

Dome, Bug, Party, Extravaganza, 'much ado about nothing' - what does the Millennium mean for you? Are you planning trips to Greenwich or planning to escape as far as possible from the hullabaloo? Whatever it may mean for you it is a moment of significance. Of course it isn't exactly 2000 years since the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem - but that isn't really the point. The millennium marks a key moment in our Christian story, for according to our often altered means of calculating it is a two thousand year old, old story. The ancient fathers of the Church belonged to an era when the greater the age of any person, idea or movement the greater respect it warranted. Indeed the longer something existed, the greater the truth which it represented. Today's society tends perhaps to stand that way of thinking on its head - it is the very latest soundbite, the most recent fashion statement which demands our attention.

So I want to ask, very genuinely, for your ideas as to how - as a parish - we might mark the millennium as something which connects us in the Christian story of 2000 years and with something truly of our age as the millennium turns. You may already have a pet idea or this opportunity may crystallise your thoughts. The Kensington Area of our diocese is hosting a Millennium Roadshow at St. Paul's Brentford on Tuesday 14th July 7.15 - 9.30 p.m. to give us some ideas and thoughts. Already our P.C.C. has questioned whether the development of the West Porch - with clear glass doors replacing the rather forbidding wooden ones - might be a suitable millennium project. Details of this are mentioned elsewhere in the magazine and are on display in the Church and hall.

On a national level 'Churches Together in England' of which the Church of England is part, is developing some focussed plans for local use, under the heading of NewStart. Its mission statement is this:

"The task of the Churches in the Millennium is to forge a link in people's minds between the year 2000, the name of Jesus Christ and the possibility of personal meaning and public hope".

Furthermore it has outlined three areas for such a NewStart in line with its aims namely,

- * *A New Start with God - looking at mission and pastoral care.*
- * *A New Start for the world's poor - based on Jubilee 2000 and seeking to redress the balance between rich and poor nations.*
- * *New Start at Home - asking what positive action can we take to enhance our personal and community life.*

So now is the time to start thinking with sensitivity and awareness about our parish plans. They don't have to be on 1st January 2000 - I don't know if the parish computer could cope - but I look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions and ideas. You are also most welcome to attend the Roadshow. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has written:

"The Government fully recognises the Millennial year as a Christian anniversary, as well as being a significant moment in the lives of [all] who mark time by the Gregorian calendar. We are determined that the public

celebrations should be accessible and relevant to all sections of the community, both Christians and those of other beliefs with every part of the United Kingdom".

I would hope that we, on a local scale, can re-echo those sentiments in a way which furthers the Good News, which whatever its age, is still both News and very Good. Please let me know what you think.

Brian Leathard

The UK's top ten supermarkets make more money in a year than the world's 35 poorest countries combined . . .

FAIR TRADING - CHRISTIAN AID AND THE SUPERMARKET

On the 21st April our vicar, Brian Leathard, took our Sainsbury's till receipts totalling £6,418 to the manager of our local Sainsbury's. This was a gesture from our congregation at St. James. Following a Christian Aid initiative, we want to say to all our local stores:

"We spend a lot of money at your store, we do so in the trust that our purchases from you have been bought by you at fair prices, from producers who treat their workers fairly. Can you promise us that you will try your best to do this?"

Christian Aid wrote a report on Fair Trading last year. The report was sent to a number of stores and supermarkets, with a questionnaire on their response to the report. Sainsbury's for one have produced a serious and considered reply to the report, saying that they have been working for more than two years on ethical trading, endeavouring to align all their own label products to the standard of an ethical Code of Practice over a period of two or three years. Christian Aid believes we should ask for a much shorter time period, and that we, as customers, should use our power to "change the rules - change the world", by buying only products that we know to have been fairly produced. The subject is complex, and we can understand the difficulties a retailer faces in a fiercely competitive market, with some rivals possibly prepared to cut corners. However, the ultimate power is ours as the final buyer. To exercise that power responsibly is surely a duty rather than an option. This requires us to take an interest in how, for instance, a packet of coffee from South America, tea from Sri Lanka, or beans from Africa has been grown, packed and shipped to our supermarket shelves. Stores might find it helpful to their sales to be very open and detailed about their suppliers, and we might be less eager to buy if they are unable to tell us. Choosing products with the "Fairtrade" label on them is a guarantee of their fair production, and our choice of these products will be an incentive to stores to widen their range of fairly produced goods. It really is up to us to "change the world".

