

Traditionally, as for salmon fishing or grouse shooting, there is an 'open' and a 'closed season' for weddings. The majority of weddings seem to take place between Easter and September. Too bad for those clergy, like me, who try to take Saturday as a day off. This year has been rather different. At the beginning of the year it looked as if we would host about thirty weddings at St. James's in 1992. However, as the year has progressed (or the season opened!), that number has fallen quite dramatically - although there have also been a few late bookings.

Anyone who has been involved in getting married or arranging a wedding for a family member or a friend will appreciate the seeming complexities. The church, the reception, the disco, the photographer all have to be booked long in advance. Costs seem to escalate beyond all understanding (and quite unnecessarily) and there is always someone whose toes are stepped upon. In 1992 we, like many other parishes, have had many cancellations - thirteen out of thirty-one at the latest count, which is not far short of 50%.

What has been particularly aggrieving and difficult is that although some people have cancelled well in advance, others haven't even bothered to to inform me. Others have just mentioned it in passing, when I have bumped into them in Sainsburys, or again I have had to make frantic 'phone calls the day before the planned wedding, just to be told that it is off!

Quite clearly, the reason is the recession. People, when asked, will say, 'We can't afford a wedding and a mortgage, so we'll just take the mortgage' or 'We'll just live together to see if a job turns up and, if it does, then we'll get married later'. I don't blame people at all, I well understand their fear and concern (although I fume that another precious Saturday is messed up!).

It is one thing to hear or see statistics of interest rates and unemployment, co-habiting couples or children born out of wedlock, and be very judgmental. It is quite a different thing to sit and talk to people whose most intimate relationships are stunted by factors affecting their lives, over which they have no control. Recently, a wedding couple, both 'doing well' as we say, came to ask if they could cancel their wedding. When we talked it through, they, like many others, had both been made redundant, had defaulted on a mortgage and their house was about to be re-possessed. The girl said, 'One of those three, or even two, we could have coped with, but not all three. Our future is in ruins'. Another couple, who already have a child, again came to cancel their wedding because they were having to return to the groom's parents' house, as the groom (aged 22) had been unemployed for two years and they no longer had the deposit for their desired flat and there was no prospect of gaining council housing. They have since separated because of the pressures upon them.

And at the same time General Synod is talking about whether the church should condone or condemn co-habitation - that is people living together before marriage. I really think the church needs to wake up. The vast majority of people I marry are already living together and say so. But I don't hear the church discussing the enormous strains and expectations our society and economy are putting on people, especially young people, at a vulnerable and deeply significant time in their lives. What hope, what vision are we showing those who come to us? What lasting pastoral, practical, prayerful support are we offering those who turn to the Church at this critical point in their lives - a grumbling about people living together, a moan about cancelled weddings or a real solidarity with couples in distress? It's not easy, but loving God and our neighbour as ourself never is.

Brian Leathard

Money Matters

At the last PCC meeting the Stewardship Committee presented their view of our church's financial position. It should worry us all, and it is worthwhile to give a broad outline of our income and expenditure so that we all understand the challenge clearly. For clarity, most figures are rounded off to the nearest £1,000.

This calendar year we estimate that our income from all sources, other than special fund-raising events, will be about £42,000. Our expenditure in total we estimate as £48,000. We will thus have a current account deficit of about £6,000.

In a little more detail, our income estimate is £34,000 from stewardship giving, including the tax rebate, £3,000 from other giving, and £5,000 from interest and rents. This makes up the £42,000.

Our expenditure estimate is £31,000 for the Common Fund, £12,500 for our own church expenses, and £4,000 for charitable donations. This makes up the £48,000.

Some further points should be made. Firstly, we are trying to alleviate the £6,000 deficit this year by special fund-raising events. At best we might hope for £3,000 extra income from the very hard work of the organisers. To meet our need fully fund-raising would have to double its efforts. Secondly, we financed our current-account deficit last year (which was £12,000, largely due to special re-decoration expenses), by 'borrowing' from our slender savings intended for the new church hall. We could do that again, but the borrowing can never be re-paid unless we increase our income.

