

It's odd how religion can catch up with you unawares - even on holiday. Living in a Vicarage, one of the most valued parts of being on holiday is that you have complete privacy. Without a dog collar you are regarded, or disregarded, in the same way as everyone else. Believe me, it's a tremendous relief.

On a recent holiday, having packed the bags, stopped the milk and newspaper, defrosted the freezer and stuffed half a pharmacy of pills into the bags, we set off for the airport. You know the feeling - excitement, concern that the flight will be on time and air traffic control will allow the plane a slot in our overcrowded skies - and, did I remember the passports? Gosh! do we need visas after all?

Arriving in the terminal building I found that my trolley had to be the only one with three round wheels and one square one, which, therefore, refused to be pushed in a straight line. Why do I always end up in the slowest moving queue at check-in? The people in front are always carrying too much luggage. Having had one's hand luggage X-rayed and squeezed, with knowing looks from security staff, one collapses into the departure lounge where every effort is made to bankrupt you with duty-free goodies before you even leave the ground.

It was with such typical holiday trauma that a voice came over the loud-speaker, not imparting information about flight information or delays, but in a calm measured manner the disembodied voice announced that 'Holy Communion would be celebrated in the airport chapel on the first floor in fifteen minutes. Everyone is welcome to attend.' The voice obviously meant everyone, as it proceeded to make the same announcement in three or four other languages.

I must say it brought very mixed emotions to the fore. A sort of terror - oh no, even here I can't escape church! A sense of incongruity - the calm centre in all this amazing bustle and cosmopolitanism. Would a Gatwick Eucharist be a pale imitation of Babel in several languages partially understood?

And Psalm 139 came to mind as my flight through the night was announced: 'If I spread out my wings towards the morning . . . even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me'.

On reflection I'm deeply grateful that the Eucharist is celebrated every day in our airports, in holiday parishes, in diverse ways in holiday destinations. I didn't attend but I did realise that God who became human in Jesus Christ is also in the departure lounge and the duty-free as well as the chapel. And as prayers are said daily at St. James's for all in this parish - I'm jolly glad that the airport chaplain was praying for me - part of his flock that day, departing for a spot of lush grazing in a foreign fold. Have a very happy holiday!

Brian Leathard

The Visit of the Bishop of London

Walking to church through the churchyard for Parish Communion on a beautiful Sunday morning (3rd July) it was easy to see that something special was happening. For one thing a large block of stone had appeared overnight outside the church doors, and secondly a large crowd of people had gathered outside - all talking, laughing in a very happy throng, . . . cubs, scouts, brownies were there, so too was the choir.

The occasion was a very special one. In the year of the 130th anniversary of the founding of St. James's, Hampton Hill, David Hope, Bishop of London, was coming to bless the foundation stone of the new Church Hall.

Any new enterprise seems to be hedged around with bureaucracy these days and we should be truly grateful to the Vicar, to the Churchwardens and all those people who have worked so hard to get the permissions necessary to bring us to the moment of the blessing of the foundation stone.

The church clock struck half-past nine and thirty seconds later a very resplendent Bishop appeared, dressed in a gold mitre and Brian's white chasuble with a vibrant collage decoration (made by Margaret Lawrance). The stone was blessed and we all went into the church.

A visit by a dignitary like Bishop David leads to a flurry of preparation and certainly these efforts were repaid by the beautiful and welcoming appearance of the church on that special day. Indeed the bishop himself paid tribute to the loveliness of the church. It is true that the Church is not about buildings but it certainly can uplift the spirit when people are surrounded by beauty.

At the heart of the service Bishop David preached a sermon on Joy - the joy of living positively - the joy of worship - the wonder of God's achievements. He told the congregation of his joy at receiving the gold pectoral cross he wore. It had been made by a poor and illiterate African - a man who had to walk five miles to collect water and five miles to bring it back to his family. What an unexpectedly wondrous piece of craftsmanship from an unexpected source.

