

As fashion accessories go, wrist bands must occupy this year's number one slot. I wonder how many of us possess them? I am proud to wear my white MakePovertyHistory band and casually observe now as I sit in the train or at the traffic lights people around me wearing a whole variety of colours with their individual significance. Yellow for Liz Strong Testicular Cancer Campaign, blue for anti-bullying, pink for breast cancer campaign, black and white for anti-racism campaign, green for an environmental campaign and so the list goes on. I wonder when one sees people wearing whole forearms full of such bands whether they have an interest in every particular cause they are thereby suggesting, or is this primarily a fashion statement about belonging to a particular protesting group or seen to be somehow cool or hip (if those words themselves don't sound too sad). Certainly we could be said to be wearing our hearts on our sleeves or at least on our arms, in this latest attempt to bring into the public domain a cause for which we feel concern and passion. Who could possibly have predicted a year or so ago that pieces of plastic or fabric around one's wrist would become simply de rigueur. But don't knock it, after all it has raised millions of pounds for charities and causes which otherwise may not have received that money and support, let alone the oxygen of publicity.

In this month of August we have weddings most weekends at St James' and along with the reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 13, one of the most widely read pieces of scripture is now from the Song of Songs. I am delighted with this because the Song of Songs is an ancient love poem but with profound significance for us as members of the body of Christ. Do read it carefully and meditatively. It may shock you as it is both explicit and erotic, not necessarily qualities you would expect to find in holy scripture. But it does contain the most fabulous insight in chapter 8 verse 6 which says:

“Set me as a seal upon your heart and a seal upon your arm”.

I think this is an important dimension to the love that humans have for each other, that it has both public and private expressions. For the celebration of love there must be intimacy and privacy, time together, unspoken language and communication between lovers. But there must also be a public dimension in proclaiming that love and commitment. So on love we can indeed say that it is something to be worn as a seal on the heart in private and also a seal upon the arm in public.

Many people in our parish may not realise that when you get married at St. James' it is not just a question of turning up on the day but each couple will have seen the clergy two or three times and will have been invited to two evenings of preparation in which we eat a pleasant meal together and enjoy some good wine so that couples are relaxed and willing to talk with each other and with us about why they are marrying and what they hope to gain through their marriage. We, as a clergy, are not there to teach the couples anything in particular but rather to provide a forum

for couples to take a step back and say what are the real reasons behind our desire to marry and how are we expressing them. During the summer we shall be revisiting the way we present some of this material and we would certainly be happy to make it available to members of the parish for their consideration and personal use.

So I would plead with all members of our parish community to think carefully about how they wear the seal of love upon their hearts as well as upon their arms. It may be love for another human being or it may be love for God but in each case the inward private dimension as well as the outward public dimension needs to be taken seriously. And I wonder what colour wristband you might design for those campaigning to take love seriously as the distinguishing human trait which reflects nothing less than the love of God for all his children. Ideas on a postcard please. And in the meantime wear your wristbands with joy.

Brian Leathard

WEST PORCH

Yes, we are almost there. The West Porch building work is virtually complete and now we are looking to equip our office and meeting room to enable it to serve the needs of our parish and community. Have you thought about making a donation to the West Porch? Here are some suggested donations and what they will be used for. We need:

- £600 Computer and sundry connections**
- £160 Telephone, fax and answering machine**
- £148 Two filing cabinets at £74 each**
- £188 Stationery cupboard**
- £ 80 Multi-drawer cabinet**
- £120 Two office chairs at £60 each**
- £ 50 Office shredder**
- £ 30 Office guillotine**
- £ 50 Two office desk lamps at £25 each**
- £250 Transcription machine**

If you would like to make a donation which will enable us to purchase the goods we have planned then please do so by cheque to St James' Church and deliver it to the vicarage or any member of the Parochial Church Council.

See you soon in our new West Porch

THE “STATE OF LONDON” DEBATE

The annual “State of London” meeting was held this year on the 25th June. Following a plenary session, the meeting split into separate groups addressing different aspects of the governance of London.