The conclusions that the Stewardship Committee, the Finance Committee and the PCC draw are quite clear. Unless we can significantly improve our stewardship income we shall not be able to afford our new hall or many other things we need.

Dick Wilde

Stewardship

Stewardship giving over the past four quarters, and for the preceding four quarters, was as follows:

		£		£
July - September	1991	5,713	1990	5,436
October - December	1991	6,149	1990	5,862
January - March	1992	7,501	1991	6,802
April - June	1992	<u>6,805</u>	1991	<u>6,042</u>
		26,168		24,142

CCG Opening Day

On Friday 3 July, the Greenwood Centre, the new Headquarters of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group was officially opened by H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester. A smart new building has taken the place of St. James's Parish Hall, School Road.

The Vicar and I sat with others awaiting the royal guest in the Entrance Hall and agreed, rather bemused, that that was where the old lavatories had been! It's a real transformation, and is a lovely building thanks to the help of the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity and to many fund raising activities over the years.

It all started at a meeting of the Hampton Council of Churches in 1973 when Community Concern was on the agenda. I remember the Rev. John Cotgrove, Vicar of All Saints, turning to me and saying, 'You would be interested in this'. The Rev. Dennis Green, Curate of All Saints, and I were asked to meet and think about it. Mrs. Beryl Bolsover, present at that first meeting and present at the opening, added that Dr. David Woodroffe would also be interested, and we three met and talked. We were soon joined by Mrs. Joan Heath, secretary of the Hampton Residents' Association, and Mrs. Joyce Doughty, Secretary of the Hampton Hill Residents' Association, and very soon Mrs. Joy Coe from the Social Services was invited. It was when Joy came and outlined what a Community Care Group could take on with the help of volunteers that we realised 'Yes. It must happen.'

We met and talked for a long time; we didn't want to hurry things. The advice of many local people was sought. It wasn't until 1974 that we organised the Big Bang Meeting at St. James's Hall with Dr. David Bolt presiding. Our dear friend, the Rev. Ted Hunter, arranged the use of a room in the United Reformed Church complex; we got a 'phone; with the help of book-seller Gordon Lansborough, and Jack Gostling, who made a shop available, we started the Bookshop, without which we couldn't have financed ourselves at all in the early days. Well done, Brenda Smith, who has run it ever since!

We started, but I never visualised that we should eventually land up with a building like this, and an opening such as our Opening Day on 3 July 1992! Good luck, CCG!

Hannah Stanton

Scholarships and Christian Aid

Christian Aid has funded scholarships in one form or another since it first came into existence in the late 1940's.

Christian Aid's basic policy on training and scholarships states that '... scholarships should contribute "to strengthening the poor". Central to strengthening the poor is the process of building up organisations. Accordingly, the main part of Christian Aid's funding of training should be in support of human resource development by our partners'.

Christian Aid currently operates two entirely separate scholarships programmes although they have some features and aims in common.

1) The Africa/Middle East Scholarships Programme grew out of a special programme established in 1975 with the aim of training Zimbabweans prior to independence. Like Zimbabwe, Namibia has also been assisted and continues to be supported. Currently only those from specified priority countries are considered. The programme is now aimed mainly at offering training and educational opportunities for suitable staff from our partner organisations in The Occupied Territories, Sudan, Ethiopia/Eritrea, South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique. Scholarship holders have studied a wide range of subjects including Environmental Planning, Primary Health Care, Food Technology, Journalism, Education, and Development Studies. This programme sponsors students for study in Africa as well as the U.K. and currently offers 18 - 20 awards. One member of staff has oversight for this programme. Women and men are equally eligible for awards.