In lighter vein the bishop said he was not looking forward to the General Synod. He had no doubt anticipated the controversy reflected less than a week later in the press.

But returning to his main theme Bishop David reminded us all that 'Christ was the living stone' on which the Church and our faith was built.

During the service the children sang sweetly and the choir's performance of Vaughan Williams was outstanding.

At the breakfast in Church which followed everyone was pleased and proud that the Bishop of London, a rare visitor to the parish, had been to bless the stone of the new Church Hall and to inspire all of us to go out in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Tina and Michael Bunce

Yes, I did enjoy 'The Song of the Hill', from the little pink animal playing with the 'cow' in the first scene on the Heath to the final glimpse of life years ago in Hampton Hill when the Working Men's Club (the building still to be seen in the High Street, the premises now occupied by the delicatessen and the launderette) afforded entertainment in the shape of drinks, songs and hymns!



SONG OF THE HILL

The title is rendered in a large, bold, hand-drawn font. To the right of the word 'SONG' are two simple line drawings of trees. To the left of the words 'OF THE' and 'HILL' are two musical notes, one above the other, also drawn in a simple, hand-drawn style.

We owe again, a great debt to Stuart Ward, who wrote and directed the play (pageant?) and whose enthusiasm and drive energised his cast and helpers, so that, between them, they gave us what was a most enjoyable and interesting dramatic reconstruction of some of the history of Hampton Hill and of events in the life of St. James's Church's first Vicar, the wealthy, philanthropic Rev. Fitz Wygram. He was a great reformer who brought adequate housing and sanitation, schooling and street-lighting, at his own expense, to a neglected, unsalubrious village where the inhabitants led a miserable and poverty-stricken existence. With this material, Stuart wove a fascinating tapestry. Using children as well as adult actors, the scenes linked together by Margery Orton, wonderfully be-hatted, who edited the book 'The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill', on which the play was based.

Many people were performers, as Irish navvies, as Victorian villagers, as 'spooning' tram-car passengers and, very splendidly, as Mr. and Mrs. Fitz Wygram themselves (David and Betty Robotom). There was excellent and unobtrusive scene setting, the costumes bespoke thought, time spent and ingenuity - and did you notice David Lloyd as a Chelsea pensioner, Brian as a Schoolmaster, Hannah in her white bonnet, and Chrissie who was pushed along in the procession laden with flowers and vegetables in her wheelchair? And did you enjoy, as I did, Stuart's wonderful recitation? Everyone looked authentic, the music was much enjoyed, especially the two songs 'I'm shy, Mary Ellen' and 'The Last Rose of Summer'. A splendid time was had by all, actors and audience. Even the lugubrious dancing nurserymen probably enjoyed themselves really!

Our thanks to all who took part in whatever capacity, many of them not mentioned here because they were too numerous. This 'Song of the Hill' made a great contribution to our festival both in terms of fostering community feeling and enthusiasm, and financially. After 'Dawnlight' and 'Song of the Hill', what next, Stuart? Such a high standard may be difficult to keep, but we have confidence in you and look forward to the next 'event' with anticipation!

Margaret Taylor

Treasure Hunt

Despite a rather grim weather forecast, about 40 potential treasure hunters gathered outside the church on Saturday 10 July. Most chose the shorter of the two routes available but a few intrepid hunters (including our new churchwarden) opted for the longer route, most of them disdaining even the use of a bicycle! This was about five miles long and took us to the further parts of the parish - to the ecclesiastical (Dean Road and Rectory Grove), the poetical (Wordsworth Road and Masefield Road) and the academic (three schools) - before we had to find a cannon, a mews archway and even a sewage vent pipe! We found sights in the parish we had never noticed before; do you know where there is a witch blowing in the wind, watching over a duck with ducklings? - or a stained glass window with Aylesbury ducks? - or where the Longford 'River' goes over the railway? If not come on the next treasure hunt! The final clue led us to a well-known hostelry for very welcome refreshment and an opportunity to dry out after the heavy rain.