Dick Wilde

R.N.L.I. Twickenham branch are having a Steamer Trip from Kingston on Tuesday 14th July 1998 leaving Kingston at 7.15 p.m. sharp. Tickets are £12.50 each which includes a substantial buffet supper and music will be provided by the jazz duo Steve Simpson Duo.

Tickets or further information are available from Jill Goddard on 287 7438.



JUBILEE 2000 HUMAN CHAIN AT THE G8 SUMMIT

On Saturday 16th May, in glorious sunshine and with marvellous good humour, about 70,000 people from all over the country and overseas filled the centre of Birmingham in support of the Jubilee 2000 campaign for Third World debt relief. By 3 p.m. these large crowds had spread out along a 10 kilometre circular route and banners, whistles, cheering, singing, chains of all shapes and sizes, and a tremendous feeling of good will, all made for a carnival atmosphere. It was a wonderful symbol of popular concern for the effects of the debt crisis on the poorest countries. People were there for no self interest, but simply to make a chain to break the chains of debt.

A town crier led eight children around part of the chain route, each child carrying a box of petitions. The applause and welcome were thunderous, none more so than when they arrived in St. Philips Square at 3 p.m. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, was there to receive the boxes of petitions on behalf of the GB leaders. A total of 1.5 million signatures were presented. Clare Short said to the crowd, "Your presence here is a truly impressive testimony to the solidarity of people in our countries with those in the poorest and most indebted. It is also a public acknowledgement of the question of debt."

The huge efforts of the Jubilee 2000 leaders were more directly recognised later in the afternoon when Tony Blair met them at his hotel. Sadly, the final communique from the GB Summit fails to come anywhere near meeting the demands of the Jubilee 2000 campaign in terms of policy initiatives. But although politically disappointing, the events of the day were a triumph for consolidating support and opening up a wider debate on the issues. Ann Pettifor, Director of the Jubilee 2000 Coalition, said the campaign will redouble its efforts to push for effective debt relief for the world's poor.

Ann Peterken

Those of us from St. James's who went to Birmingham felt ourselves to be part of a great ground-swell of feeling for the remission of, at least, some of the 3rd World Debt. Aged from eighty something to seven years old, we stood in the chain, blew our whistles and cheered, and were proud to be members of this huge demonstration. The organisation, from the delivery of our tickets, the send-off from the church of St. Michael and St. Martin in Hounslow, the coach parking, the maps of Birmingham, the inspiring speakers at the Bull Ring church - everything was efficiently and pleasantly done and the whole day very memorable and moving.

THE G8 SUMMIT

What the politicians said about the G8 Summit and debt relief -

Report from the Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair.

... . We also devoted considerable attention to the reduction of the burden of debt on the most heavily indebted poor countries. Birmingham marks a significant step forward in the pursuit of the Government's policy of setting targets for the year 2000. In particular, the G8 countries are now signed up to the Mauritius mandate target that all eligible highly indebted poor countries are at least in the debt relief process by 2000, and to granting interim relief where necessary. Particular attention will now be given to meeting the immediate needs of poor post-conflict countries, especially those in Africa. Moreover we all agreed to forgive aid-related debt to reforming least-developed countries - a step which Britain has already taken. We are not however, satisfied by those steps. I pay tribute to the **Jubilee 2000** campaign and its dignified breaking-the-chain demonstration in Birmingham on Saturday. The issue is vast and complex, and it cannot be solved overnight - we have to mix our realism with our idealism. For debt relief to be effective, recipient countries must be committed to policies that ensure that the benefits reach the poor. However, I am in no doubt that we must do more. . . .

Mr William Hague.

