequently. Citric acid can be bought from Boots or anywhere that sells wine making equipment and is essential if the finished product is to taste palatable.

1 oz Citric Acid, 24 - 3Oozs Sugar, 3 Lemons, Boiling Water.

Peel the lemons thinly and put in a large bowl. Add the sugar and Citric Acid and a kettleful of boiling water, stir until the sugar is dissolved. Squeeze the lemons and add juice, pips etc to the above and leave overnight. Strain the mixture into bottles and dilute when serving.

Ed.

MISSION ACTION PLAN

The PCC recently reviewed the Mission Action Plan for the Parish. This is, if you like, St. James's "Five-year Plan", and should be reviewed every six months during that period. The Plan covers three areas of Mission in this Parish - Proclamation, Teaching and Nurture, and Pastoral Ministry - short and long term goals are set for each. After a review meeting in March a new current version appeared as set out here.

PROCLAMATION

1. Continue to work on proclaiming the Gospel through occasional offices.
2. Examine publicity and quality of material used for worship.
Investigate possibility of Video "A year in the life of St.James's".
3. Improve audibility in Church and extend use of radio microphones.
4. Extend day-time access to Church - perhaps weekday morning.
5. Deliver 'The Spire' to all houses on the Poets Estate.

TEACHING AND NURTURE

1. Inform PCC and Congregation of Training opportunities within Parish and Deanery, using 'The Spire', notices in the Service on Sundays, PCC meetings etc.
2. Widen availability of Confirmation Groups as refresher courses, and those seeking a deeper insight into their Faith.
3. Make greater use of Informal Services as Teaching medium.
4. Revive use of Prayer Chains and Prayer Supporters.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

1. Continue and possibly extend 'Open House'.
2. Make visiting a greater priority and publicise current practice.
3. Follow up Occasional Office visiting afterwards.
4. Relaunch 'Street Warden' scheme, welcome newcomers, visit sick etc.
5. Hold redesigned no-strings attached Newcomers Parties.
6. Strengthen links with other local groups e.g. VCG, Schools etc.

If you have any comments to make on the above Mission Action Plan please let the Vicar, Churchwardens or any member of the PCC know.

Children's Corner - Symbols of our faith



The cross many people wear is an obvious symbol of our faith as Christians. But, have you ever seen this other symbol, perhaps on the back of cars? Did you wonder what it was?

In Roman times, Christians were disliked by the rulers such as Caesar. They were not allowed to meet together and worship as we do in Church nowadays. If they were found out to be Christians they would have been persecuted. Therefore they had a secret symbol so that they could easily identify other Christians. It was the symbol of a fish, like the one above. Because it was such a simple shape they could easily draw it in the sand or mud with their feet without being noticed by anyone who was unaware of its meaning. In this way they could find out if anyone they met was also a Christian and so pass on any messages of secret meetings.

Today, some Christians wear a fish badge as a symbol of their faith as well as the more obvious cross. As you meet new friends in life you will often come across the symbols of Christianity. In my experience, it is often no surprise to find out that someone is connected with the church as the things they say and do have already shown their Christian faith.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1996

In spite of worries about the National Lottery, our Christian Aid Week at St. James's realised more money than last year! Thanks to our greatly appreciated Collectors, thirty-one in number, the envelopes duly delivered and duly collected, produced £1483, this represents a good deal of hard work. I, as the local Organiser, and Christian Aid do very much value this commitment from our un-sung heroes.
The donation to Christian Aid was made up in this way :-

1. Envelope collection	£1483
2. Retiring collection for Lebanon on Sunday.	£70
3. Wash for Dosh - Youth Club	£125
4. Palestine Hunger Lunch	£152
	<u>£1830</u>

Many thanks to you all - those who collected and the many who contributed to this excellent total. Next year's target £2000!!

Margaret Taylor

SCOUT NEWS

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Beaver's recent trip to Legoland at Windsor. The weather was glorious and the park was superb fun with rides to try and amazing scale models to admire.

