

Trials hit the headlines - they make news, especially when their outcome is unexpected. Sometimes trials stick in the consciousness of individuals or groups of people simply because the subject matter is so horrific, as in the Nuremberg Trials or the recent Lockerbie Trial. Sometimes trials bring to light excruciating human evil or pain. Sometimes we might feel justice is done, at other times that adversarial conflict is not the way to settle the matter in hand. At other times we may feel that a miscarriage of justice brings the whole legal system into disrepute.

The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John each contain an account of Jesus' trial - its process, its outcome, its participants. Yet although it is clear that the outcome was Jesus' death, each of the Gospels seems to emphasise different elements within the trial. Of course the Gospel writers are recording a series of events which, at best, were marked by violence and confusion. They are not court records, but testimonies and descriptions imperfectly seen or understood. This was a rapid series of semi-legal procedures including deliberate humiliation and torture.

When we read these events of Christ's trial we need to enter into them. We are not dealing with transcripts, but with the treasured narrative of the earliest Christian communities. Each gospel writer seems to make a different emphasis. For Mark the trial occupies a very large part of his gospel, Luke lays stress upon the otherness of Jesus the outsider, while Matthew's account appears to stress the folly and the wisdom of this Jesus on trial. John seems to be asking in Jesus' trial which world do we live in?

This year we are going to use Archbishop Rowan William's splendid Lent Book as our guide in Lenten House Groups. It is called *Christ on Trial*, and its sub-title indicates what impact the trial of Christ may have on us, with the haunting phrase *How the Gospel Unsettles our Judgement*. It is a very challenging and rewarding book which will encourage each of us to ask hard questions about what we believe and how we implement our belief in following Christ today.

Everyone is welcome to participate in Lent Groups and we hope to have groups meeting in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. Details are in Church and copies of the book can be ordered.

Please think about participating in a group - your views and insight will help other people and others will no doubt challenge you. Most importantly, try reading the accounts of Christ's trial in each Gospel this Lent and you will be both challenged and changed.

ST. JAMES'S NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Stewardship is a scheme whereby people give an amount of money to the church on a regular basis, usually monthly or weekly. This can be done by a bank standing order or via weekly envelopes put in the collection plate at church.

If you are a member of our stewardship scheme, thank you and please feel free to skip to the next page. If you have not considered stewardship, please read on - the facts may surprise you.

- The Church of England is **not** financed by the government or local authority. **ALL** the money to pay clergy, provide housing and pensions, maintain buildings, support local or overseas mission work etc. is given by individual parishioners.
- In our parish, 75% of our total income (about £80,000) is provided by members of our Stewardship scheme - that is people who give a regular amount every week/month/year.
- There are about 115 members in our stewardship scheme.
- Giving ranges from under £100 per year to more than £1500 per year.
- As always, during the year a few members have left the scheme. However, this year we have had very few new members joining.

There may be a number of reasons why you feel you could support St. James's:

Is it important to you that we have a parish church as part of our community?

Have you had a baptism or been married in church?

Do you like to go to informal church services with your children?

Do you like to go to church at Christmas, Easter or other special occasions?

Are the moral values the church promotes important in our society?

In order to continue to provide all the support and services the church offers

it is necessary to have a regular and reliable income.

Please consider whether you could join stewardship. Any contribution will be welcomed and there is no long-term commitment. If you would like more information or to discuss it further, please contact either myself (Carol Bailey - 8783 0633) or speak to Brian or the churchwardens. No obligation, we promise.



Hampton Pool - How we can help?

Last month we promised more information about the situation with Hampton Pool. The structure of the pool is crumbling and has outlasted its intended life. Health and safety standards are rising and so are public expectations of what to expect out of a swimming pool. Hampton Pool is unique because it is outdoor, heated and open all year round. It is an extremely popular local facility. The pool is run by a non-profit making limited liability company that is also a registered charity and does not have the money to fully finance the improvements. An application submitted recently to Sports England, who dominate sports funding in England, was turned down simply on the grounds that it is an open air pool which they class as a lido. On 5th February our MP and three Directors of the pool went to meet the Minister for Sport and a representative from Sports England. The Minister intervened and instructed Sports England to review their decision.

