

It is said that during the Second World War the Commander in Chief of Allied Forces, who was an American, had to be found a room in Downing Street. The only available office was created by relocating The Prime Minister's Ecclesiastical Secretary. After several weeks of UK intelligence work failing to come up with an answer, there was nothing for it but for this same Commander to ask the PM to explain personally the obscure map on the wall in his office. The sites identified were not military districts or bases. Indeed, they seemed to make no sense. Was Britain hiding something from its American ally? Churchill went to the room and recognised at once that the map was in fact of the Dioceses and Bishoprics of the Church of England, some large, some small, some famous, some obscure. London, but also Southwell. York, but also St. Germans.

Well, that is just how we are, then and now. The Church of England is made up of dioceses in the Provinces of Canterbury and York - but, as we shall see at the 13th Lambeth Conference, the Church of England is but one small part of the Anglican Communion. Some 800 bishops, male and female, black and white, English speaking, Portuguese speaking, French speaking and much, much else. These bishops represent a hugely diverse pattern of being church. Not only will there be Anglican Bishops, but also those from churches in full communion with the Church of England - such as the Church of South India, the Lutheran Bishops from Sweden and Finland.

So what can the Lambeth Conference really do? Is it just a talking shop for bishops and spouses? Do its decisions affect us in any way? Firstly, it seems to be a 10 yearly meeting in which Bishops from hugely different circumstances have an opportunity to meet and support each other, to pray together and listen to each other's stories. Despite the advantages of instant global communication, it seems almost easier than ever just to tend our own patch and never lift our eyes to the wider picture. Secondly, it will give Bishops a chance to study together issues which confront today's church. In the Anglican Communion Scripture, Tradition and Reason are the three strands or tools to be used in coming to understanding. It doesn't mean that decisions will be imposed or that we all have to do and think alike. Rather it implies that by study and prayer, by thinking and doing we will come to a common mind of mutual acceptance.

But how does The World Church really have impact upon us? This is a proper question to ask. Well, here are three very practical ways:

(1) Bishop Michael Baroi - who is Bishop of Kushtia in Bangladesh, a very small church in an overwhelmingly Muslim country - spent an evening at our Parish with our Young Church. I hope they will remember it for a long time. They talked about the pressures on them, being a Christian when most

people aren't, being the odd one out, their hopes for the future, their thoughts and criticisms of the church. Who knows what seeds may grow from this?

(2) One Sunday morning in July the preacher at Parish Communion was Professor Christoph Theilemann, from the Lutheran Church in Berlin. His parish is in what was formally East Germany. Many of his people lived through both Nazi and Communist Regimes and have now been overwhelmed by amalgamation with the Capitalism of the West - the promise of wealth and democracy, but the daily experience of racism and huge unemployment. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this.

(3) On a Sunday Evening at St. Paul's Cathedral in a celebration of the World Church Weekend, we - the Diocese of London - signed a covenant with the Anglican Church in Mozambique and Angola. Very, very different to our situation - land mines, colossal government debt, inheritance of civil war, overwhelmingly poor and rural. But these are our brothers and sisters in the faith - and in the same Anglican mansion is the household of faith. We want to affirm and strengthen each other in faith.

So I hope I can convince you the World Church is not something 'over there', but here in our midst - in our parish and diocese, in our lives. We need each other, we depend on each other. Let's also learn to love each other - just as we are; diverse, yet each made in the image and likeness of God.

Brian Leathard

LUNCH AT THE WHITE HOUSE

On the first Monday of each month you are invited to join a group of St. James's lunchers at The White House at about 12.15 p.m. You will enjoy the company, the lunch and the party atmosphere. No booking or tickets are required - just come along!



Violet Clark wrote to *The Spire* about the monthly Monday lunches in which she obviously finds great pleasure -

I feel very privileged to be asked by Jean Western to join my friends and "family" of St. James's, to have lunch with them.

It really is a joy to me to be with you and to join in the conversation. I can really let my hair down because everybody is happy.

The food is absolutely delicious and very well presented.

I often think of you all and the happy times we have had together. I would like to thank you all very much for including me in your projects.

Violet Clark



FROM EDEN TO JERUSALEM GOD ALSO CREATED THE CITY



The idea or reality of the city is central to the Christian vision of what it is to be human. Human beings are civilisers; we are culture creators. Although the Bible starts with a garden, it finishes with a city in which the garden has become a park. Many Christians are happier with the idea of God in the country. As a result they see church as a place of retreat and the city as a place abandoned by God. Such views are a distortion and are fuelled by a number of misconceptions.

