



This is an amazing Diocese. It contains all of London, north of the River Thames in a huge arc, from Shepperton, Ashford and Staines in the West right round the M25 in a clockwise direction to the East End. It has green fields, suburbia, vast housing estates, inner city parishes. It has tourist destinations and historical and living treasures, but it also has churches which are in dire structural condition. It has 600+ paid clergy and many more non-stipendary clergy. Its mission is carried out by countless Christians, lay and ordained, female and male, young and old, poor and rich, of every culture and background imaginable.

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When Bishop David became Bishop of London a year ago, he began to speak of the urgent need for an imaginative and positive strategy for mission within the Diocese as a whole. Certainly many people feel that this hugely diverse Diocese has somewhat lost its direction. I welcome most warmly his leadership in tackling the vast problem of being the Church of England in London. He has published a **Green Paper** - a discussion document - entitled **Agenda for Action**. At the heart of this Agenda is the church's task:-

- The proclamation of the Gospel in worship, word, sacrament and service.

Key areas: Worship together; Private Prayer; Welcome and Friendship; Spiritual growth; Meeting people's needs in moments of crisis e.g. birth, marriage and death.

- Teaching, nurture and growth in Christian faith and living.

Key areas: Enquiry; Teaching Basics; Sharing and Communication; Nurturing; Church Schools; Faith, Life and Work.

- The pastoral ministry, care and service of the Church.

Key areas: Defining particular need (e.g. Unemployment, Homelessness, Drug abuse, Black concerns and Racism, World Development; Environment and Care of Resources.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but is merely a starting point.

However if these are our priorities for being the Church, then we need to consider the resources we have. We must work out a strategy to translate resources into priorities of action. So what are our resources in this Diocese of London?

First - YOU! Ministry and Mission is the responsibility of the whole Church. We need patterns of collaborative ministry where the whole people of God is contributing its talents. Certainly we must scrutinise the way we employ and place clergy, their number, training and work patterns, but this can only be part of the picture. We need creative structures where the whole Body of Christ works together - which means entering into new partnerships, taking new risks.

Second - Finance. We must make sure that agreed financial targets are met and not exceeded. Scrutiny must be given to priority areas for funding, even if this means that another area of the church's life suffers for a while. For example, if we need money spending on the church's work with the homeless it may be that another parish may not have 'its own' priest. We need rigorous control of finance with open and transparent accounting practices.

Third - Buildings. Our church buildings are special places. They are visible signs of God's presence in the community, they offer sanctuary, a house of hope, a shaft of love, a place of prayer. On the other hand we have too many church buildings, and often those we have no longer fit the need of the community they serve. Some churches are in the wrong place - in other places of population growth there is no church building at all. We need to ask hard questions about the number, location and condition of our buildings.

The Bishop of London wants to hear what you think about the Church's **Agenda for Action**: it will be discussed throughout the Diocese in synods and in councils. Our Parochial Church Council will consider it at its meeting on November 16th in the Vestry.

You will be very welcome on that occasion, or you can send me any comments you want to make, 'phone me or call on me at the Vicarage for a chat.

I really do look forward to hearing your views.

Brian Leathard

Thanks A Mushroom

The following inscription was taken from a double tombstone in the graveyard of Mitcham parish church. No apologies for spelling or punctuation.

IN MEMORY OF
MARY SARAH and ELIZA
the daughters of
WILLIAM and ELIZABETH
ATWOOD
of this parish
who were POISONED by eating
fungous Vegetables
mistaken for champignons
on 14th day of October 1808 and
DIED
at the ages of 14, 7 and 5 years
within a few hours of each other
in excruciating agonies
The FATHER MOTHER and
now alas an only CHILD
partakers of the same meal
have survivd
with debilitated Constitutions
to lament
so dreadful a calamity.

THIS MONUMENT
is erected
to
perpetuate the fatal
event
as an awful caution to others
let it be too
a Solemn warning
that in our most grateful enjoyments
even
in our most necessary food
may lurk a deadly poison
and that when
age and health
are most apt to flatter us with
length of days
some
unforeseen misfortune
may snatch US in an instant
to
ETERNITY

By and large that would be enough to put the average human being off fungus for life.
Not withstanding that, the Common, Richmond Park, Bushy Park and other patches of

open land in the area are currently swarming with Continentals seeking out Cep and other forms of boletus, Parasols, Blewits, Shaggy Inkcaps and copious other varieties of the fruits of the earth.

Wimbledon Common has a wealth of edible fungus at this time of year. It has the odd Death Cap and Destroying Angel plus one or two other sundry killers as well. They are best avoided - and that is a function of knowledge.

As Autumn approaches Fungibores abound everywhere chanting their favourite epithet: 'It never rains but it spores'. You can recognise them easily on the Common: eyes down, not Bingo anti-climax, nor shame, nor footwear admiration but poised, ready for another strike on an unsuspecting fungus.