Meanwhile the majority had completed their walk round the churchyard and studying some of the interesting buildings in the High Street and nearby.

Thank you, Ron, for organising two most entertaining walks.

Susan Horner

Building Works

No one can have failed to notice the building works in progress at the Vicarage. As I write the roof is going on the new garage, the base for the drive is laid and the work to the rear of the kitchen is also progressing. All these preparatory works should be complete by the middle of August. There may be some additional works to tidy up the site and perhaps a spot of decorating in the Vicarage, where the work carried out thus far has had knock-on effects, for example in the kitchen.

The new Hall is also moving nearer to reality. Three trees on the edge of the lawn by the south side of the church have been felled - with permission where necessary. The building contract is currently out to tender and the tenders for the main contract for the job must be returned by 26 July. After this date we shall meet the Architect, Quantity Surveyor and Structural Engineer again to choose the contractor. The site is available to the contractor to commence building work from mid-August.

Again, I would remind readers that during the construction period, and until a new footpath route is created, there will be no public access along the current path through the churchyard from St. James's Road. Please use one of the paths into Park Road. This is entirely for safety's sake. Building sites are dangerous places, please make sure you don't endanger yourself or others by entering the area of the building works.

Brian Leathard

'We hope you've all enjoyed the show'.

Mr. Jerman and his staff painted the church red on Thursday 8 July with over 100 musicians and singers from Hampton Hill Junior School. Playing and singing to a packed church, they entertained everyone to a standard other schools can only dream of.

Everyone was warmly welcomed by Brian who spoke of the friendship that exists between the school and the church.

Year 6 delighted us with their own compositions inspired by their Victorian topic. We were entertained in true Victorian style by a talented duet and a pianist whose solo 'Spring Time' was delightful. Getting their inspiration from Debussy a group performed their own 'La Mer' using percussion instruments and a metal sheet! The Year 6 contribution finished with a rendition of 'Sunny Island' written as a result of their school journey to the Isle of Wight, full of humour and pillow fights!

With Mrs. Butler leading the choir and Mr. Hicks at the piano, we were transported back to the Liverpool of the '60's with a lively medley of Beatles' numbers. How did they learn all those words? And didn't the audience do well, hard though it was, not to join in? Mr. Jerman please note!

The range of school music was demonstrated with great enthusiasm by the violin and recorder groups. It is pleasing to note the development and progress which children make as they tackle pieces of increasing complexity and difficulty. Full credit is due to the children and particularly to the dedication of the staff who have obviously spent many hours painstakingly coaching them.



The evening was brought to a fitting close by the school orchestra, running now for two years and boasting a wide range of instruments. Conducted by Mrs. Prill Hinckley, they entertained us with music arranged by herself and Mr. Martin Hinckley, and accompanied by Mr. Shell, who also lends a hand with producing the scores.

For all this music thanks must be given to the teaching staff who willingly give up their free time to train the choir, orchestra and violin and recorder groups. Then there is the unfailing support of friends of the school who give of their musical talents, including Mrs. Greville-Giddings, Mr. Hicks and Mr. Shell.

Finally the children, for all the practising and the enthusiasm you displayed on the night, well done!

Jennifer Clay

The Early Church 2.

Both Peter and Paul died as martyrs at Rome, during Nero's persecution. During their lifetimes they had a famous dispute at Antioch (Gal. II, vv.11 on). Peter had been eating with gentiles, but when members of the Jerusalem Christians came, who believed in keeping the Jewish ritual observances, he ceased eating with them. Paul condemned his insincerity, commenting: 'If salvation comes through keeping the Jewish Law, then Christ died needlessly.' It was essential for the young church to make clear that such rites as circumcision, and abstinence from certain foods were not essential for the Christian; if this had not been done, then Christianity might have remained a small, obscure Jewish sect.

