

Hurrah for August! It seems to provide a breather in an extremely hectic schedule. There is something deeply reassuring in the emptier pages of the diary, or, even better, in striking through pages in the diary. Perhaps this says something about our busyness in the other eleven months of the year, rather than our business. The words might be very closely related but the concepts behind them are vastly different.

Those of us who are committed to follow Christ in every part of our living know that it is a full-time calling. As George Herbert's poem and hymn reminds us, it is 'seven whole days, not one in seven'. God calls us full time, which means at work, at home, at school, in the shops or the library, anywhere and everywhere, at work and on holiday. Business, for Christians, is always as usual. There is no part of living which is excluded from our attempts to live faithfully, re-interpreting Jesus' pattern of living for us and our world.

However, the 'business as usual' is not the same as busyness as usual. The biblical stories of God's business, loving people into responding in love, begin with, and for Christians culminate in, an antidote to busyness. At the very beginning of the Bible are the creation stories in which, with poetic beauty, God creates the universe in six days. Having done so God then rests on the seventh day: Business doesn't have to mean busyness. In the creation story God takes a rest. From this picture Jewish leaders developed a strict code of rest days (Sabbaths), fallow time for the Lord, and jubilee years when debts are cancelled and slaves set free. From early in the Christian story, Sunday became the first day of the week the day of new life, celebrating our re-creation in the resurrected Christ. As such it became marked as a break from regular routine. Sunday became distinctive - for the Christian business without busyness, a holy day becomes a holiday.

So I'm keen to reclaim holiday as holy days, days in which we can realise anew our wholeness. Holidays are times of continuing deepening our Christian business without busyness. But holy days can just as well be made by an hour or an afternoon spent without busyness. A meal with friends, in the park with the children, a trip to the theatre or a concert really can make the difference between business and busyness, make a day holy and allow us a glimpse of God's grandeur.

Whatever this month brings you, may it enable you to grow in the Christian business without busyness, in which any hour of holiday makes your day holy and you are more wholly Christ-like.

EARLY BIRDS ARRIVE IN HAMPTON HILL

On September 5th 2001, **Hampton Hill Early Birds Breakfast Club** and **The Hampton Hill Nursery School**, two exciting new ventures will open at the Greenwood Centre, School Road, Hampton Hill.



The Early Birds Breakfast Club will operate term time between 7.50am and 8.50am for pupils of Hampton Hill Junior school and other local schools. This facility will be managed by Bill Jerman Head, of Hampton Hill, and Jacky Cammidge, a Governor of the School, and is supported by the Greenwood Centre.

A team of staff led by Jacky will provide the highest possible standard of care in a safe secure environment. Children will be escorted to school and passed to the teacher on duty.

Once the early Birds have flown the nest, the Greenwood Centre will continue to buzz with activity as **The Hampton Hill Nursery School** session begins!

The nursery will operate Monday to Friday Term Time providing a morning session from 9.15am until 12.15pm, and a Packed Lunch session 12.15pm until 1.00pm.

Afternoon sessions and holiday clubs are planned for the near future. The children will follow a full pre-school Curriculum, including French, and daily **Music Sessions**, led on the Piano by a Specialist Teacher.



For more information regarding either of the above contact:

Jacky Cammidge on 020 8287 7113.



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BOOKS of the BIBLE ★ ROMANS ★

I like Paul's letter to the Romans because it contains many verses that have inspired me over the years. Firstly there is a reminder that God's love is all encompassing and that we can draw on it in all situations. In chapter 8 v36 we read 'I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'. That is quite a promise. However low one is feeling, however lonely, God is nearby and we can draw comfort from Him. I once heard someone describe God's love as being like a proud parent who carries around a photo of their

offspring and at every opportunity gets it out and boasts 'this is my child, isn't she wonderful'. God loves each of us like this. We too can bring God's love into other people's lives by showing that we care, by a few words of encouragement or by helping in some small way.

Romans also encourages us because we are told that although none of us is perfect, we all have free access to God and to his forgiveness, however many times we let ourselves down. Chapter 3 v23 - 'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus'. All we need to do is believe and accept.