Of course, they may still decide to deny funding so the campaign goes on and at a public meeting at Hampton Junior School on the evening of 5th February, an appeal was made for people to help in the following ways:

- * **Sign the petition** - copies are available at the pool
- * **Write to Sports England** - 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0QP - the Chairman is Trevor Brooking, and the Chief Executive is Derrek Casey
- * **Write to your MP** - Dr Vincent Cable, House of Commons, London W1A 0AA asking him to pass your letter on to Kate Hoey, The Minister for Sport
- * **Make a donation to Hampton Pool** - they are a registered charity so if you pay Income Tax you can fill in a Gift Aid form
- * **Offer to help with the campaign** - they particularly asked for people

with skills in publicity and fund raising, but any help you can offer will be gratefully received

* **Use the Pool!**



Sponsored Swim for the Shooting Star Trust appeal for a children's hospice in Hampton

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to my sponsored swim which was completed on 24th January. I have sent £1,025 to the Shooting Star Trust, of which £516 was given by members of St. James's congregation. My thanks also to Monica, Joan and Eila who counted the 100 lengths and to the Staff of Feltham baths who reserved a lane in the pool for me.

Greta Rosten

The World Premier of **A Pilgrim's Requiem**

A new fifty minute composition with Latin and English text
by Geoffrey Bowyer MMus



Plus Faure's Requiem
at St. James's Church
on Saturday 31st March at 7.30p.m.

Tickets £10 - concessions £7

020 8977 4100

St. James's is indeed privileged to host the first performance of a very substantial piece of new music. It is our own Geoffrey Bowyer's major opus *A Pilgrim's Requiem*. Geoffrey, who excelled musically from childhood onwards, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists at a very young age. He has continuously served in church music from 1956 to today, and has taught professionals, amateurs and music lovers to find beauty,

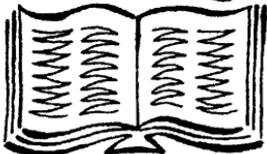
inspiration and indeed God through their music. His service to us at St. James's has been diligent, loyal and true.

In this work, which Geoffrey says he knew he would not write until he was sixty, there is a mixture of texts in English and Latin, some of which are normally found in a requiem such as *Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath) and *Pie Jesu* (Dearest Jesus) - but also unusual texts born out of Geoffrey's church life, such as settings of the hymns *Who Would True Valour See*, *Angel Voices Ever Singing* and *Take my Life and Let it Be*, composed for the congregation or audience.

Here is displayed a pilgrimage which is both personal and universal. It is clearly descriptive of Geoffrey's life Journey - in its melody and harmony, its words and thoughts, its pain and joy, its dedications and thanks. Yet it is also a Pilgrim's Requiem for all who place their trust in Christ, that nothing in life or death can ever separate us from God.

Typical of Geoffrey's generosity all the royalty proceeds are for the work of Christian Aid. As Geoffrey himself says *Deo Gratias* - yes indeed.

Brian Leathard

BOOKS of

the BIBLE

★ ISAIAH ★

The prophets in general and Isaiah in particular have always been favourites of mine. They have bequeathed to us a strong historical consciousness. They use the theology of sin, judgement and redemption both to comfort the distressed and to stir-up the complacent. They see judgement not just in terms of the next world but also in terms of this, and they have a lively sense of social justice.

"Jerusalem is stricken and Judah fallen because they have spoken and acted against the Lord. . . The Lord opens the indictment against the elders of the people and their officers:

"You have ravaged the vineyard, and the spoils of the poor are in your houses. Is it nothing to you that you crush my people and grind the faces of the poor?"

Isaiah has particularly powerful imagery and the vocabulary of the book is richer than that of any other Old Testament. Hebrew scholars inform me that there are at least 25 words or forms that occur in no other prophetic writing. Much is very familiar in translation, especially his messianic prophesies. These are repeated frequently in lessons and choral music.