2) The World Council of Churches Scholarships which I am involved in function on a world-wide basis and the scholarships office in Geneva co-ordinates the movement of over 300 students annually. The aim of the programme is for students to 'combine academic study and practice ... to benefit from inter-cultural exposure and ecumenical experience and to grow in their understanding of development, justice and peace'. These awards are intended for candidates recommended by churches or church-related organisations. The bodies that request scholarships select according to their own needs and priorities. The candidates are generally mature students with some work experience in their chosen fields and they are required to commit themselves to returning home to take up the task for which their training was needed. Studies can be undertaken in any country provided the course is not available in one's home country. For candidates from developing countries preference is given to study programmes available in a similar socio-economic region. For candidates from the industrialised countries preference is given to study programmes in the South although some places are available in Germany and the U.S.A.



Christian Aid contributes a specified sum of money to the programme every year. In 1991/92 it funded 16 scholarships including 9 awards for the Postgraduate course in Theology and Development at the University of Edinburgh which it helped set up. In

addition to this, Christian Aid also takes on the administration of scholarships for other WCC students in the UK and Ireland who are funded by other organisations. Two members of staff are employed to administer up to a maximum of 70 students on this programme. This year we are responsible for 65 students from 34 different countries. Again many different subjects are pursued - Physiotherapy, Communications, Community Rehabilitation, Care of Children in War and Disaster, Addiction Behaviour, Mother and Child Health, Religious Studies and Education. WCC scholarships are open to all women and men, lay or ordained. Awards are also made to those from non-Christian traditions.

Apart from these two programmes Christian Aid's Asia/Pacific and Latin America Caribbean Groups also fund scholarships for our partners on an ad hoc basis in the North and the South.

Ramani Leathard

Welcare News

After eight years as parish representative for Welcare I have decided to resign. Would you be interested in undertaking this task on behalf of the parish? It involves attending meetings, receiving mail and information and generally keeping up to date with what is happening, reporting back to the P.C.C., and helping with fund-raising as and when you feel able to.

As many of you already know, I have also been employed by the London Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility over the past seven or eight years and worked at the Welcare Hostel in Hammersmith, caring for young teenage mothers and their babies. Sadly, the Hostel closed last December due to lack of funding. I was offered re-deployment but the options were limited, all were part-time, some were not really appropriate for me and others I was interested in did not feel I was appropriate for them. After a very sad and anxious few months, I was finally offered a part-time post at Dawley Road Hostel in Hayes.

I have five residents at Dawley Road, all young teenage mothers as in my previous hostel but a very different group at the moment, all very amenable, capable and appreciative of the help and support offered and not at all difficult or demanding, a really super group. In addition to caring for the residents, I run two community drop-in groups for mothers and toddlers. Approximately twenty mums plus children use the groups and we provide play activities for the children, drinks and snack lunches, also help, support and advice for the mums where needed. The groups are a very new experience for me but I am really enjoying my new work and I no longer have to work evenings, overnight or weekends, which is an additional bonus after a sad ending to my previous hostel.



Mona Gow

Save the Children at Hampton Court



Since the Teddington and the Hamptons' Branch was formed in 1969 many different ways of fund-raising have been tried. Our biggest venture (so far) has been our first garden at the Hampton Court International Flower Show which took place from 8 - 12 July this year. After many months of planning and discussion, the great day arrived.

The garden we had is difficult to describe but was interesting to see. We were fortunate to have found Garden Designer Graham Burgess from Whitchurch, Hants, and Richard Ward (Landscaping) from Richmond. Half the garden had lots of green leafy plants around a pond. Seated in the pond was a cherub and from a winged watering can (in pink!) flowed water to represent the blessings most of us have. A second cherub sat in the other half of the garden which was bare and desert like - showing she had no blessings. From the pond came a long pink pipe leading to a large hand. When a donation (or two) was put on the hand it swung down and dropped coins into a small pool in the desert, bringing with the coins a small gush of water. Thus we showed how Save the Children tries to direct resources from the haves to the have-nots. (The water came from the can by magic!).

The garden received a lot of attention, especially from children who wanted to see the hand move. Also, it was mentioned in a number of radio programmes.

By Sunday evening we had collected £1,009 - all of it rather wet, but still very welcome. We were also given £141 donations from another garden designer.