Much of the rural imagery that we meet in church life has a more urban edge than we realise. The biblical image of the shepherd refers primarily to the political ruler, the executive authority. It has this resonance in Psalm 23. The beautiful mosaic in the basilica of St. Apollinarius in Ravenna portrays the martyr bishop in a garden surrounded by sheep; it is a political statement setting the martyr bishop alongside the imperial authority that was based in Ravenna. Cities, contrary to the prevailing idea, are places of humanity. Marginal groups - including the poor - migrate to cities because in their very complexity survival is possible. Harshness and wickedness are not intrinsic to cities, they are intrinsic to humanity. Abraham, whom St. Paul describes as the 'Father of us all', was both father of the clan and prince. In urban life the complexity allows these political realities to become separate and human variety to flourish.

The urban church is not a retreat from this complexity but a part of it. This is strength, not weakness. Christian faith has thrived in cities. The splendour of the medieval church is one reflection of this. The great feasts of the Christian year came to their fullness as part of a Christian strategy to occupy the imagination of Mediterranean cities after the conversion of Constantine. It is interesting to ask what are the modern equivalents of the town halls (basilicas) and city squares which this liturgical life attempted to fill.

Liturgy is not simply a community art form; it is a place where God is involved in city making, creating a thread of cultural life that is then woven into the broader life of the city. Places of worship are places of culture creation, places where God is at work creating the life of the heavenly city that is part of our human history.

The life of the heavenly city derives from outside ourselves and from the unseen future that God is preparing for us. The Book of Revelation, with its glorious vision of the heavenly city Jerusalem coming down, puts powerfully a theme that recurs in Christian worship. If we are to play our part in the story of the earthly city, our imaginations must come alive with the image of the future that will be, with the shape of the city that is to come.

Michael Vasey is Tutor in Liturgy at St. John's College, Durham, and a member of the General Synod Liturgical Commission. This article is an excerpt from 'City Making', a lecture he gave recently at St. Matthew's, Westminster. From the Spring Issue of City Lights, the Newsletter of the Church Urban Fund.





The Bishop of Kensington's Mission Drive

"2,000 years since what?" The Unveiling of the Bishop's Bus!

The Bishop's Millennium Bus was unveiled on Saturday 11th July at Acton Green with food, fund, music and lots more.

The Bus will be visiting Parishes between now and the Millennium with Reverend Rob Gillion, the Bishop's new Officer for Evangelism.

Watch out for it!

"2,000 years since what?" Is part of the Bishop of Kensington's Mission Drive

THE ANNUAL BAPTISMAL PARTY



when all who have been baptised at St. James in recent years and their families are invited to tea on Sunday 13th September at 3.30 p.m.

Those concerned will receive an invitation but ALL members of the congregation are encouraged to come.

If you can help with tea, or provide food, please contact a member of the Women's Forum.



ST. JAMES'S GARDENS



They may not have been quite Hampton Court Flower Show standard, but St. James's Gardens on Sunday 25th June certainly showed great individuality and beauty, together with considerable evidence of tender loving care.

Stuart Ward's garden in Uxbridge Road, although not large, contains many different kinds of herbs, medicinal and culinary. All were listed and mapped on the hand-out sheets,

so we could work out what and where all the plants were; Stuart's crystals and telescope were in evidence, and one could also detect an interest in music!

Margaret Bramall's sunken garden was delightful and much admired; many visitors sampled the home-made gingerbread men. Both Geoffrey and David and Janet Nunn have running water near their plots - Geoffrey's allotment is in immaculate and productive condition in rural Twickenham near the River Crane and its mill race, whilst the Longford River flows at the bottom of the Nunn's garden, which is similarly immaculate and is the home of lovely summer flowers and green lawns with wonderful edges!

In Lou Coker's peaceful garden, with lots of plants grown from home produced seeds, the rabbits and guinea pigs enjoy the freedom of large movable cages, which enable them to nibble the grass. Betty Stewart's handsome corner plot has a spacious, friendly feel. Prill and Martin Hinckley have a newly designed garden with a water feature, shaded sitting area and plenty of handsome containers with beautiful contents! We were also able to admire - or purchase - Prill's many lovely water colours.

It was kind of Bidy and Jean to allow "foreigners" from another church to visit their Uxbridge Road garden, which also has the Longford River as its boundary.