Isaiah deals, in part, with his own epoch. Late eighth century Palestine, after a period of peace and prosperity in the first half of the century, faced the threat of an expanding Assyrian empire. He also refers to the Babylonian captivity that post-dates the decline of the Assyrians, the defeat of Babylon by the Persians which allows the remnant to return, and to the coming of the Messiah. For those who believe that prophets only concern themselves with the immediate future, the book attributed to the son of Amoz must have more than one author. Some scholars believe they can identify a second or even a third "Isaiah". It is, in my view, more likely that the text was compiled from a single oral tradition.

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem and had at least two sons. By tradition he was of royal blood and met a nasty end during the reign of king Manasseh. There is no evidence to support either contention, although it can be imagined that a prophet could make powerful enemies. He certainly had his differences over foreign policy with king Ahaz (c735-716 BC). During one audience Isaiah protests in exasperation,

" Listen house of David. Are you not content to wear out men's patience? Must you also wear out the patience of my God?"

Damascus fell to the Assyrians and Israel was partitioned. Eventually after a series of rebellions, Judah was attacked during the reign of Hezekiah (c715-687 BC). Jerusalem was prepared and successfully withstood the siege, but to the south Lachish fell. Assyrian reliefs show the defeated inhabitants leaving the city and passing the naked bodies of the defenders impaled on stakes. Elsewhere prisoners are shown being beheaded or flayed alive. Such savagery finds its echo in Isaiah, serving to counterpoint his vision of peace.

Isaiah's name means "Yahweh is salvation," one of his sons was called Shear-jashub, which means the "remnant will return". The notion that God would preserve a remnant of his chosen people through all the vicissitudes of the rise and fall of empires has been of deep significance to the Jews. It has also been ingrained in the myths that sustain the British - from the Spanish Armada through to Dunkirk and the Blitz.

John Gossage

THREE CENTURIES OF MISSION

Since the foundation of the Society for the Propagation of Gospel (now with the prefix United - USPG) in 1701, the faith map of our world has changed radically. It was an era in which numbers of people felt that they had a faith that was worth sharing, and were prepared to travel to the ends of the earth to do so. World mission for them was not an optional extra - it was a gospel



imperative. Faith to our forebears was exciting and they were challenged enough to regard their own role as pilgrims, prepared to travel where they believed the gospel was leading them.

However, many USPG missionaries were not simply pilgrims who were prepared to travel already worn paths - they were pioneers with attitudes that reached beyond their time and their work continues to have a positive impact today. Their work has benefited the lives of thousands, maybe millions.

It was his experiences in Maryland as Commissioner for the Bishop of London, that prompted **Dr Thomas Bray** to obtain a royal charter to establish the Society in 1701. **The Revd Philip Quaque** was the first African to be ordained a priest in the Church of England, and was also an SPG missionary in Africa from 1765 to 1816. **Captain Joseph Brant**, born a Mohawk Christian, championed the cause of the American Indians, and supervised the printing of an edition of the Mohawk Prayer Book and Psalms in 1785. One of the first medical missionaries, **Priscilla Winter**, nursed the sick during the fever and cholera epidemics in Delhi in 1863 and 1864 and founded the Delhi Female Medical Mission. In 1891, **Bernard Mizeki** went to Mashonaland in southern Africa to help found a new diocese and built up a mission living among Chief Mangwende's people near Marondera - he was speared to death by two of the Chief's sons and is still remembered in Zimbabwe for his courageous stance. In the early twentieth century, **William Jackson** was a blind missionary priest who, besides giving a home, gave hope and education to dozens of blind Burmese boys.

Today **Gillian Rose MBE** lives and works as a missionary in a rural village in Bangladesh, living with and entering into the lives of the local people - Muslims, Hindus and Christians. Living a very simple lifestyle, eating only one meal a day, she feels that there others whose needs are greater than hers. Prayer and Bible reading are the basis of her life.