The first speaker of the plenary session was Ben Hunt Davis, an Olympic Gold Medalist, enthusiastically conveying what he felt to be the importance of 2012 Olympics to London.

The second speaker was Ken Livingstone, who gave a visionary talk on the possible development and future of London. He saw London becoming a global centre of art, culture, recreation and business opportunity. Livingstone backed his vision by outlining the many practical steps which he believed should be taken to achieve this. First and foremost was the necessity to welcome all peoples of the world to our capital. As trading partners we needed Asians, Africans, Americans and our European neighbours. They should feel at home in London. Livingstone saw this being achieved in part by having a resident community of wide cultural, ethnic and religious diversity; the diverse elements respecting one another and living in comfort, safety and friendship. We have come some way towards this, but massive improvements in infrastructure are needed if we are to get closer to the ideal. We need decent housing for all, security of services, a transport system that can be enjoyed rather than suffered, reliable and friendly policing, streets, buildings and parks which are good to look at and use. Livingstone went into more detail of how some of this might be achieved. Some steps would be controversial and cause bitter arguments, as has the congestion charge and its proposed extension. Some necessary work, such as the Crossrail Project, has been delayed by grudging government funding. The underground renewal was already hampered by failing PPI schemes. We have diversity in our community, but the trust and friendship which are the true guarantors of safety are too often lacking. There is much to do but a good start has been made and new ambitious projects were under way.

The following separate sessions were led by excellent speakers, discussing a wide variety of topics, policing, religious diversity, culture, environment, climate change, housing and transport amongst others.

London is already an exciting city: Livingstone’s vision may well be realised in the years to come.

Dick Wilde

PARISH PROM

JOIN US IN A PARISH VISIT TO THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL
ON SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST TO HEAR
MENDELSSOHN - A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM INCIDENTAL
MUSIC AND BEETHOVEN - SYMPHONY No 5 IN C MINOR
TICKETS £9 each (limited number) Contact: 020 8979 2069



If you haven't found anything yet to take away on holiday with you, take this. I am serious. I know a book about Afghanistan may on one level not be the most natural thing to reach for when looking forward to a restorative break but I guarantee you will change your mind after

reading this. *The Kite Runner* by *Khaled Hosseini* (published by Bloomsbury at £7.99, ISBN 07475566534) is an extraordinary lyrical and addictive book. Its author was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965. His mother was a teacher and his father a diplomat. In 1976 the family were posted to Paris but on returning to Afghanistan in 1980 after the Soviet invasion they gained political asylum in the United States. Khaled Hosseini now lives in California where he works as a doctor and this is his first novel. Clearly the novel is deeply autobiographical but not slavishly, nor does it ignore the hard parts of human self-understanding, esteem and sexuality. Amir is the son of the master of the house and Hassan the son of the servant of the house. Hosseini is clearly the former character. The book delights in their boyish games and tricks as well as the highs and lows of growing up. They spend a huge amount of time in each other's company and love each other dearly within defined parameters. Amir goes to school but his friend Hassan stays at home and is engaged in domestic chores. On the other hand Amir is clearly something of a disappointment to his father and Hassan has the sharpness of living on the street which Amir lacks. Amir becomes more and more desperate to gain his father's approval and most particularly by winning the local kite fighting tournament. However, an event later that afternoon destroys his friendship with Hassan and Amir's failure to act in protection of his friend traumatises Amir for the rest of this life. It wounds their friendship and colours the whole of Amir's self-image. After the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, Amir and his father escape to the United States while Hassan and his father, Ali flee to their home village. However, no amount of geographical distance can separate Amir from his feelings of guilt and failure and in time Amir develops the capacity to recognise this and seeks to restore his self-image and purpose by returning to try to restore his friendship with Hassan. The whole story becomes a reflection on the nature of redemption and is pursued with vigour and liveliness without falling into any sense of easy answer.

This book is good theology (but don't let that put you off!). As well as a great read, it raises big questions. What is the nature of friendship and love? How do we cope with loss and guilt? Where do we look for redemption, within ourselves or within others? And more to the point we might just be surprised where we find redemption coming from. I commend this book wholeheartedly for a great read.