Fungi hunting is addictive - once hooked you're in, and once in you have well entered a world more furtive, devious and prevaricating even than croquet. For all that there are some delicious foods for free on our doorsteps.

But be careful: know your fungus and follow faithfully the catch-phrase 'If in doubt, out'. Perhaps the best book on the subject is by Roger Phillips with excellent photographs and descriptions including degrees of palatability ranging from 'delicious' to 'invariably fatal'. It is printed by Pan and costs about £12 or so. It's authoritative and well worth it. Happy, and do make sure it stays so, hunting.

Norman Coffey

P.S. If you don't like them don't kick them over, please. It'll save many tears among the fungihearted.



Agenda *for* Action

On Darkness and Light

Have you ever been in the country in uncertain weather where scudding cloud is interspersed with patches of sunshine, and seen how a field of green corn sways to the wind, now dark, now light? Sometimes one part of the field is dark, the other sunny at one and the same time. Life can be like that. It often is. Have you ever ascended in an aircraft on a dull day; up through the greyness, piercing the clouds to come out suddenly above then into clear bright sunshine - life is like that, only with the pace slowed.

Night is constant, day is constant, each coming in its time. Spring, summer, autumn, winter - all have their proper seasons. God is constant. Through him we too can be constant, maintaining hope and faith and trust, in darkness as in light. When times are joyous and all goes well with us we can look up to Him with praise and thanksgiving. When things are not going so well, we can still look up to him, seeking his constant love, giving praise for all the good things we do have in our lives, getting things into perspective, reaching out in trust and putting our praying hands into his hands outstretched to us.

Dear Lord, be our constant pasture, in light or in shade, or as is most often the case, dappled with both. Prayer and praise and petition, with thanksgiving, will reveal to us our shepherd's constancy and guidance and never failing love. Laus Deo.

Margery Orton

STOP PRESS

DON'T MISS THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

AUTUMN LECTURE

Speaker - CANON JOHN HALLIBURTON (Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral and a former principal of Chichester Theological College).

Subject - 'GIVE THE ROOTS RAIN'

Venue - THE METHODIST CHURCH, PERCY ROAD, HAMPTON

Time - THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 1992 at 8pm

DO COME AND BENEFIT FROM THE THOUGHTS,
WORDS AND EXPERIENCE OF AN
EXCELLENT SPEAKER

All Souls' Day

Monday 2nd November 8pm

WE REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED on All Souls' Day each year. This year for the first time we shall celebrate this festival with a special service of Holy Communion.

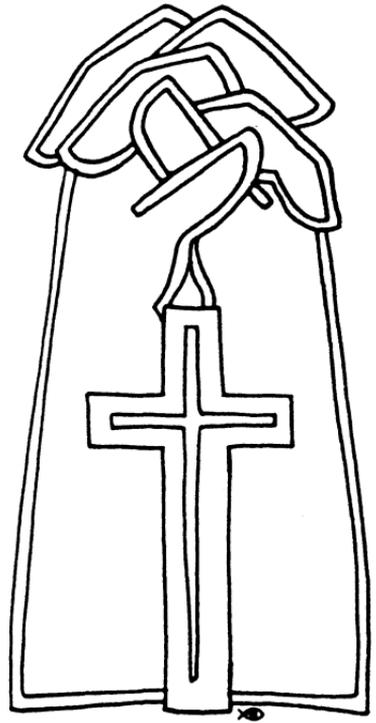
All those who have a loved one who has died during the last three years and whose funeral has involved our parish ministry will receive an invitation to be present in this moving act of worship - involving thanksgiving and remembrance. Equally there will be many people who live in our community who wish to take this opportunity to remember before God their loved ones, whether they have died recently or at an earlier time.

Whether you worship regularly with us or not, use this opportunity to give thanks for the lives of love, faith and care which have influenced you.

During the service the names of the dead will be read out. If you would like someone to be remembered in this way please hand in the name at the Vicarage by Sunday 1st November.

Olive Hayward

For the last fourteen or so years our organist has been Miss Olive Hayward. Olive has now decided to move to Sussex to be nearer her family and so we shall soon be saying goodbye to her.



All through these years Olive has been not only organist but also Choir Mistress and has played a variety of instruments (apart from the organ) when required, most usually the viola. Her prowess on the viola is more normally heard among the string section of the orchestra, of which she is a regular member. Most of her time is taken up with musical activities of one sort or another and at Christmas time she dashes from one concert and church to another in her car, like a veritable whirlwind.

