

Yes, I know strange things happen at Sainsbury's. As a regular visitor to their expanding St. Clare's store in our parish, I am often amazed at just how much our tastes change and our appetites increase. However, a most peculiar coincidence has occurred over the last 24 hours. I went, in dog-collar, to do the weekly shop, my mind full of potential "bogof" s (buy one get one free!) and a touch of indulgence over the cheese counter. But it was over the new potatoes that the strangest thing happened. Actually, there weren't many new potatoes to be had, they had almost run out, just a few miserable specimens in the bottom of the box. So I asked the assistant nearby if she had any more. "Am I the widow of Zarephath?" she replied. Somewhat taken aback I replied that if she were, then she would undoubtedly find some more if she would care to go and look in the store room.

You will of course remember the story in 1 Kings 17 of Elijah coming hungry and thirsty from the desert to Zarephath and meeting a lady who was lighting a fire with a few odd sticks. Elijah asks her for a little water and some bread. She replied that she doesn't even have enough to feed herself, let alone Elijah. Unperturbed, Elijah promises that if she gives him as 'the man of God' to eat and drink, then she will never again run out of flour or oil. So the woman feeds Elijah and indeed she does not run out of provisions.

Next day, at Morning Prayer, the Old Testament reading just happened to be Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. Was I being told something? Certainly it made me stop and think - just what are we putting as the priorities in our lives? It's a serious question.

What is your priority?

Now I wouldn't necessarily take the widow at Zarephath story literally. For me, it speaks most powerfully as an image of how we choose to order our lives. Elijah challenged the widow to put God at the centre, to rely on God's unchanging love to bring changes into her life. I do most firmly believe that if we can put at the very core of our being "love God and love your neighbour as yourself" then our lives can be, and will be, radically changed.

Change is the theme of our parish weekend later this month. Not many of us relish change but if, like Elijah and the widow of Zarephath, we dare to place God centrally in our lives then we will change - our actions, our thoughts, our opinions, our whole lives, and the lives of others, will change. It's a huge risk, but only you can decide to take it!

P.S. The Sainsbury's assistant found more new potatoes!

Brian Leathard



"He said if we could spare him a drink of water and a morsel of bread, we would never run out of flour and oil!"

MONTHLY "FIRST - THURSDAY" COMMUNION

As you will have seen in the August "Spire", we have a new addition to our regularly-held services. On the first Thursday of each month there is a celebration of communion at 2.00 p.m. in the church. The first service was held on the 2nd September; the next will be on 7th October, the 4th November and 2nd December.

This service is intended primarily for those people who cannot easily or conveniently come to the Sunday services. It also provides a refreshing weekday oasis for anyone who values the quiet companionship of such a short act of worship in addition to the longer Sunday parish communion. There were fifteen participants at the first service; the cup of tea in the hall after the service gave us an opportunity to talk to friends whom we perhaps do not see very often.

If you would like to come to the service but find transport difficult, speak to the vicar or one of the churchwardens.

Dick Wilde

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - 21ST NOVEMBER

INFORMAL SERVICE - SUNDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

On these Sundays we will particularly consider our more material commitment to the community at St. James's. This will be part of our worship and prayers during the Parish Eucharist. After both services, members of the stewardship committee will be available to answer questions and provide covenant forms, standing order forms and envelopes as necessary.

This provides an opportunity for us all to:

- Find out about the stewardship scheme and join at whatever level we feel able.
- Review our current giving under stewardship and renew covenants or pledges if necessary.
- Consider covenanting if we are a taxpayer and do not already do so. This provides an extra 30% income to the church.
- Consider other ways to give to the church. For example, legacies in wills.



PRAYER DIARY

On the first Sunday of the month, please pray for the work of one of our member churches

January	Hampton Baptist Church
February	St. Francis de Sales Church, Hampton Hill
March	United Reformed Church, Hampton Hill
April	St. Richard's Church, Hanworth
May	Crossway Community Church
June	St. James's Church, Hampton Hill
July	The Discovery Church
August	St. Mary's Church, Hampton
September	Hampton Methodist Church
October	St. Theodore's Church, Hampton
November	All Saints Church, Hampton
December	All CTaH member churches

THE POISONWOOD BIBLE BY BARBARA KINGSOLVER (FABER AND FABER)

The story of an American family in the Belgian Congo during a time of tremendous political and social upheaval, "The Poisonwood Bible" is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Congo in 1959. They carry with them all they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it - from garden seeds to Scripture - is calamitously transformed on African soil.

This tale of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction, over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa, is set against one of history's most dramatic political parables. It dances between the darkly comic human failings and inspiring poetic justices of our times. In a compelling exploration of religion, conscience, imperialist arrogance, and the many paths to redemption, Barbara Kingsolver has brought forth her most ambitious work ever.