The Cubs have been doing their First Aid badge with everyone doing very well. The majority managed to pass a very hard test paper to qualify for their Badges. Well done.

Whitsun took the Cubs to camp with the Scouts. It was the coldest, wettest camp in memory. Only six Cubs actually went to camp but even worse only four came back! Investigations have revealed that two more Scouts came back than actually went though, so all was well.

The Scouts went to Downe in Kent for their Easter camp. The sixteen who went took part in many activities including, Backwoods cooking, potholing, climbing, grass sledging, archery and shooting. Group Leader John Nielsen didn't live up to his Jonah tag this time, bringing sun and not rain when he joined camp.

The Scout Group is also running a Summer Quiz Challenge. For £1 you will receive a sheet with 100 questions on it. The questions take the form of eg. 7 = D in the W. (Answer - 7 days in the week). A cash prize will be presented to the person with the most correct answers. Forms available from any Group Leader or myself.

Paul Fitchett 941 7186

OPEN GARDENS DAY 1996



What a boon of a day, gloriously sunny, just enough breeze to ruffle the tree tops and seven charming gardens to browse around - all different - all interesting - all owned and tended by delightful people. Coryn Robinson ferried Eila (her mother) and me, Janet Jeffries around in a very comfortable brand new car.

The first garden belonged to Sue and David Taylor who had inherited a concrete wilderness in September 1993. The hard work involved in its transformation was mind boggling. I would like to have lingered by the large goldfish pond or in one of several 'seating spots' but we were off to Helen and Alan Taylor's. This is a garden very familiar to me: roses, roses, roses, a lovely scented Zephirine Drouhin, the thornless rose, beautified one fence and there were numerous interesting small shrubs as well as gorgeous lupins and irises. At the end of the garden a raised vegetable plot

with flourishing potatoes, spinach, beans and aggressively healthy onions and seed boxes presaging further delights.

On to the long, enchanting garden of Pat and Michael Futter, inherited from Pat's father who created it. It resembled one green room after another, all on different levels leading down to the Longford River. I noted a splendid, well-stocked octagonal greenhouse. There were weathered containers of interesting plants here and there, secret alcoves and resting places and the distant roar of the Mill Race.

Our next visit was to John and Elizabeth Gossage's very pretty house and their small, well-tended garden where we were greeted by the sound of wind chimes hanging from an old tree. A flamboyant crimson rhododendron took over the right hand wall while the left was host to a charming Banksia climbing rose with its old fashioned baby yellow blooms. Elizabeth's 'Hidey Hole' contained seedling frames and numerous herbs close to the kitchen door.

Containers of huge, colourful pansies welcomed us to Lou Coaker's garden. Here there were no straight lines, but burgeoning roses, and seats at strategic points, the pet rabbits ought to be well content in such a pretty place.

"How to get maximum enjoyment out of a small garden" was Moya and John Smith's avowed intention, successfully achieved. There was a shower of pink from a delicately blossoming philadelphus and pots of glowing red Busy Lizzies. One came out of the house onto a raised Sundeck, the size of a small room, soon to be roofed by wisteria, where Moya can be 'master of all she surveys.'

Finally to Margaret and David Taylor's garden, where a really delicious tea was laid 'en pleine aire', and the conversation was of the pleasure the garden visits had given us. A lovely and unusual species of Solanum covered the right wall, and at the end of the garden a group of conifers cunningly hid the garden shed!

That evening Moya phoned to say that £190 had been realised from entrance fees and that three lucky tickets gave their purchasers a £5 gift token kindly donated by Squires Garden Centre. Congratulations to the Organisers and Gardeners for a lovely afternoon to remember.

AROUND THE SPIRE

We begin this month by sending our very best wishes to the people celebrating 'special' birthdays, Alice Wallis, May French and Betty Redman, all of whom are now eighty and Monica Heaford, seventy. Alice recently also had a cataract operation as did Ruth Gostling, both are now doing well.