I saw more of the flower show than just our garden. There were some magnificent displays of all sorts of wonderful flowers, many of which I couldn't identify. I liked a life-size horse, all of brown leaves and a huge green teddy bear. There were some fascinating water gardens - one with majestic slates towering above and water running down. But it wasn't all plants and gardens. There was a craft village where I could have spent all day.

Of course the flower show brought thousands of visitors (as anybody trying to get around will know). I was lucky to see H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh as they arrived on Wednesday. There were people from show business and we had Francis White at our garden all day (Francis is Vera Flood in 'May to December' and used to live in Parkside, Hampton Hill). It was fun talking to Steve Allen from LBC Radio. The Queen Mother visited the show on Thursday. Among the thousands was Brenda Oliver who sent love to those at St. James's who remember her.

That's the show over. I don't know if we'll be there next year, but if we are, please visit us and please bring better weather than this year.

In conclusion, our thanks must go to Graham and Richard for bringing this exciting project together for us and to the flower show horticultural director, Adrian Greenoak, for offering us a place at this prestigious show.

Kate O'Sullivan

The Canadian Glade

On Canada Day, Wednesday 1 July, with due ceremony, a specially carved totem pole was raised in Bushy Park to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Canadian Confederation and to inaugurate the Canadian Glade. This is an area by the Waterhouse Pond towards the Hampton Hill end of the Woodland Gardens which is to be planted, informally, with a variety of native Canadian trees, shrubs and flowers. These will include those which are used as symbols of the twelve provinces of Canada.

As many will know, the association of Bushy Park with Canada dates from the setting up during the First World War of the Kings Canadian Hospital in the grounds of Upper Lodge. This was for wounded Canadian soldiers, and eleven soldiers who died from their wounds are buried in our churchyard. Ron Metcalfe has for many years tended their graves with great devotion and it was therefore very appropriate that he was invited by the Canadian High Commission to attend the ceremony at the Canadian Glade. The dull but fine day was brightened by the Canadian Mounted Police (and by a salmon barbeque!).

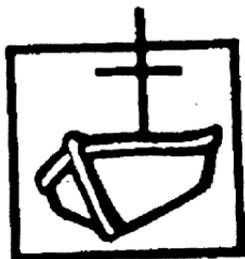
The totem pole was carved by Norman Tait, a leading West Coast Indian artist who has made a particular study of traditional Nishga carving. Called the 'Killerwhale-Eagle Pole', the whale carving at the base of the pole represents the oceans from which Europeans first came to British Columbia and the eagle at the top of the pole signifies the ease of modern air travel. The long dorsal fin protruding from the back of the whale represents the power of the native people and of the carver himself.

The totem pole has yet to be permanently secured in place but its 35 foot height is impressive and one can admire it and look across the glade from the seat at the end of the pond, now beneath a large timber pergola. It will be interesting to see how the planting progresses and how the glade, with its pines, birches and maples, develops over the years.

Ron Bridges

Missions to Seamen

Would all who have collecting boxes for the Missions to Seamen please bring them to church as soon as possible and hand them to Violet Clark so that they can be opened and the proceeds sent on to the Mission.



St. James's Church Women's Tuesday Club

Prior to 1968 the St. James's Church Young Wives Group was formed consisting of mothers and babies and young children, many of whom had been baptised in St. James's Church. This group became the nucleus of St. James's Church Women's Tuesday Club formed in July 1968 to include not only mothers but other married and single women. It was decided to meet every other Tuesday in Wayside at 8 pm (tea and biscuits then cost 6d).

Over the years the Club flourished into a popular and friendly gathering with talks, outings, demonstrations, etc. ending each year in July with a Summer Supper.

Sadly it was decided at the AGM in June that July 21st this year would be our last meeting. For various reasons over the years we have lost members and gained others, but find it now difficult to form a younger, fresh committee.

I would like, on behalf of members past and present, to say thank you for the hard work and effort both the previous and present committee members have expended to have made the Tuesday Club so enjoyable over the years.