On Sunday 4th February, Richard Sewell, our Diocesan representative with the USPG, told us of his recent visit to Bangladesh where Christians are in the minority. He told us of the continual floods, far, far worse than we have suffered here, and of a two storey church where all - Hindus, Muslims and Christians - are invited to shelter from the flooding. He reminded us that Christian means *little Christ*, and that we show His light to others by the way we live our lives. A powerful thought as we step into the fourth century of mission with the USPG.

Go out to all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation - Mark 16:15

(Source Pioneers and Pilgrims - USPC Tercentenary Yearbook 2001)

R.N.L.I. Coffee Morning
Saturday 31st March at St. James's Church Hall - 10a.m. - Noon
Books, Plants, Bric-a-Brac etc.
Refreshments will be served.
Admission by donation.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN - MARCH 22nd, 23rd and 24th

Once again we plan to prepare our church for Easter by our annual Spring Clean.

Once again this will be planned and led by members of the Properties Committee.

Once again we rely very heavily on other church members to share the work.

We start on Thursday, March 22nd, dusting down the high-level areas, roof trusses, window ledges, column caps and chandeliers, continuing into the evening if necessary. On Friday, after morning prayer, we continue by dusting chairs, polishing pews and hoovering all floors and carpets. The final work is the washing and sealing of the tiled floors. If we manage as well as in the past and have the same number of volunteers, we will be nearly finished by the end of Friday evening. We will stop work at midday on Saturday.

We hope we that as in the past we will have many helpers to share the work for as short or long a time as they can spend. We will put up a notice in church very shortly specifying times and jobs, with the number of helpers required for each. If you can join in please add your name to the list.

The Properties Committee



Women's Forum Annual Soup Lunch - Saturday 24th March from 12 noon

After you have worked up an appetite cleaning the Church,
come and have some delicious home made soup and bread
in the Hall.

The proceeds will go to a local charity - to be announced.

LENT

It's not too late to join a **Lent Group** - they start during the week of **Monday 5th March** and details can be obtained from Brian or Freda. The text this year is *Christ on Trial: How the Gospels Unsettle our Judgement* by Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Wales. (See Leader article)

And/or why not go to a Sunday evening service during Lent in St. Paul's Cathedral at 6p.m. on the theme of *People Who Met Jesus*:

4th March - *John the Baptist*
The Bishop of Stepney

11th March - *Levi the tax collector*
The Bishop of Fulham

18th March - *Simon Peter*
The Bishop of Edmonton

25th March - *Jairus and the sick woman*
The Dean

1st April - Service of Music and Readings for Passiontide

8th April - *The woman at Bethany*
The Right Reverend Michael Baughen



Just a Song at Twilight No25 Golden Gems for a Silver Jubilee

A fun-packed musical entertainment presented annually by
Cantanti Camerati at York House, Twickenham
on Friday 9th March at 7.30a.m.
and Saturday 10th March at 2.30p.m. and 7.30p.m.

Tickets from Geoffrey Bowyer or call 8898 8020 (6 - 7p.m. only)

Pennies from Heaven - Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend
The Gold and Silver Waltz - all with audience participation!

A Trip to the Philippines

Michael and Yvonne Childs were regular members of our congregation before they went to live at Witheridge, and had many friends in Hampton Hill and at St. James's. They were very involved in Scouting as were Michael's parents, Stan and Doris. Michael and Yvonne now worship and work at St. John the Baptist, Witheridge, Devon.

At the end of January 2000 a dream came true for me as I headed off from Heathrow Airport to visit LAMA House, which is in Pugo, Buang, La Union, on the main island of the Philippines. LAMA House is a Christian Foster Home for 20 teenage boys from difficult circumstances. Most of them have been living on the street and have had very traumatic experiences. The Home is sponsored mainly by family, friends and churches in the U.K. and the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist has been supporting them for about the last 12 years, by sending the collection from the Family Service each month. Some individuals also give on a one-off or regular gift basis.