... . It was right that debt relief should have been high on the summit's agenda. We will support the Government if they continue to give a lead to other donors, such as the G8 countries, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in promoting well-thought-out debt reduction programmes that offer the prospect of sustainable economic growth.

Hansard - Wednesday 20th May 1998



Brian and members of St. James's congregation handing Vincent Cable, our M.P. postcards asking Germany to help in the remission of 3rd World Debt. These postcards were written during the informal service in May.

REPORT BACK FROM THE PCC

The new PCC met for the first time on Monday 1st June. Among the items under consideration were these three matters:

1. When the Archdeacon visited in February, we discussed the possibility of a newly ordained minister to live and work in and around the Poets estate. The PCC feel that this is an isolated and deprived area and, although Brian receives some requests for baptisms, weddings and funerals, people who live there clearly do not feel they are part of the Parish. The Spire was delivered to every house for two months recently, but produced very little response. At the June meeting Brian reported that he had written to the Bishop and has been told in reply that this will be considered next year when newly ordained Deacons are being allocated to Parishes. Although the salary for this person would be paid from central funds, we would have to provide a house and the costs will have to be considered very carefully.

2. We also discussed the proposal for glass doors for the west porch. It became apparent that some members of the congregation are querying the need for this project, feeling the money could be better spent in other ways. At its February meeting, the PCC agreed unanimously to look into the possibility of glass doors in preference to floodlighting the church for the Millennium. The idea is to open the church up to the community, welcoming people and inviting them in. There is about £6,000 in the "kitty" from a bequest which is designated to be spent on the fabric of the Church. As yet we have been unable to get a definite cost for the project, though the architect has done some drawings which have been in the Church Hall and the Church. The PCC asked that a price be obtained as soon as possible. It was also suggested that some explanation of the project should be displayed alongside the drawings, and that the west doors should be opened up for two or three Sundays so that people can get some idea of the effect.

3. A few months ago Dick, Betty, Ruth Mills and Alison Hampton attended a meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. They were surprised to hear its members' experiences of rejection and discrimination in Churches, and distressed to hear how hurt people can be by the attitudes of fellow Christians. They were told it would be helpful if Churches like St. James's displayed a notice saying that they welcomed all people of whatever sexual orientation, ability, race or belief. Though sorry that such a declaration is considered necessary, the PCC agreed to a simple notice being displayed on the notice board.

If you would like to express your view on any of the above matters or anything else the PCC is discussing, or you would like to make sure something is put on the agenda for a future meeting, please speak to a member before our next meeting on 16th July. We hope to have photos of the new PCC in the porch in the next few weeks so that you know who we are. Minutes of all PCC meetings are at the back of the church for you to read - ask a sidesman.

50 YEARS' SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Report from The Church Commissioners

If your impression of the Church Commissioners is still coloured by their performance a few years ago when they lost millions in the collapse of the property boom, you might be surprised at what they are now achieving. Possibly you are unaware of what their role really is.

The Church Commissioners support the Church today from assets inherited in 1948 and are now celebrating 50 years of service.

- * *They find part of the costs of clergy pay, concentrating their support on areas of need and most of the cost of clergy pensions (parish clergy pension contributions will be made by dioceses and parishes from 1998).*
- * *They fund bishops' ministry and some cathedral staff salaries.*
- * *They pay the clergy.*
- * *They offer guidance on parsonage design.*
- * *They adjudicate when there is disagreement over parsonage or glebe sales, proposals for changed patterns of parochial ministry and the use of redundant churches.*
- * *To explain their work they give information direct to clergy and others through leaflets, articles and presentations.*

In 1997 the total return of Church Commissioners investments was 20.8% - better than 96% of other funds. This was the fourth successive year in which they did better than the average pension fund.

Their support for the Church totalled £131m, which included nearly £25m on the payment of parish clergy, bishops and cathedral clergy, and £82m on clergy pension benefits.