Ann Peterken



There will be a sale of Charity Christmas Cards in the hall
at 10.45 a.m. on SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER
after Parish Communion.

Dorling Kindersley books will also be available.

LAWRENNY CHURCH

Our church in Wales is St. Caradoc's, Lawrenny. It is medieval and recently received a lottery grant to renovate the exterior (in the same lime putty we are putting on the outside of our house). At present there is no incumbent, the previous Vicar having left to become an army chaplain, and so we have a number of visiting clergy from the nearby area - mostly elderly Canons! Lawrenny is one of four churches in a rural parish, which covers a wide area. The liturgy of the Church of Wales is very similar to ours - the ASB with all the "thee's" and "thou's" still in. The congregation is small, and though most have lived in Lawrenny all their lives (and their families before them), they make us very welcome. One day we may persuade them to Pass the Peace!

Elizabeth Gossage

There will be a concert entitled

SHAKESPEARE IN SONG

at the Hampton Hill Playhouse

on **SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER** at 7.30 p.m.

given by Cantanti Camerati and conducted by Geoffrey Bowyer.

This special concert will give parishioners an opportunity
to visit Hampton Hill's splendid new theatre.

Tickets at £8 (concessions £6) must be ordered in advance
from Geoffrey (894 3773)

ECLIPSE EXPERIENCES

We saw the eclipse from a cliff-top in Cornwall. We could see for miles in either direction around the bay, but as it was heavily overcast we saw nothing of the sun. However, the minutes of darkness were very impressive and the twinkling of flashbulbs all along the coast took us by surprise. We marvelled at all the efforts that were made to embellish a natural event.

Paul and Ann Peterken

The Miskins (Andrew, Caroline, Jamie, Tom and Andrew's father Leonard) travelled to the Saltzkammergut to see the eclipse. Mondsee was right on the line of totality and the edge of the lake turned out to be the perfect spot. The morning started out heavily overcast but cleared quickly and the last wisps of cloud disappeared just before totality. Leonard had arranged his own method of projecting an image of the eclipsed sun onto paper using a pair of spectacles. The experience was extremely moving despite it being lighter than expected at totality. Perhaps Tom will make it to the next UK opportunity in 2090!

Caroline Miskin

I went to Slapton Sands in Devon with my brother Tim. There were many hundreds on the beach and dozens of small boats out at sea but as it was cloudy we could not see the sun. We noticed the stillness and drop in temperature and saw what looked like a huge black storm coming from the west although it was still bright on the eastern horizon. It gave the impression of a huge dimmer switch being operated. We could see thousands of flashbulbs for many miles along the coast. Then the light seemed to return even more rapidly than the darkness had come beforehand. Although we did not actually see the sun, it was a most interesting experience.

Pip Rowett



Michael, Matthew and I travelled to Crevecoeur, near Beauvais, to be on the centre-line of totality. We set up our cameras and screen on the edge of a cornfield under a clear blue sky. At first, little seemed different, although we could see through our glasses that the eclipse had started. Then it grew cooler and the light became quite eerie. Just before totality, the birds stopped singing and everything was silent. We had a wonderful view of the total eclipse and the "diamond ring" effect. As the light started to return, we heard a cock crow in a nearby farmyard. It was indeed a moving and memorable experience.

Susan Horner



No pay; great job satisfaction!

Would anyone be interested in becoming the
PARISH PUBLICITY OFFICER

This would involve producing posters and notices
and making contact with the local radio and press as required.
Please contact any of the clergy or churchwardens if you could help.

Thank you to all who came to the
coffee morning in aid of the Lifeboats
or who donated goods.

The event raised £241.70.



Jill Goddard

AQUABOX APPEAL FOR VICTIMS OF THE TURKISH EARTHQUAKE

Many thanks for the swift and extremely generous response to my appeal for goods to fill Aquaboxes. Rotary have already sent 337 Aquaboxes to Turkey, including 7 from this area, and many more are being filled. Clothing and other items which are too large to fit in Aquaboxes are being packed and sent separately. Turkish Airlines are transporting all the goods free of charge.

Susan Horner



In this, our early autumn issue, we are very happy to congratulate members of our Young Church, and of course many others in the parish, who have been successful in their examinations. We send our best wishes to all who are going on to further education. Among them are Alice Taylor, who is starting veterinary college, and Geoffrey Nunn, who returns to Loughborough for his final year after a year working

at N.P.L. All the best also to Duncan Robinson whose job with the bank is taking him to Frankfurt.

Gill Gostling has started a new job in victim support in the Probation Service. We hope that Gill will be successful and happy in her new position.

Sadly, we have to inform you of the death of Frank Border, Sylvia and Reg's brother. Our love and sympathy to them in their bereavement.