Finally there is a challenge to serve God and to stand up, and stand out, as a disciple. Chapter 12 v1 - 'I urge you, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind'. That sounds difficult but Paul goes on to say that the way this works is in love. We are to accept that each of us is different and bring different gifts to our combined life as a church. There is quite a list of the ways in which this is worked out. Some of these are: Hate what is evil and cling to what is good, honour one another above yourselves, be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need, practise hospitality. When broken down into these parts it does not seem quite so daunting, these are things we can work on and each one achieved is an example of God's love in action.

I have found these and many other verses in Romans, both challenging and comforting. Chapter 8 v31 - 'If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also graciously give us all things?'

ALMA UPDATE

Angola, London & Mozambique Association

On June 5th Ann Peterken and I attended a meeting of ALMA representatives in London and were given the opportunity to join in three 10 minute practical workshops with the aim of promoting news of our link within our own parishes - so here is the first effort!

40 years of war in Angola have ravaged this oil rich country and they need our prayers for peace and to help its leaders find direction. However the Anglican church thrives and two representatives from St. Stephen's Church in Luanda spoke to us about their growing young congregation, their 6 choirs, their social care workers and their commitment to spread into more provinces. ALMA has recently completed projects in two primary schools providing hope for some of the thousands of children excluded from the education system by the government. Costs of medicines are high so people continue to die from malaria, cholera and AIDS as the hospitals cannot treat them. In Mozambique the story is similar and following the recent devastating floods the harvests will be poor, seeds scarce and there is now a strong possibility of a famine. Despite all this these countries still have so many good things to share. Where nothing existed before a medical centre and church have been established on the site of the car accident where Bishop Dinis lost his wife in November 1998. In two years the church has no roof, doors, windows or fittings but it does have a large, and growing, congregation boasting 120 baptisms, 62 confirmations and 6 weddings to date.

Elizabeth Wilmot

GRASSROOTS FEEDBACK ON DEBT RELIEF IN TANZANIA

Before independence, Tanzanians had to pay for primary and secondary school education. Those who were unable to pay the school fees had to apply for a remission from local and central government. After independence in 1961, the government instituted free education from primary through to university level.

This was a very big burden for the government to shoulder because, besides giving free education, they also provided free health care at all government hospitals and free water supply in towns. The financial strain led to the deterioration of many government-funded social services. The government was also crippled by debt payments.

Eventually the government felt there was no option but to reintroduce the old system. Many of our people are just farmers of little means. They live from hand to mouth and the fees for education and health care are too great a burden.

We are grateful to Jubilee 2000, which has campaigned on our behalf, and to the financial agencies which have agreed to give us debt relief, with the condition that the money which would have been used to pay debts must be used to improve the provision of services such as health care, education and water supply.

Last week, our president announced on Radio Tanzania that, as a result of the debt relief, primary education will now be free and all children are to attend school from the age of seven. There are other debts still outstanding and we must still petition other financial agencies to cancel their debts too so that our economy may recover and our social services be improved.

Benaiah Kilwale, Clinical Officer at St. Luke's Hospital, Milo

Some of you will remember Christopher Wagstaff, a good friend of St. Luke's, who came to talk with us in November 1998. Christopher is in Tanzania again and will spend a few days at Milo. He has very kindly offered to come and share news and photos with us later in the year.

In the meantime, do take a look at the June 2001 newsletter on the Charities notice board. The hospital struggles with many problems and needs our support and prayers.

Ann Peterken

THE SALVATION ARMY SOUP RUN

The Staines and District branch of the Council of Christians and Jews heard a wonderful talk by Mrs. Yve Atwill who has been on the soup run for the last 16 years and so knows about 80 of her regular clients very well. In addition to soup, she also provides freshly made sandwiches, crisps and bars of chocolate. Yve always carries blankets, woolly hats, socks and gloves on the van.

Yve agrees with the recently initiated government campaign against giving money to beggars because they probably spend it on alcohol and drugs, but she said that many people on the street would die of cold and neglect without the help of the soup run. Yve told of the importance of making time to chat as contact is often more important than food. She searches out the less demanding but often more needy individuals who are too nervous to approach the van and need coaxing to come and get food.

I came away from Yve's talk feeling very glad that I have a warm home and a loving family. If you would like to donate blankets, sleeping bags, woolly hats (preferably in dark colours), men's socks, gloves, toiletries or chocolate bars, I will be delighted to pass them on to Yve Atwill for her soup run.