This Made A Difference

"..... We shall cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time"(T.S. Eliot, *Fragment from 'Little Gidding'*)

I recently returned from four months in Africa as part of my Gap Year, and I can truthfully say I had the time of my life. I spent the first three months teaching as a volunteer in a Primary School in Kenya, and for my final month travelled around East Africa; to Uganda, Tanzania and Zanzibar, and finally back to Kenya.

It was an incredible challenge for me, and one which initially seemed so daunting that I was almost ready to back out. I'm extremely glad I didn't, because during those months I met amazing people, discovered I can be independent and look after myself, and learnt some essential lessons about what is really important in life.

One of the lessons I learnt and sincerely hope to remember is how much we take for granted! Having experienced a 27 hour train journey which was only meant to last 12 hours, and learning just how it feels to go over speed bumps at about 100 mph in a big coach, I have discovered a new respect for our transport system. And as for flushing toilets, hot showers and home cooking ... Well I now appreciate their full worth! But in all seriousness another lesson I learnt is that these things are not what makes a good life. The people I met whilst teaching had a completely different set of priorities, with education featuring high on the list, along with making the most of what you've got. The girls we taught didn't have much in the way of personal belongings, and if we offered them something as simple as a new pencil or 'well done' sticker, we would be faced with a full-on stampede of excited girls. They live life to the full in their own way. Whereas we noticed what they hadn't got, they looked at their situation in terms of what they *had* got. Children 'making do' with rolled up plastic bags tied with string instead of a football were having as much fun if not more than children here who have the latest performance-enhancing football boots and all the other team gear.

Going to Africa made a huge difference to my life. I challenged myself with the task of teaching, surviving travelling in one piece and rafting over Grade 5 rapids on the River Nile. I even managed to cope with the spiders. It was such an amazing opportunity to experience new breathtaking scenery and such a different lifestyle.

We felt at home in Kenya, having been made so welcome; and when I read the following passage in 'The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency' (one of the many books in our communal library it really hit home - "*I am just a tiny person in Africa, but there is a place for me, and for everybody, to sit down on this earth and touch it and call it their own*".

By the end of the four months I realised there was no place like home and was ready to see my family and friends again ... and to do some serious washing. But given half the chance, and a little more money, I'd do it all again tomorrow.

Lucy Newman

WE WENT TO EDINBURGH! MakePovertyHistory July 2nd

There were eight of us in our party - me, daughters Eleanor and Rosamund, Rosamund's boyfriend Musa - both 16 - and four 17 year-old friends of ours whom I was supposed to be keeping an eye on (fat chance!). We were lucky to get places on a coach departing from St. Margaret's, which had been organised by Judith Burman from the RC church. Of course, the main problem was the weather - would we need raincoats or suncream and a hat? Better take both, plus comfy shoes and several permutations on the white top theme. And seemingly half a ton of food and drink ... most of which was consumed by the teenagers in the coach on the outward journey. The coach left at 2pm on Friday and Vincent Cable came to see us off and wish us well. He explained that all MPs are well aware how many of their constituents are supporters of causes such a MPH so it's always worthwhile lobbying them.

We were staying overnight in a travel lodge near Newcastle and on arrival in Edinburgh we got our priorities right and spent some time queuing for the loo in the Tearfund headquarters before heading down the hill to join the vast sea of white-clad humanity already assembled in the Meadows. We had been given a meeting point but it was obvious that it was going to be difficult to keep together so most of our 50-strong group "did their own thing". With more than twice as many people turning up as the organisers had anticipated, arrangements did not necessarily go according to plan and it was difficult to find out what was happening. There was a great deal of standing around in the hot sun (yes! I was glad of the hat) waiting to march but hardly anyone pushed, hardly anyone complained, and people were actually very pleasant to each other. There were stilt walkers, musicians and clowns and also substantial contingents from Spain, France, Germany and USA, but there was hardly any trouble, partly because the anarchists (who *did* look menacing) were easy to spot as they wore black and everyone else was in white!