How the clergy pay bill was met in 1997

	£m	%
Giving	98.9	62
Commissioners	24.6	15
Chaplaincies and fees	15.4	10
Glebe and trust income	11.2	7
Others	9.6	6
Total	159.7	100

The Commissioners' expenditure on behalf of the Church in 1997

	£m
Parochial ministry support	19.5
Bishops and cathedral clergy stipends	5.3
Bishops' housing	2.6
Payments to cathedrals	2.5
Financial provision for resigning clergy	2.4
Clergy pensions	82.1
Church buildings	0.8
Bishops' working costs	8.1
Commissioners' working costs for Church	4.7
Other Church bodies' working costs	2.6
Total expenditure	130.6

Arun Kataria, the Commissioners' Communications Officer, comments in the Report - "We cannot count on the exceptionally high returns of recent years continuing indefinitely. . . . We have contained our own working costs, which have reduced by 16% in real terms over the last five years. We now look forward to a future in partnership with the new Archbishops' Council."

DEVELOPING THE WEST PORCH

Church architecture is not just about designing a practical building, it is also about beauty and belief.

When building St. James's church 135 years ago the highly decorated, gothic style of the Victorians expressed their view of beauty and also made a public statement, for all to see, about belief in God. The tall arching windows, beams and spire reach up to the heavens, as if to attempt to reach up to God. Today we would design a church differently, not least because we don't believe God is 'up there in the heaven' any more than we believe God can be contained. Perhaps today we would build a circular church - indeed we put our altar in the middle of the church, to say that God is at the centre of all we do; God is in the midst of us.

In proposing the glass doors for the West End of the church we too wish to stress something about beauty and belief. We wish to open the view from the street to the full length of the church, right up to the altar with its cross. We have a beautiful church which we want to share with those who pass by.

More than this, I believe that the glass doors would also state that this church is open and welcoming. It is a church which is active in proclaiming the mission and purposes of God in our community. Glass doors would help to open up the mystery of God's presence in our world.

For these reasons I commend this scheme to your consideration.

Brian Leathard

A PORTRAIT OF OUR CHURCH

One of our parishioners, Hannelore Dahin, is a final-year student of the Open College of the Arts. As a final-year project she chose to paint a picture of the interior of the church as seen from a pew at the back of the church. Hannelore showed the Tuesday-morning communicant group the final oil painting on Tuesday 2nd June. As a portrait should, it showed far more than a photograph, and the little group of spectators felt that this wonderful, detailed picture should be seen by a much wider group of our church members.

It was shown in an exhibition in Wimbledon library in the week beginning on the 8th of June. I went to this exhibition and thoroughly enjoyed it. Fifteen third-year OCA students each showed four or five of their paintings. Hannelore's picture had of course a special attraction for me. We are hoping that there will be an opportunity later in the year for us all to see the picture in the church or the hall. We will try to arrange this with Hannelore and give good notice of the date.

Dick Wilde

WORLD CHURCH WEEKEND

11th / 12th July



On Sunday 12th July at 6.30 p.m. -

St. Paul's Cathedral

Diocesan Service Invitation to The Feast

Celebrate the diversity of the World Church
as bishops from throughout the
Anglican Communion gather for the
Lambert Conference.

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1998

Once again Christian Aid has been valiantly supported by many of our congregation - those who deliver and collect envelopes, those who contribute through this collection, and those who make generous donations. Many sincere thanks to you all - your willing help makes the organisation so much easier!

Our total contribution will be:

<i>House to house collections</i>	<i>£1,581.56</i>
<i>DIY Messiah</i>	<i>900.00</i>
<i>Walk the City (sponsorship)</i>	<i>140.00</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>408.00</i>
.	<i>£3,029.56</i>

Thanks are especially due to our 29 collectors - I hope that you will all give your time and effort again next year!

Margaret Taylor



Congratulations to Tusar and Chandrika Patel, owners of TAPS Newsagent on Hampton Hill High Street, who have won the June "Newsagent of the Month" award from the Richmond and Twickenham Times. They richly deserve it! We are grateful to them for their support of St. James's Church through gifts to raffles and church events. Bravo!

Violet Shell is now home from hospital and her health is steadily improving. We remember Bill Young, recovering after a stroke, and Jean Miller, Prill Hinckley's mother, in our prayers.