Carole Greville-Giddings, Secretary, Staines and District C.C.J. Tel: 020 8979 6592





St James's Church

St. James's Chronicle 1901

THE SPIRE



The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1901 Extracts from the August Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

During the last few weeks the minds of many us have been concentrated upon the Sale of Work and Battle of Flowers. There was, of course, a great deal of work to be done in connection with it, but happily there was no lack of workers who were willing to work, and so matters moved with soothness and rapidity. A few weeks ago we were anxious as to whether there would be a sufficient supply of things to sell, but as time went on we became anxious to find room for the "work" that was pouring in, and fresh orders had to be issued for larger tents and larger stalls.



At 2.15 the Floral Procession, which had marched from Laurel Dene, began to arrive, and everybody agreed that it was one of the it prettiest sights they had ever seen. I believe that nothing quite of the same kind has ever been seen before in England. Punctually at 2.30 the Bishop mounted the platform, and the opening ceremony commenced with the singing of "The Church is one foundation," led by the choir, after which prayer was offered by Prebendary Prosser, and, after a few words of explanation by myself, the Bishop addressed us with that inspiring and electric vigour which is so characteristic of him.

He quickly won all hearts and sympathies, and we all felt at once that we had a bishop who was in touch with us and wished to understand and help us and who could speak from heart to heart. When he concluded we felt that his presence and his words had strengthened our hands not only for this undertaking but for all time. In a few happy phrases, Prebendary Johnston proposed a vote of thanks to the Bishop, and then the work of buying and selling commenced in earnest. The sale went on vigorously all the afternoon and evening. On the second day it rained in torrents all the afternoon, and in consequence the children's treat had to be put off until the next day. In the evening it cleared, and a fair number of people came in. On Friday it rained nearly the whole day, and the children were given their tea in the schools, after which many of them came up to the grounds and evidently enjoyed themselves. A full account of exhibits has appeared in the newspapers. Notwithstanding the rain the undertaking, from a financial point of view, was a great success, as will be seen from the statement below, which, however, is still incomplete.



I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

PARISH WEEKEND

The Parish Weekend at Wychcroft proved to be both amusing and stimulating. For those who have not been to Wychcroft, it is a lovely country-house just 22 miles from London and at least a hundred years away. Not that we were allowed to luxuriate in the past for very long. We arrived on Friday afternoon and after supper (which was very good) we were introduced to the Rev. Gerald Beauchamp, who in turn introduced us to St. Luke. It quickly dawned on us through attempting to answer his questionnaire that we were there to work. We also went to the chapel for a short service.

On the following two days we worked in groups and discovered a great deal about St. Luke's Gospel (which we would not have admitted we did not know). On Saturday afternoon we were scheduled for a walk in the surrounding countryside and we were pleased to be joined by friends and relatives from St. James's who had come to see us. We all had a Bar-B-Q supper on the terrace - lovely day.

On Sunday, after prayers in the chapel and breakfast, we set to work in our groups to illustrate the ideas gathered on the previous day. Our group, under Freda's leadership, produced a little play. We had the advantage of having a beautiful little Virgin Mary in Jennifer Greville-Giddings, who also drew the two drawings shown in the church. The other two collages were produced by groups 1 and 2.

After lunch we had Communion. Freda played the piano and we had a good 'Brian-speak', followed by a long chat about where the weekend had led us. This, for our group, proved a bit emotional, and we had a run on the Kleenex. Never mind, we knew we were amongst friends. After a nice reviving cup of tea we all went home. Do come next time. It isn't mandatory to go on Ruth's long walk on Saturday afternoon. Betty and I used her bad leg as an excuse and sat on the terrace.

Jean Gossage

Answers to Crossword No.1 printed in the July Spire

Across:

1. Sacristy
7. Saint Stephen
8. Mincemeat
9. Tup
10. Noah
11. Vestry
13. Icecap
14. Stolen
17. Saturn
18. Acts
20. Elk
22. Signature
23. Salem
24. St George

Down:

1. Simon
2. Concave
3. Item
4. Themes
5. Piety
6. Saint Stephen
7. Statute
12. Baptism
13. Incense
15. Lacquer
16. Bright
17. Skill
19. Sieve
21. Fate



Stella Walker has written to say that she is beginning to feel better and settling well at the Highcliffe Nursing Home in Dorset. She asks to be remembered to all her friends at church.