Acts XV records a conference in Jerusalem on these matters. It was decided that uncircumcised gentiles must be recognised as truly within the covenant, but they should be careful not to eat food that had been dedicated to idols. This was not so easy to avoid: it was customary for a sacrifice to be dedicated to a god, and then for most of the meat to be put on sale in the market place.

Another ruling made, was that sexual relations outside marriage were disallowed. Jewish moral law was stricter than pagan ethics in this respect.

Paul's great achievement was to win recognition from the Jerusalem Christian elders of his gentile converts as full members of the Church.

The first generation of Palestinian Christians expected the return of Christ in glory very shortly. Paul saw that this doctrine of the imminent end of the world would not appeal to Greek philosophy, and laid emphasis rather on Christ living within His Church, as the soul lives in the body.

Conflict between Jews and Christians broke out violently from time to time. The Latin writer Suetonius mentions rioting in Rome in 50 AD between Jews, 'at the instigation of Chrestus'. In 85 AD an anathema was included in the liturgy of Judean synagogues, 'May the Nazarenes (Christians) be suddenly destroyed and removed from the Book of Life.'

Jewish Christians, excluded in this way by their fellow Jews, nevertheless continued to observe Sabbaths, circumcision, etc. This upset gentile Christians, so they were rejected both by Jews and by gentile Christians, becoming lonely, unsupported groups. They had a gospel 'according to the Hebrews', with some deviations from the canonical gospels, and called themselves 'Ebionites', from a Hebrew word meaning 'poor'. By the time of Tertullian, (about 200 AD), they had become so insignificant that he thought they originated with someone called 'Ebion'.

(to be continued)

Stuart Ward

SUDAN - A FORGOTTEN CRISIS

"Why does the world sit with folded hands and watch while we are dying?"

TRAGEDY: The horror of "ethnic cleansing" in former Yugoslavia fills our TV screens day by day. But a tragedy on a much greater scale is unfolding in Sudan, Africa's largest country, almost unknown to the rest of the world. The government is trying to create an Arab, Muslim state; it is doing this by driving from their homes all non-Arabs and non-Muslims. The resulting civil war is taking its human toll. Many Christians are among the estimated 4 million who are living as displaced people within Sudan or refugees in neighbouring countries.



Many thousands have been killed, or have died from starvation as a result of being forced from their land. There are stories of crucifixions of entire villages being carried out by government troops.* The government controls the North and all the major cities; the Sudan People's Liberation Army controls the rural areas of the South. There is military stalemate. The government troops move between their urban strongholds in convoys preceded by captured rebel troops walking as human minesweepers.

MIRACLE: Amid desperation, the Christian church is growing. In the Anglican diocese of Rumbek and Wau in the early eighties there were six small congregations; today there are 270 congregations with an average size of 500.

(* The Times, 23/3/93)

What can we do?

Pray - for peace in Sudan. This means praying for leaders of the government and the rebel forces; and for leaders of the international community, whose involvement is scanty at present.

Give thanks for the growth of the church among the displaced people of the south; pray for Bishops Seme Solomona and Nathaniel Garang, the only Bishops to remain with their people in the war zone.

Write to your MP, asking them to put a question to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs about the British Government's involvement in international efforts to end the civil war and the human rights violations.

Be well-informed - contact CMS or one of the other mission and aid agencies working with Sudanese people.



giving and receiving in the name of Christ
local rep: Richard Horner, 081 422 6758

The Everlasting Arms

I will fold the arms of my faith around me,
Thine everlasting arms.

I will wait patiently on my God, for
Darkness and light are the same to Him,
For where He is there is no night.

I will wrap me in the the comfort of Thy presence, Lord,
Thy mantle of praise and trust will I put on:

Then my days and nights shall pass in peace
And heaviness shall depart from me

For I shall live in Thy salvation, because
'It is not what I am, my Lord, you see

But in Thy love, that which I wouldest be'.

The work Thou findest for me, that will I do,

The tools which Thou providest, those will I take up.