There were two stages with big screens adjacent to them, so there was plenty to watch and listen to while we were waiting. As well as the ubiquitous loud music from bands displaying varying degrees of talent (showing my "grumpy old woman" credentials here!), there were numerous different speakers all with interesting things to say. Among the ones I heard were:

- Steve Rand from Jubilee Debt Campaign and Adrian Lovatt from Oxfam.
- Personal testimonies from Burundi, Kenya and Charity Mosemba from Zambia, who came to speak in Twickenham.
- The Zimbabwean cricketer Henry Olonga, who was forthright in declaring that the biggest challenge in Africa is corruption. The problem of poverty cannot be tackled without good governance.
- Cardinal Cormack Murphy O'Connor, who talked of "a moral awakening". We are all sitting at the same world table and must learn to share with one another. The appeal to the G8 leaders must not but "can it be done?", but "will it be done?".

We also had time to deposit the stack of white cloth bands with messages for the G8 summit we had been entrusted with - mostly made by our friends at St. Mary's, Twickenham. These were displayed, along with thousands of others, on gaint wooden letters hoisted above the park spelling out MakePovertyHistory.

We were assured over the loudspeakers that anyone who wanted to march would get the opportunity and indeed, eventually at 4.30pm our little party set off. Among the great cross-section of humanity that surrounded us we could see church groups from Liverpool, Hexham and Sheffield as well as numerous banners from local Edinburgh churches; and several trade union banners. One 80 year old lady from Weybridge wore a sash bearing the signatures of all her church members. The march itself was uplifting - 225,000 people in a continuous stream around Edinburgh from 12 noon to about 7pm was quite something and the sense of fellowship, community and shared goals was terrific. I felt so proud of my family - the girls carried their home-made banner with pride, accompanied by Musa blowing a horn with great gusto! There didn't seem to be much chanting in our vicinity - a situation soon rectified by Rosamund, who took up the challenge with energy - "when I say trade, you say justice "TRADE - JUSTICE, TRADE - JUSTICE" etc until she was hoarse. (Not for nothing were we veterans of the Whitehall march). After the march, Eleanor and I managed to find a reviving cup of tea at the Jubilee Scotland HQ. We had long since lost control of the teenagers, (who had disappeared in search of a pizza), and were wondering how to pass the time until 11pm when the coach would depart, when we spotted that the crypt of a local RC church was open for an "International Cafe". We were welcomed with open arms by representatives of Youth for a United World (the Focolare Movement), plied with homemade food and soft drinks (all free) and treated to an entertainment of African drumming, singing and dancing from a visiting Ugandan choir. Once again, the feeling of fellowship was palpable and it was an excellent end to a remarkable day. After an overnight journey, (eating cereal in a motorway cafe at 3am was a novel experience!) we arrived back home safely on Sunday morning, very tired but feeling glad to have taken part in such a momentous gathering.

I don't know whether the MPH campaign will ultimately achieve its goals - but I believe that if we can all take small steps then surely, with God's help, together we can indeed move mountains. *Catherine Gash*

It was an excellent event with a fantastic atmosphere. I think there should have been more media focus on the protest and less on Live 8 because not many people realise what a brilliant day it was. We made a banner and at one point swapped with another man who gave us an enormous banner that we struggled to keep upright in the wind! We also shouted ourselves hoarse and all had a great time campaigning for a very important cause. *Rosamund Parker*

Edinburgh, I felt, was a great success all round. As I had never been on a demonstration before it was quite a shock to me, but a very fulfilling shock. The most memorable part was the unity of the protestors. I am of the Muslim faith but I really felt a strong bond with all different types of people on the march, especially the Christian Aid protestors. *Musa Trevathan*

After signing countless postcards, staying up all night in Whitehall in the cold and wearing my white band for months, this was the final demonstration of support for the MakePovertyHistory campaign and I couldn't afford to miss it. So, was it worth the 11 hour coach journey? Most definitely yes.