Altogether the afternoon offered many delights - gardens, welcoming gardeners, beautiful and interesting plants and finally an enjoyable tea party both inside and outside the Parish Hall. The gods of the weather were gracious and allowed no rain to fall in Hampton Hill on Sunday June 25th.

Margaret Taylor

A WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Active participation is invited in this effective and enjoyable course to enhance knowledge of the Old Testament. The one hour 'taster' session was very convincing, so please think about coming along and of inviting others.

When? Friday 18th September (7.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.)

Saturday 19th September (9.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.)

Where? St. Mary's Parish Hall, Hampton

Cost? £12 (which includes a workbook to keep)

All attendees must book their place. Please contact Ann Peterken on 0181 891 5862.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

You may be about to go on holiday and not wish to think yet about Christmas! However the Bazaar needs to be considered **NOW**.

Wendy Baker (tel. 979 3654) is anxious to hear from anyone who is willing to help with the Bazaar. August is often a quiet month if you do not have school - aged children. Why not get together with a friend and make some Christmas decorations or handicraft items? Perhaps you could make some jams or chutney. I know there are many creative people in our community so please put your talents to good use for the Bazaar.

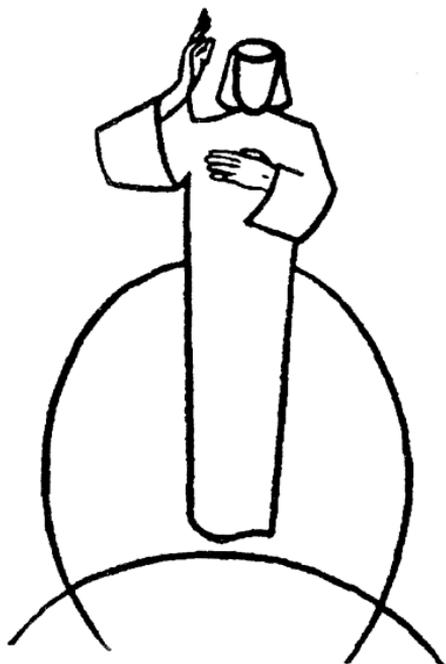
There will be a meeting for all who are interested in helping with the Bazaar in any way on Monday 21st September at 8 p.m. at 143 Burtons Road. This will be the first of only two meetings to organize the Bazaar so your time will only be needed at those meetings (if possible) and of course on the day itself - Saturday 21st November. Please help!

GIVING AND TAKING

ALTHOUGH Jesus came to give all that he had for the benefit of mankind, he yet accepted people as they were, and was ready to receive from them as well as give to them.

He was born in a borrowed stable, taught from a borrowed boat, fed five thousand people with a borrowed loaf, rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey, celebrated the Last Supper in a borrowed room, borrowed the strength of a stranger to help him carry his cross and was finally buried in a borrowed tomb.

We, on the other hand, can find it very difficult indeed to accept things freely from other people - or from God.



OUR PAGE



CAN you find all these names of things inside churches and cathedrals? The words go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally.

CATHEDRALS

ON YOUR holidays you may visit old churches or cathedrals. It is nice to visit other peoples' places of worship and see what parts are like our own church at home. In a cathedral everything is usually much bigger than we are used to - the roof is higher and there are lots more corners to explore.



A visit to a cathedral is special. And how did those who designed it know that the huge building would actually work? How could they imagine it all in their minds before it was built?

The architects of the great cathedrals could imagine the finished buildings but it took a whole army of workers to make the vision come true. Hundreds of people worked for sometimes hundreds of years to build those wonderful buildings. Hundreds of people all working together, not for themselves but for the greater glory of God.

C A N D L E H O L D E R
S F B N T R S R E M E P
P C O R A R T G W O E M
E W R T A I A A E W K N
S L L E B S I N E N N S
T A K N E N S R E R E E O
I E E L E N R E D E E D
P C R O S S A G S T L E
L E L B I B T L S C E R
U P T N O F L A C E R E
P I S C I N A S R L E R
S C I S L A I R O M E M

*altar, Bible, brasses, bells,
candleholder, cross, ewer, font,
kneeler, lectern, memorials,
organ, pew, piscina, pulpit,
reredos, screen.*

...and if you don't know what a piscina and a reredos are perhaps you could find out. Ask someone, or look the words up in a dictionary.



Mother: Were you nicely behaved in church today, Ann?

Ann: Yes! And when that nice man offered me a whole plate of money I said, 'No, thank you.'