The need for such an institution was seen by Lesley Keenan who had left the U.K. to work in an orphanage in a Bible College in San Fernando. Among many other Christian activities, she soon became involved with a rehabilitation programme for drug offenders. She met her husband, Pastor Peter Gomez, at the Bible College and it was not long before they were fostering children in need, but their house was too small. Eventually, they managed to persuade the authorities that there was a real need for a foster home to help the children realise that there was an alternative to living on the street begging, prostituting themselves and drug and solvent abuse.

So LAMA House provides a stable home and shelter, good simple food, love, clothing, education and support for the relatives of the boys, if any. This is all done against a Christian backcloth and they are supported by a team of staff who receive a pittance for what they do.

So why did I want to go? Well, I really admired what Lesley and Peter had done and wanted to show my support. They had seen real need and done something about it despite all the difficulties. I had no real concept of what it must be like seeing children abused in such awful ways. Reading about such lifestyles is not the same as seeing for yourself. So with my courage and my Bible, many gifts, a few clothes and medication (in case) I set forth.

This funny, short white English lady had a great time talking and being with the boys, teaching and playing card games which they all loved from the youngest boy (10) to the oldest (19). The boys in turn took me to the beach or river, cooked me sweet corn, ran errands for me and looked after me in the towns and market places.

When I first arrived they had 20 extra mouths to feed which the authorities had landed them with whilst they attended a court hearing for slave labour. They were all young people who had been working in a factory away from home but who had been paid nothing. They won their case and the factory had to pay what was owed to each person.

My experiences included visiting the school at Pugo (59 children to a class), the prison in San Fernando, ministry in the red light district to about 30 children who cheered when we arrived, ministry on the beach and in the local community.

It is difficult to sum up in just a few words. It was quite a different culture from ours, living on the one hand how we were 100 years ago, ploughing the land with caribou, and on the other, thrust into the technological age. My hope for them is that the boys take advantage of the help they are receiving and do not revert to their old ways, that they in their turn may go out into the community and do likewise. This is the only way change will take place. My hope for me is that I can save up enough money to return next year!

Yvonne Childs

3rd Hampton Hill Brownies

When I told the Brownies we were going around the world to celebrate Thinking Day they thought I was serious - I would do anything for them but taking 30 Brownies around the world is even too much for me - and they wanted to fly Concorde!!! Thinking Day is celebrated on the 22nd February and it is a time for all involved in the Scout and Guiding Movement to think about all their friends around the world. By the time you read this Thinking Day will have passed but we will still be on our journey which will eventually lead to all the girls getting their Worldwide badge. We will be visiting Greece by trying Vine Leaves dipped in Hummous, Italy by making pictures out of pasta and Russia by trying Caviar, origami for Japan etc.

The Brownies held a fundraising evening, organised entirely by themselves to raise money for an International Charity of their choice which raised the grand sum of £100 - both Angela and I were very proud of them all.

Next term I am hoping to concentrate on "Health and Fitness" and am looking for anyone who could take an Aerobics Class, talk on diet or even do a make over! So if you can help the Brownies please ring Brown Owl on 020 8979 6400.

3rd Hampton Hill Guide News January 2001

The theme of last term's Guide programme was team building. Guides were challenged through a series of games and activities to work better as a team. This culminated in a successful raft building challenge at Thames Young Mariners in Ham. About a dozen hardy souls braved a cold and damp morning to build and sail rafts with varying degrees of success. All I can say is that the water was very cold, not good for swimming!

Following a fun but noisy quiz evening with the Scouts we also took part in the Borough Youth Quiz. A team of younger Guides have also been learning to bell ring with Sue Horner, so you may hear the results at a Church Parade in the near future.

The year concluded with a trip to the Body Shop Factory Tour in Littlehampton. With some trepidation we explored the delights of train travel but am pleased to report we arrived back on time despite not travelling on any one of the five trains we were booked on!

Susan Blay (Guider)



First of all thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas collections - £1,285 was raised for The Upper Room in Cobbold Road, Shepherds Bush. The Upper Room is a welcome centre for the homeless.

Congratulations and good wishes to Rosalie Meyorwicz who has recently celebrated her 70th birthday.