Motoring has been another of Olive's passions in life, travelling the length and breadth of the land and recently overseas as well. Some of these journeys have been undertaken in pursuit of another of her hobbies - family history. Anyone who suffers from this particular obsession knows into what remote and fascinating places this can lead and a car is vital in tracking down great-grandad's grave in the far corner of some long forgotten churchyard.

Always reliable, always punctual and thoroughly well rehearsed and organised Olive has been a great asset to the musical life of our church. Under her baton (or eagle-eye if she was also playing the organ) we have sung 'The Crucifixion', 'Olivet to Calvary', 'God's Messenger' and many other less well known pieces including 'The Leaves of Life'. For several years Olive prepared our nine lessons and carols service and a similar service based on Easter themes.

One of her greatest contributions to our musical life has been a lively and worshipful setting of the Eucharist, which we have all enjoyed singing. Her support and encouragement of our liturgical dance group has also been of great value to us and they have often benefited from her ideas.

We shall miss Olive's wonderful voluntaries at the end of each service, as well as in many other respects and we wish her well in her new home and in whatever other ventures she undertakes in the future.

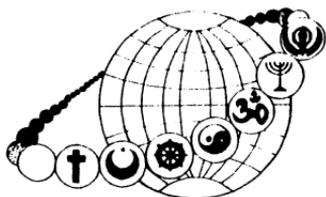
There will be an opportunity to say farewell to Olive properly at a time and date yet to be fixed.

Piano
p sempre legato

The image shows a musical score for piano. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody in the treble staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4), followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment with chords and single notes. The score is marked 'Piano' and 'p sempre legato'.

Two Important Weeks occurring during October

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE



The Week Of Prayer For World Peace

11 - 18 October

*We shall incorporate this
in our daily prayers at
9.15am.*

*We are joined by many
millions of people on
differing journeys of faith
across the globe.*

and

One World Week 18 - 25 October



This year's theme is Trading Places - Linking Lives

*This week is a focus for Christians and all others working and praying
for justice and peace in the world as a sign of God's Kingdom.*

*"The international trading system was devised by rich to suit their
needs: it ignores those of the poor".*

Pope Paul VI

Around The Spire

News first of some money raising ventures held in recent weeks. The Vicarage Hunger Lunch raised £500 for Somalia via Christian Aid - a drop in the ocean as we all know but something nevertheless. The sale of the old church light fittings brought in £240 and the Taylors' Garage Sale made another £250 - both welcome additions to the Church finances.

Congratulations to Jill and John Denton who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in September and to Rosalie and Mike Meyerowitz who have just had their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Mike has been seriously ill but is now at home and having further treatment - we wish him continuing improvement.

Janet Jeffries collects old postcards on any subject and would be pleased to hear from anyone who has come to dispose of - 979 7982.

HOST (Hosting for Overseas Student) is looking for friendly people from all over Britain who would like to contribute to International friendship and understanding and invite a student from overseas into their homes for Christmas, Easter or a weekend during the year. If you would like to invite on or two overseas visitors into your home please 'phone 071 925 2595, or write to HOST, 18 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BJ.

Hampton Hill Association

Exhibition of Local Arts, Crafts and Hobbies

Saturday October 24th

2 pm - 5.30 pm

Hampton Hill Junior School

Exhibitors and Craft Demonstrators Welcome

Contact: David Martin 941 1931 or Joyce Doughty 979 2839

From the Registers - August

Baptisms

16	Laura Elizabeth Burnside Zöe Rebecca Cole Oliver John Richard Leary	51 Wordsworth Road 29 Monks Crescent, Addlestone 1 Ringwood Way
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Marriages

15	Steven Ronald Taylor and Jacqueline Hayley Deal
29	Jason Light and Fay Elizabeth Lindup

Funerals

27	Gladys Alinda Breakwell	10 Longford Close	Aged 76
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Dates to Note

Oct.	1	Bishop of London visits Deanery
	20.00	Deanery Service and Supper with the Bishop of London, All Saints' Church, Twickenham
	3	19.30 Harvest Supper, St. Francis de Sales' Church Hall
	4	09.30 Harvest Festival: Children's Eucharist
	5	14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	6	19.00 Open Evening at Bishop Wand School, Sunbury
	11	11.00 Women's Forum: A.G.M., Church
	14	20.00 Hampton Council of Churches A.G.M., St. Mary's, Hampton
	15	20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
	18	St. Luke the Evangelist
	16.00	United Service for One World Week, St. Mary's, Hampton
	20	20.00 Area Synod (open to all), St. Stephen, Gloucester Road
	22	20.00 HCC Lecture by Canon John Halliburton of St. Paul's Cathedral
	26	20.00 St. Richards - Taizè Service
	28	St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

Advance Notices

Nov.	1	All Saints
	16	20.00 All Souls: Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
	16	20.00 P.C.C., Vestry

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE: 11 OCTOBER