St. James's Churchyard Treasure Hunt



1. The church's dedication stone is not visible in the church, but only outside it. When did consecration occur?
2. Walter Daines was the first person buried in the churchyard - which year is on his gravestone?
(Clue: The oldest part of the churchyard is on the Park Road side.)
3. The Lych Gate is the oldest wooden structure in Hampton Hill. Why might we assume our Lych Gate has been moved given its original purpose?
4. "John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave" - but Jo Boyle's doesn't any more. Can you solve this mystery?
5. When was the final churchyard plot occupied, and by whom?
6. Can you guess approximately how many burials have taken place in our churchyard?
7. At least four previous incumbents of Hampton Hill are buried here. Can you name them?
8. Why do we have a row of Canadian War Graves?
9. Ramani might feel encouraged to note that one of our parishioners was born in her homeland. Who was he, and when did he die?
(Clue: Stay on the straight and narrow in mother church's shadow)
10. Why might British bikers come on pilgrimage to the back of our church hall?
(Alas, it is a matter of some grave concern, if only someone could shed some light on it. . .)



Please remember Bill Young in your prayers at this time as he is very ill in hospital.

Congratulations to Alison Hampton on a successful outcome of her attendance at the Selection Conference in Ely earlier in July. Alison has been accepted to go on the Southwark Diocese ordination course for the priesthood. We remember her and her family in our prayers.

There have been several important birthdays recently - in descending order, Margaret Taylor celebrated her 70th, Tina Bunce her 60th and Paul Revis his 50th. We also understand that Margaret Dunne has recently had a very important birthday! Many happy returns to them all.

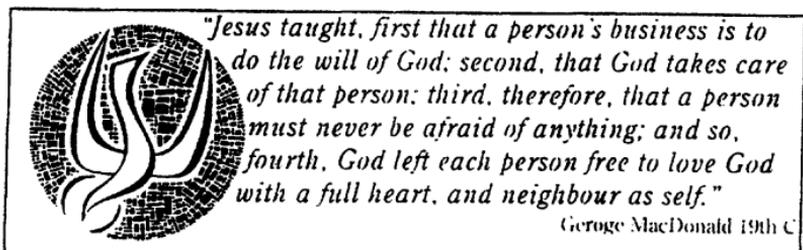
Margaret and David Taylor have had a double celebration too because of the birth of their 12th grandchild on the 5th July - a girl named Emma, a daughter to Nicholas and Amanda.

In last month's "Around the Spire" we mentioned a couple who attended the Marriage Vows Service who were celebrating their Diamond Wedding. They are, of course, Tom and Vi Hillier and we send them our heartfelt congratulations.

The Sazegar family have been having an eventful time lately - Reza is off to play Hockey in South Africa for England Schools - Sanaz is in the USA with Camp America for the summer - and Sally has just announced her marriage plans for next year.

Thank you to our Brownies who meet regularly in the Church Hall, and have recently made a very generous donation towards its use.

You may wonder where we manage to get such excellent illustrations for the magazine that are so apt and amusing. They are often the work of Gordon Stowell who is also responsible for the front cover of *The Spire*. Gordon, a very talented chap, does many such illustrations and cartoons for Christian Aid and other church organisations (the cartoon for the Bishop's Bus is also his), and we are very lucky to be able to ask him to do ours sometimes. Thank you Gordon.



"Jesus taught, first that a person's business is to do the will of God; second, that God takes care of that person; third, therefore, that a person must never be afraid of anything; and so, fourth, God left each person free to love God with a full heart, and neighbour as self."

George MacDonald 19th C

FROM THE JUNE REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 7 Phoebe Charlotte Cole, 29 Monks Crescent, Addlestone
14 Joseph Louis Hellman, 19 Oxford Road, Teddington
21 Hannah Lucy Howick, 25 Byron Close, Hampton
28 Elizabeth Mabel Banks, 49 Burtons Road

Blessings

- 13 Michael Quinn and Laurinda Hallpike

Funerals

- 19 Mabel Milne, Hampton Road, Twickenham 86
26 Mildred Dixon, Laurel Dene 91



DATES TO NOTE IN AUGUST

- 4 Dominic, Priest and Friar, 1221
5 Oswald, King of Northumbria, 642
6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
10 Laurence, Deacon and Martyr, 258
11 Clare of Assisi, Virgin, 1253
13 Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down, 1667
16 FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
20 Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153
23 ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE
28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430
31 Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 651
and John Bunyan, 1688

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH AUGUST