We are pleased to announce the births of two new babies, a daughter Molly Katherine

to Eric and Katherine Clarson and another girl to Charles and Susannah Nettleton, their second daughter, Isabel. Welcome to the new arrivals.

Since the piece appeared in 'The Spire' two months ago about our old friend Olive Wright, one or two people mentioned how instrumental she was in reviving the Sunday School in the early 1950's when the then Vicar, Rupert Brunt, first came to Hampton Hill and found the Parish in a very poor state. Many of us know the value of Sunday School when we were young and how important it is to keep this ministry alive, whether in 1950 or in 1996. Thanks Olive for your efforts, and to those who do the same job to-day.

Two more of our old friends have died in the last few weeks, Mabel Dick and Alison Thompson, very different characters, but both will be much missed.

Alison was born in Teddington and went to Twickenham County. After school and before the War she trained as a Physiotherapist at Guy's Hospital and worked in various hospitals including Truro and Salisbury, and, during the War at Teddington Hospital, eventually finishing her career at Windsor. This training stood her in good stead when she was older, always keen to try and keep moving however difficult or painful.

She was a long-time enthusiastic member of the Magazine Committee, whose meetings she attended regularly until fairly recently. She wrote well and easily and was keen to contribute something to 'The Spire', which she also read avidly. One of her other gifts was that of artist, her paintings in both watercolour and oils brought her great satisfaction and again she continued to paint occasionally until only a few weeks ago.

Alison loved St. James's and its people, she loved coming to Church and was always sad when ill health prevented her coming. We give thanks for her life and for all her gifts and good humour. She died in the Princess Alice Hospice on June 5th.

LOST - A Valued Possession

Quite some time ago I lent some one my copy of my niece's first novel:

LADIES CHAIN - by Katherine Hill

The book was affectionately inscribed and signed. Inside the dust cover were praiseworthy comments from the literacy critics of 'The Times' and 'The Daily Telegraph' and from my niece's local papers.

If you can help, please get in touch. If the book is in your possession please return it, personally or in the post. 30, St.James's Rd. H.H.

Margery Orton

MABEL DICK

I had my mum for sixty-five years and nine months, how shall I manage without her? I shall have to take a leaf out of her book, roll up my sleeves and get on with it. She came from a family of ten children, all of whom attended Archdeacon Cambridge School in Twickenham, and Holy Trinity Church twice every Sunday! My parents met at fifteen and seventeen respectively, I think at a dance, where my mother and her sister, May, were the Charleston Champions. My father was a musician at Kneller Hall and they were engaged for about six years and married in their early twenties. The marriage was long and happy and when my father was ill towards the end of his life my mother nursed him devotedly.

My sister, Pam, and I had a wonderful childhood, loving parents, safe home, a black spaniel called Solomon, seaside holidays and Christmas at our Grandparents with all the family.

By the time Val and Marion arrived the war had changed our lives completely. Father was in the Army for six years and we had to cope as best we could. When the War ended Pam and I were grown-up, and it was the younger ones turn to have a taste of the good life.

Among my mother's papers was a beautiful card addressed to "All my dear family" thanking us for all we had done and trusting that we will be good to each other. Another yellowed note was from their Landlady when they returned from their Wedding ceremony saying "Welcome and God Bless your life together", I think he did.

Joan Worth

FROM THE REGISTERS

There were no Weddings or Baptisms in May.

<u>Funerals.</u>			
	3rd May	Hilda Batten 40, Bucklands Road, Teddington	93
	8th May	Florence Steward 13, Longford Close	
	24th May	Mabel Alice Lilian Dick 20, Fairlight	89

DATES TO NOTE

- July 2nd PCC.
July 3rd Women's Forum Invitation Service in Church 2pm.
July 5th Editorial Board, 68, Park Road.
July 17th Women's Forum Summer Party.
July 27th Games afternoon, Bike Ride and Barbeque.
July 28th St.James's Day, Shared Lunch.
July 29th Parish Prom. Albert Hall. Tickets from Vicar.

COPY DATE FOR AUGUST MAGAZINE: JULY 14TH