Congratulations to Dick and Mary Wilde on the birth of two more granddaughters. Lydia Madeleine was born to Susan and Danny Rock in Perth, Australia on 28th August and Ellen Marcella to Sarah and Ted Fraser on 9th September.

We have been pleased to see Ruth Gostling back in Church again. We send good wishes for her continued recovery and hope that she will soon be completely well again.

Congratulations to David and Janet Lloyd on their 35th wedding anniversary. Don Barrett should be added to our bumper crop of golden birthdays mentioned last month as he, too, celebrates his 50th this year.

We have all seen Geoffrey Bowyer's prize pumpkins but you may not have heard that he won first prize for his shallots at Twickenham Allotment Society Show.

Many thanks to Gordon Stowell for designing the new Welcome cards that you will have seen on the pews. Newcomers are already using them to make themselves known to us.

GRATITUDE

O Lord,
My soul is full of gratefulness
Because I know that "Thou art there",
And here with Thy great creation -
For Thou art everywhere.
In heights of praise and love,
In depths of sin and sorrow,
Here each blessed day
And here in each tomorrow.
Thou art full of understanding mercy
And endless loving kindness
Giving guidance for Thy pathway
And sight unto our blindness.
Help us to truly serve Thee, Lord,
In all we think and say and be -
And make all Thy great creation
Redolent of Thee.

Amen. Laus Deo.

Margery Orton



Kath Brooks bought a cyclamen at the St. James's Fair last November which has flowered constantly ever since. Is this a record?

We apologise for the ERRATUM in the ERATUM (sic) last month; well done those who spotted it!

PARISH WEEKEND 1999

Plans are well formed for this year's Parish Weekend. Past weekends have proved to be useful for the congregation as a whole, but also very rewarding for those who attend. Personal growth and new understandings of fellow parishioners have been particular features and we anticipate that this year's will reap similar rewards - the fun bit is taken for granted!

This year's theme is to be "Change" and we will consider various aspects of that as it concerns us as individuals and as a parish.

Residential accommodation is now full, but anyone prepared to travel daily to the Grail in Pinner would be very welcome. Please see or phone Ruth Mills (977 5165) if you would like to join us. The fee for day visitors would be £55. for the whole weekend. If anyone would like to come but can only manage one day, please speak to Ruth. Your presence is more important than your fee and if the fee is more than you can manage, please don't let that stop you!

DATES TO NOTE IN OCTOBER

3	09.30	Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Brunch
	18.30	450 th Anniversary of the first Book of Common Prayer Evensong sung by the Patmos Singers to mark the celebration
4		St. Francis of Assisi
6		William Tyndale, Translator of Bible into English, 1536
7	14.00	Holy Communion
10	10.45	Sale of Charity Christmas Cards in the hall after Parish Communion
12		Wilfrid of Ripon, Missionary, 709
13		PCC
14	19.30	"New Start for the Family" Kensington Area Conference
15		Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith
16		Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, Martyr, 1555
17		St. Luke (transferred)
	18.30	Churches Together Service at St. Francis de Sales
20	19.30	Women's Forum A.G.M.
	20.00	Deanery Synod
22-24		Parish Weekend at The Grail, Pinner
26		Alfred the Great, King of Wessex, Scholar, 899
28		St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles
31		All Saints (transferred)

FROM THE JULY REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 4 Madeline Amice Ball, 23 Oxford Road
Alex Michael Stagg, 15 Hotham Close, Hurst Park
18 Nicholas Alexander Stonehouse, 14 St. James's Avenue

Blessing of Marriage

- 10 Adeoye Olubunmi Mafe and Tracey Ann Williams

Renewal of Marriage Vows

- 17 Peter and Kay Brum

Marriage

- 24 Ian Crane and Louise Kiely

Funerals

- 13 Doris Lee, 10 Taylor Close 73
19 Margaret Kirkham, 37 St. James's Avenue 81
23 Emily Smith, Linwood House Residential Home, Thames Ditton 92
27 Stanley Owen, Laurel Dene 96

FROM THE AUGUST REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 1 Alexander Golden, 15 Tounfield Court, Hanworth
22 Sarah Carson, 11 Sherwood Road
29 Henry Alfred Banks, 49 Burtons Road
29 Natalya Zawado, } 31 Miles Road, Epsom
Genevieve Zawado }

Weddings

- 7 Timothy Welland and Nicola Snewing
Steven Talboys and Michelle Howe
21 Ralph Naidoo and Joanna Larsson

Funerals

- 16 Elly Terkuile Van Nus, 7 Cranmer Court 64
17 Geraldine Jones, 28 Taylor Close 61
17 Philip Cowee, 4 Eastbank Road 88