Fewer people are getting married in church nowadays, but for those who still want to pledge their vows at St. James's in the coming year, Sandy Swift, a counsellor with Relate, is running two evening courses in marriage preparation.

Freda's latest Children's Workshop on Saturday 10th February was on the theme of *St. Paul The Apostle*, and was, as usual, well attended and great fun for both children and their parents. The results have been displayed on a board in the south aisle. The next is about *Holy Week* and will be in the Hall on the morning of Wednesday 11th April - see Freda for details.

We remember the following friends in our prayers - Val Traylen and her family during her father's illness; Ann Hale recovering after her hip operation; and Bill Robinson who is unwell with shingles.

Doris Clack has gone to live in Deer Lodge, Sandy Lane, Teddington.

Finally a reminder to all those with children between 3 and 12 that Sunday School happens in the Church Hall at 9.30a.m. every Sunday except the first Sunday in the month - go in and speak to Lou Coker who runs it. Also the Young Church for 12+ meet in the upstairs room at the same time on the third Sunday each month - contact Wendy Baker on 8979 3654.

OUR PAGE



MOTHERING SUNDAY

MARCH 25th

ON THIS Sunday, many churches traditionally read about Jesus feeding the crowd of 5,000, so it used to be called 'Refreshment Sunday'. It became a time for family reunions and gatherings and then became Mothering Sunday. It is also close to one of the days when many Christians specially remember Jesus' own mother, Mary. 'Mother's Day', which in this country is on the same day as Mothering Sunday, is an American invention started in 1906.

SIMON AND NELL'S CAKE

Children used to leave home at a very early age (10 years old sometimes!) to work as maids or apprentices and by the 17th century they were often given a holiday on Mothering Sunday so that they could visit their family. They took gifts of flowers or special cakes called Simnel Cakes.

There are many different stories about how the cake came to be called a Simnel Cake – one is that a brother and sister wanted to make a cake for their mother and argued about the way to cook it. One wanted to bake it, the other wanted to boil it (which was a common way to cook a cake then). In the end they made a baked and a boiled cake and stuck the two together so the cake was called Simnel from their names Simon and Nell. The less interesting but more likely reason for the name is that the cake was made with a fine flour called 'simila'. It is more common now to make a Simnel cake at Easter.



MOTHER'S DAY CARD

Nice cards for Mother's Day can be rather expensive so why don't you make your own? You don't have to be an artist to make a lacy card. You will need some coloured card, glue and a paper lace doily.

Cut a piece of card twice as big as the card you want and fold it in half. Cut your decoration from the doily – some have lovely patterns of hearts, flowers and leaves. Put a very small amount of glue on the 'lace' and press it onto the card. Finish it off by writing a nice message inside.

FROM THE JANUARY REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 7 Megan Alexandra den Boer, 13 Cardinals Walk
21 Alice Rae Clifford, 26 Holly Road

Wedding

- 27 Charles Fletcher and Cathryn Rea

Funerals

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 4 | Christine Delaney, Flat 4, Broadmead, Broad Lane | 84 |
| 29 | Clifford Beecham, 1 Edward Road | 76 |
| 31 | Phyllis Tredwell, 65 Park Road | 88 |

DATES TO NOTE IN MARCH 2001

- 1 David, Patron of Wales c601
2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary 672
5 **Lent House Groups begin this week - have you joined a group?**
7 Perpetua and her companions, Martyrs 203
2.30p.m. Women's Forum - **Downs Syndrome Association**
8 Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln 1910
17 Patrick, Patron of Ireland c460
19 **Joseph of Nazareth**
20 Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne 687
21 Thomas Cramner, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr 1556
7.30p.m. Women's Forum - **Kirstie Hird of The Pampered Chef**
22 - 24 Church Spring Clean - please help
24 12 noon Women's Forum - **Soup Lunch for charity**
25 **Mothering Sunday**
26 **The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
31 John Donne, Priest and Poet 1631

April

- 1 **11a.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

COPY DATE FOR APRIL 2001 MAGAZINE: 10TH MARCH