Peter Horner will be moving to Bradford at the beginning of August to start his new job as Information Officer for Bradford Council for Voluntary Services.

Congratulations to Hema Vyas, youngest daughter of Bhanu of Rina's shop in Windmill Road, on receiving her degree in Business Studies with Marketing from Manchester University.

In last month's *Around the Spire*, we should have said that Iain and Jane Walker not Butler, had become the parents of Catherine Jane; our apologies for the error. We were pleased to see Catherine in church recently, and also Poppy, daughter of Emma and Jake Robbins and sister to Daisy. We would also like to congratulate Julia and Gordon Tucker on the birth of Sophie, a sister for Katie. Our love and best wishes go to all these families and their new daughters.

We are sorry to report that Peter Ryan was in Kingston Hospital but is now home. John Afford, of Hampton Choral Society, is in Teddington Hospital.

A very happy occasion at St. James's on 14th July was the marriage of Sanaz Sazegar to Christopher Collins. On the same day, Prill and Martin Hinckley celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. Dick and Mary Wilde and Michael and Tina Bunce have recently celebrated their Ruby Weddings.

The picnic in the park after the St. James's Day service was much enjoyed, and we hope that you all have happy and relaxing holidays.

What is Love? By Carl Goeller

LOVE is that wonderful, intangible something which has inspired painters, poets, philosophers, preachers, and, most of all, men and women since time began.

To the painter, love is the eyes of a mother as she gazes at her sleeping child . . . the embrace of two lovers . . . a small boy holding tightly to his father's hand . . . and a sunrise on a dew-drenched morning.

The poet sees love as the first breeze of spring . . . the blushing glance between a boy and a girl . . . the handclasp between friends which says, "I understand you" and a special magic which renders all things beautiful.

The philosopher will tell you that love is an unforgettable meeting of two souls . . . an invisible bond between man and woman, youth and age . . . that feeling which causes one human being to weep unashamedly as he tells another, I'm sorry.

To the preacher, love is that gift from God which makes Him God . . . which allows man his first glimpse of heaven . . . and offers him a way to teach it.

Love is magic. It can be all of these, or none of them, because it is completely new every time it happens. It can be found anywhere . . . anytime . . . anyplace . . . by anyone . . . and once it is found, nothing is ever quite the same.

From Grace submitted by Rose Frier

FROM THE JUNE REGISTERS

Funerals

11	Susan Joyce Edwards, 4 Lea Close, Twickenham	42
21	Dennis John McCauley, Laurel Dene	83

DATES TO NOTE IN AUGUST

5	The Transfiguration of our Lord (tr)	
9	Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union 1921	
13	Florence Nightingale, Nurse and Social Reformer 1910	
14	Maximilian Kolbe, Friar & Martyr 1941	
20	William & Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army 1912 and 1890	
26	St. Bartholomew, Apostle (tr)	
28	Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher 430	
29	The Beheading of John the Baptist	
30	John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer 1688	
31	Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary 651	

THE NURTURE GROUP

We have not yet found a better name for this group. We spend 1.5 hours every two weeks talking about our faith - and our doubts. No subject is taboo and all opinions have (so far) been tolerated - though examined and discussed thoroughly.

At the moment we are studying the letter to the Galatians, but we have worked through the Emmaus courses together, looked at the first few chapters of Genesis and, on the way, considered topical events within our parish, our neighbourhood and the world.

We have, inevitably, developed friendships within the group but anyone who would like to join us will be made very welcome. Life experiences as well as learning contribute to our discussions and we continue to gain from each other.

We meet in the "Upper Room" of the Hall from 8 - 9.30pm every other Thursday. If you would like to join us, please just turn up or contact any member. If transport or stairs are a problem, please contact me.

The next meeting dates are: August 2nd, 16th, 30th, September 13th, 27th, October 11th, 25th, November 8th, 22nd, December 6th, 20th, January (2002) 3rd, 17th, 31st. Meetings are adapted to fit in with whatever Lent Groups are going on, normal meetings will resume on March 28th, then April 11th and 25th.

Ruth Mills 8977 5165

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH AUGUST