Sadly we have to report several deaths this month. Joyce Long, a past resident of Hampton Hill, has recently died, and Mr. Gloyns of Sherwood Road also died. We are also very sad to hear of the sudden death of Barbara Brooks, Kath Brooks' daughter, and Mable Milne, the mother of Carol Severn, after a recent illness. Those who attended the Listening Skills course in Lent 1997 will be saddened by the untimely death of Margie Bray, one of the course leaders.

Please remember all these people and their bereaved families in your prayers. St. James's lunches are now held on the first Monday of each month at the White House in Hampton. The first was well attended and was reported to be a very sociable and enjoyable occasion (and the Vicar got custard on his pudding!). The next will be on 6th July at 12.30 p.m. Sign up on the list in Church or just come along.

We congratulate Brian's parents who both celebrated their 70th Birthdays in May.

On 7th June many couples and friends renewed their marriage vows at a special service. To Geoffrey's rousing rendition of the Toccata from Vidor's 5th Symphony (how many had that at their wedding?), and with the bells ringing joyfully we gathered in the hall for a celebration glass of bubbly. We were delighted to celebrate a Diamond Wedding, and pleased to see so many new offspring of recent marriages thriving!

Many congratulations to Alwyne and Alison Loyd on their recent Golden Wedding. Alwyne has for many years been the distribution organiser for 'The Spire'.

We look forward to the Baptismal Party on Sunday 13th September at 3.30 p.m. Confirmation will be at St. James's on Sunday 11th November. Classes will begin in September for anyone who wishes to be confirmed, or who just wants to renew their understanding of our Christian faith. Contact Brian.

ST. JAMES'S DAY - SUNDAY 26TH JULY

11.00 a.m. Parish Communion
Guest Preacher - Sister Jennifer SSM
The Sister Superior at Chiswick Convent

Afterwards the Church will be open and there will be a
Simple bread and cheese lunch in the Hall.
In the afternoon - Beating the Bounds of the Parish by Bike

FROM THE MAY REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 3 Marcus Clifford Fisher, 19 East Meade, Chorltonville, Manchester
10 Bethany Louise Evans, 3 Browning Close, Hampton
Mia Ann Monahan, 12 Grenville Mews
24 Samuel Elliot Allen, 66 Myrtle Road

Wedding

- 30 Jean Paul Laurent and Claire Elizabeth Roberts

Funerals

- 19 Denis Leatherdale, 18 St. James's Road 80
27 Alfred William Brickell, 5 Wellington Court, Wellington Road 78
Geoffry Poyntz Gloyns, 2 Sherwood Road 88

DATES TO NOTE IN JULY

- 3 St. Thomas the Apostle
6 St. Thomas More, Martyr 1534
St. James's Table at White House Lunch - 12.30 p.m. onwards.
All welcome to attend.
11 Benedict, Abbot of Monte Cassino 550
12 6.30 p.m. St Paul's Cathedral
Invitation to the Feast - A celebration of the World Church in our
Diocese as Bishops gather for the Lambeth Conference -All welcome
14 7.15 - 9.30 p.m. Kensington Area Millennium Roadshow,
St. Paul's Brentford
22 St. Mary Magdelene
25 St. James the Apostle - we celebrate our
26 Patronal Festival
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion - Preacher Sr. Jennifer SSM of
St. Mary's Convent, Chiswick
Followed by A simple lunch and
Beating the bounds by bike
29 William Wilberforce, Social Reformer 1833

MAGAZINE APPEAL

Thanks to all who responded to the recent appeal in *The Spire* for donations towards the costs. We received around £1,000 which will go a long way towards producing the magazine over the next twelve months.

We hope you enjoy *The Spire*, and your comments and literary contributions are welcomed and encouraged. The copy date for the next issue is always on the back page.

You may notice that some of the advertisements have changed this month. If you should use the services of, or purchase anything from any of the advertisers, perhaps you could mention that you saw them in *The Spire*!

Editorial Committee: **Rev Brian Leathard**
 Elizabeth Gossage
 Sue Horner
 Rosalie Meyrowitz
 Margaret Taylor
 Dick Wilde

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