I shall love and trust and praise, and pray -

Into Thy hands on waking I shall commend each day

And when night comes before I sleep,

I will wrap the arms of my faith around me

And commit my resting spirit into Thy safe keep.

So be it Lord, so let it be -

My days, my nights, my loves, my friends, the passing years -

My worries, fears, my joys, my tears,

All safely wrapped, my Lord, in Thee, until eternity.

Margery Orton

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YOUNG ADULTS

(from about 13 to about 18 years)

Drop in at the PORTAKABIN and meet your friends

Sunday evenings from 8 to 10 pm

Bring tapes and discs to play

and some money for soft drinks or tea and coffee



Support Please!

If you are interested in helping to provide an adult presence from time to time at the Portakabin on Sunday evenings (see previous page), please contact Ruth Mills (977 5165).

Stewardship

We have now received a cheque for £8,888 in response to our claim for refund of Income Tax in respect of the covenanted giving during the twelve months from 6 April 1992 to 5 April 1993. This does show how very worthwhile it is for giving under stewardship to be covenanted. If anyone who is a tax-payer, but does not covenant their giving, would like more information about covenanting - the procedure is very straightforward - would they please contact the Recorder, Ron Bridges (979 6865).

Around the Spire

August is usually thought of as the silly season for news. Well, the news isn't silly, but on the other hand, there isn't a lot of it, so here we go.

First the news of various invalids. Daniel Smith has had a bad fall, which could have been a lot worse. He has a broken ankle and hopes to be home soon and hobbling about. The last few weeks have seen the return of Hetty Burgess to Church and it is nice to see her again after such a long absence. Helen Butlin has also re-appeared after a period of illness. We hope they both continue to improve.

Mrs. Prentice and Mrs. White, two of our growing band of nonagenarians, have both had birthdays in the last few weeks and we hope that they will continue to enjoy good health. It was appropriate to have Ann Douglas with us for the celebration of Women's Ministry at St. James's as she is Mrs. White's great niece and went after the service to visit her great aunt, whom she reported to be in good spirits.

Violet Clark writes that she is now settled in her new home at Marling Court, where the staff are most kind and caring. She is sad to have to give up Sunday School, and often thinks about all the children she taught. She misses her friends at St. James's who have helped her over the years, and thanks them and especially Debbie Nunn and David Taylor who have continued to visit her. She would be delighted to have visitors at any time. She is now being taken to services at Christchurch, Teddington, which she enjoys.

We welcome a new medical practice to Hampton Hill, that of Dr. Andrew Wright in Wellington Road, by the bus stop. The need for a local doctor has long been felt, so we wish the centre every success.

Many thanks to all the people who worked so hard during the festival, and to those who gave money towards the flowers so that the church looked appropriately festive.

From the Registers for June

Baptisms

6	David Matthew Harris	106 Twickenham Road, Hanworth
	James Alexander Harris	106 Twickenham Road, Hanworth
	Benjamin Charles Hibbert	158 Uxbridge Road
	Jade Louise Lovitt	11 Wordsworth Road
	Emma Claire Pinchin	18 Brook Road, Bagshot
27	Helen Mary Jones	27c Blandford Road, Teddington
	Claire Louise Money	14 Sunnyside Road, Teddington
	Ian David Wood	40 Falcon Road, Hampton

Marriages

5	Nicholas Taylor and Amanda Rogers
	Andrew Bowie and Tracey Biggs
26	Mortimer Martin Reidy and Anne Stevenson

Marriage Blessing

15	Muneaki Kitahara and Chiyo Teramoto
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Funerals

4	Gerald Norman White	67 Pigeon Lane	Aged 71
	Madeline Coe	formerly of Holly Road	Aged 84

Dates to Note

Aug.	6		The Transfiguration of our Lord
	9	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	24		St. Bartholomew the Apostle.

Advance Notices

Sep.	1	19.30	Parish Prom, Royal Albert Hall
	6	14.00	Editorial Board, 68 Park Road
	8		The Blessed Virgin Mary

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