Saturday was such a fantastic collection of individuals - families with pushchairs, groups of teenagers, elderly nuns in their habits, middle-aged couples and a host of others - all standing up to say the *now* is the time to change the world, make it a better place for all those whose lives are overshadowed by poverty in the third world. More aid is not good enough, we need better aid, fair trade, trade justice, we need to drop the debt and MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY. At least that's what I hope we were supporting because it was what we shouted as we marched round Edinburgh, battling our banners against the wind, until we completely lost our voices (I suspect much to the relief of those around us!).

Although all the coverage in the media seemed to include the (minimal) aggravation, actually only two arrests in 225,000 people is better than the average Saturday night in Kingston!

If this truly is a democratic society then I hope that the show of solidarity on Saturday - from an entire spectrum of the population - will persuade the leaders at G8 to take note: What do we want? Trade Justice. When do we want it? *NOW!*

Eleanor Parker

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

We must thank once again our thirty volunteer collectors who worked so hard and willingly in Christian Aid Week. Our total collection at St James was £3,339 from house-to-house calls. Churches around Hampton sent £11,647. Both these totals were higher than those last year. Grateful thanks from Christian Aid and me to all who collected and contributed so generously to our special charity.

Margaret Taylor

24 September - Sponsored Walk, Richmond Park

Start at Cambrian Gate and follow the deer around Richmond Park!

Walk any distance up to 15 kilometres. 10am - 3pm.

For more details contact Elspeth Clarke on 020 7496 1681

or email london@christian-aid.org



Our St James's Day celebrations were very much enjoyed and it was a particular pleasure both to welcome Fr Huebert from St Francis de Sales, who preached at the service, and also to receive the lovely "shell" motif cards made by the Sunday School.

Congratulations to Geoffrey Nunn on joining the Ministry of Defence graduate training scheme. Suzanne also has a new teaching post, so our very best wishes to the young Nunns!

The funeral of our long-time friend and fellow-parishioner, Louise Wilder, took place recently in the company of her family and friends.

Margaret Bramall is back at her care home Attfield House after her hip replacement following a fall. We hope she will make good progress. Friends of Janet Stowell will be interested to know that she is moving on August 1 to Frome, where her two daughters live. We shall now miss both Gordon and Janet, and wish Janet happiness in her new home.

The childrens' concert on 23rd of June was a great success much appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience. Carlisle and Hampton Hill Junior schools are linked and this was a good opportunity for the younger pupils to co-operate with their older friends. There were 70 recorder players, among other performers, and all the children really enjoyed themselves and demonstrated their musical qualities, especially in the fervent finale! Much "behind-the-scenes" work was involved to ensure a happy evening - our thanks to all.

The Guides produced pictures for the Young Pavement Artists competition - there were 21,000 entrants nationally. Janvi Patel (daughter of our friends at the TAPS newsagents) was one of the runners-up. Her design, with other successful entries, is at the moment on display in the Tate Britain Gallery. Congratulations to you all, especially to Janvi!

Finally, you will be interested to know that Sue Blay's daughter Catherine (Katy) has given up chocolate for one year to support MakePovertyHistory! Sponsors will be welcome.

Early morning Eucharist service

Starting on Wednesday 7th September there will be a monthly early morning service for those who would like to attend a Eucharist before work.

The services will be at 7am on the first Wednesday of the month.

FROM THE JUNE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 19 Ryan Edgar Emmanuel Smith, Hampton Hill
Imogen Hartland-Ord, Twickenham

WEDDINGS

- 3 Timothy James Partington and Katy Ursula Roberts
11 The Blessing of the Marriage of Kirsty and Okthy Horoz

FUNERALS

- 10 Sidney James Rabbetts, Feltham 61
23 Louisa Ann Wilder 82

DATES TO NOTE

- 7 **The Transfiguration of our Lord (tr)**
8.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion
- 14 **The Blessed Virgin Mary (tr)**
8.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion
- 21 **13th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion
- 28 **14th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion
- 29 Bank Holiday

Living the Eucharist

On Saturday 24th September there will be a parish study day on the Eucharist.
Time: 10.30 Place: St James Hall
The day will conclude with a celebration of the Eucharist at 16.30 in church.

Contact Brian or Julie for more information.
A full programme will be available in church.