Dorothy Weston

The Children's Society

This year the Children's Society boxes have raised £412, slightly down on last year but still a good amount. We have about thirty box-holders and we usually lose two or three each year which are usually replaced without much difficulty. The Sunday School did especially well this year. They collected about £70 and all the children were given badges to mark their efforts. Thank you everyone who contributed.

I am very pleased to report that, as a result of my recent appeal, Anne and Pip Rowett are to take on the job of Hon. Secretary. They are already enthusiastic supporters of the Society and I feel sure that they will enjoy their new task as much as I have done over the years.

Helen Taylor

Hampton Hill Association Barbeque

Come and join us at 61 Windmill Road for our Annual Bar. B. Que on the banks of the Longford River.

August 22 at 7 pm.

Bar available.

All proceeds towards Teddington Theatre Club's New Theatre in Hampton Hill.

Tickets (£3 a head) available from either Joyce Doughty on 979 2839 or Dennis Dolan on 979 8641.



Around the Spire

Congratulations to Peter Bestley and Murray Thomsett, both recently ordained. They will be working locally, Peter at All Saints, Hampton, and Murray at St Philip and St. James, Whitton.

Well done to Gill Gostling who recently completed a sponsored bike ride to Brighton, and raised over £200 for the British Heart Foundation. Earlier this year, many local people sponsored John Gostling who helped to man a raft in the Wye Valley Raft Race. Altogether, the crew raised over £1,700 (much more with corporate donations) for a Children's Hospice.

Father Joe Scully from St. Theodore's joins the list of local clergy who are sick. Please pray for them. We hope they will soon be back working among us.

Mary Swatland is recovering slowly from her operation and Jean Wilson is to have a hip-replacement operation very shortly. Please remember them also.

A familiar figure sitting on the seat outside Laurel Dene is with us no longer. Peter Morey died, peacefully, during the night of Wednesday 8 July in Teddington Hospital. He had been moved there from West Middlesex Hospital a week or two before he died. It is hoped that we shall be able to arrange a service in his own much beloved St. James's Church.

Bill Long, a resident of St. James's Road for many years, and in his younger (and not so younger!) days a popular local sportsman, also died recently. Bill had had a bad stroke thirteen years ago from which he had made a good recovery, much helped by his wife, Joyce. Our love and condolences to Joyce, Sarah and Andrew and all their family.

From the Registers - June

Baptisms

7	Pia Jaie Carpenter	40 Hanworth Road
21	Rebecca Jane Cornhill	148 Wordsworth Road
	Alexandra Lauren and Jessica Jane Howard	42 Hurstdene Avenue, Staines
	Flora Rose Geoghegan	12 Windsor Road, Teddington

Marriages

6	Philip James Townsend and Julie Ann Clements
	Gordon Michael Shackleton and Margaret Brook
13	Wayne Giles Hayler and Linda Katherine Hannell

Funerals

3	William Eric Smallpiece	206 Hanworth Road	Aged 64
4	Marjorie Edith Sqelch	10 Winifred Road	Aged 65
5	Mabel Orridge	33a Wordsworth Road	Aged 79
17	Ronald Frederick Arthur Burden	11 The Garth, Uxbridge Road	Aged 77
18	Beatrice (Trix) Gubbins	157 Uxbridge Road	Aged 77

Dates to Note

Please note that there will be no Evening Services during August
(apart from the Taizé Service on 11 August)

Aug.	1 and 2	11.00 - 17.30	Open Weekend in Richmond Park
	6		The Transfiguration of our Lord
	10	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	11	20.00	Taizé Service, St. James's Church
	21	19.00	Parish Prom., Royal Albert Hall
	22	19.00	H.H.A. Barbeque by the Longford River
	24		St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Advance Notices

Sep.	8		The Blessed Virgin Mary
	9	20.00	Induction of The Rev. John Cleaver as Vicar at St. Mary with St. Alban, Teddington
	16	20.00	PCC, Vestry
	19		Parish Ramble
	21		St. Matthew the Apostle
	29		St. Michael and All Angels
Oct.	3		Harvest Supper, St. Francis de Sales' Church Hall
	4	09.30	Harvest Festival Children's Eucharist

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