

There is something about a strawberry. Its shape and colour, its perfume, its texture. Succulence, vividness, freshness, a hint of sweetness. Even as you read this admit how mouth-watering the thought of it is. Indulge yourself: close your eyes and think of a bowl full of strawberries. Strawberries lovingly tended and watered, those strawberries which mysteriously vanish between plant and punnet on a pick-your-own farm, mountains of strawberries in plastic boxes in supermarkets, strawberries and cream on a sultry afternoon in the garden. Strawberries are simply part of summer; they go with Wimbledon, lost Test matches, long days, flimsy dresses and garden fetes.

And yet the strawberry can be a potent symbol. If global warming continues and rainfall declines the fruit may become a joy of the past in southern England. Equally, one hard frost at the wrong time of year can prove catastrophic. Strawberries are remarkably sensitive to disease (although not, as far as we know, listeria or BSE!) and rot. The strawberry reminds us of that fine balance, our dependency upon the natural world. The strawberry which so excites our senses is, at the same time, so exposed to decay.

The 14th century Christian hermit and mystic, Dame Julian of Norwich, wrote illuminatingly of a tiny hazelnut in the palm of her hand as being

all that is made.

Perhaps the summer strawberry could, for us, replace the hazelnut. In it we see, taste, touch, smell the created world. Yet, as for Julian of Norwich, so for us, that is not an end but a beginning, a pointer to our dependence upon God, who touches everything that is. The strawberry, the hazelnut, the community of the church, the strength of the sacraments, valuable as expressions of the Creator's goodness, are means by which we know and grow in God, but are liable to become screens or barriers when taken as being of vital significance in and for themselves.

Hear Julian again

For as the body is clad in clothes, and the flesh in the skin, and the bones in the flesh and the heart in the body, so are we soul and body clad in the goodness of God. Yea, and more homely, for all they vanish and waste away; the goodness of God is ever whole, and more near to us, without any comparison.

Indulge your senses in strawberries, for the fruit will surely vanish. Close your eyes and taste a strawberry, open your eyes to the goodness of God at the heart of all things.

Brian Leathard

Christopher J. Swift

We welcome Chris to our parish during July. Chris is an ordinand, a person training for the ordained ministry of the church. He is currently studying at Westcott House, Cambridge. He hails from rural Lancashire and has worked in both rural and inner-city environments. Now he will have a taste of suburbia.

Please remember him in your prayers, invite him into your homes, invite him for a meal, talk to him freely and openly. From June 30th he can be contacted on 943-1336. You will see him about the parish, in church, on hospital visits and school visits. It is important to use wisely the time he is with us: important for him and for us.

Chris is no relation of Christopher J. Swift, the Vicar of SS Philip and James, Whitton, but I expect their paths will cross many times!

Religious Education in Schools

The 1988 Education Reform Act has changed Religious Education. It has equal standing with the Core and Foundation subjects in the National Curriculum, but it is not subject to nationally prescribed attainment targets, assessment and programmes of study. The law states that there should be 'reasonable' time set aside for R.E. and there must be provision for all pupils.

For the first time the law enshrines both the place of Christianity and other religions in the teaching of R.E. The Act stresses the importance of the Christian tradition in Britain and the inclusion of faiths other than Christianity broadens the base of knowledge and extends the range of learning experiences for children. After 1988 any new syllabus "shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching and practices of the other principle religions represented in Great Britain".

Furthermore the Education Reform Act requires that every Local Education Authority, in our case the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, should have a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to "advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus".

The teaching of Religious Education involves working both in religion's inner and outer forms. In its inner form children are encouraged to search and question, to develop skills of insight, understanding, finding and expressing meaning, and learning to establish truth. Its outer form is very often a first stage in this process, for example, through experience of stories, symbols and festivals. Children should be able to set their experiences and concerns within the larger framework of the accumulated religious experience of humankind. Good religious education takes seriously both the child and the religious life, building on what is already there and recognising that each has its own integrity.

At Hampton Hill Junior School R.E. has always been considered an important subject and it is taught regularly. At the moment a small working party is drawing up a new R.E. syllabus in the light of the 1988 Act. When the whole document is complete, the

framework and the 'meat on the bones', it will be presented to the Governors for approval. Hopefully the new syllabus will be implemented in September 1990. The school would like to thank Brian for joining the Working Party.

Prill Smith

The Hampton Hill Old Peoples Welfare

The H.H.O.P.W. was founded thirty three years ago, the reason for its formation was to provide for the social care and welfare of the elderly people living within the parish of St. James.



The Welfare organises outings to the theatre, coast, etc. We also deliver birthday cards and presents to those that we know, plants to the housebound and Christmas cards to all.

We hold monthly parties in the Church Hall with top rate entertainment and tea for 10p. We also organise a wardens scheme where we keep an eye on those who may be sick or may need help.

How do we do all these activities? The committee give their time free, they are a willing band with ages ranging from 70 - 99 years young, often they are older than those that they are helping.

We get a small grant from the council and with fund raising donations we manage to run all the things that we do.

We are desperately short of help and are appealing to anyone who can spare a few hours a month to carry on this good work and perhaps to come on the committee.

If you would like to know more then please drop into our party on the first Saturday in July or phone me on 979 7268.

Marie Martin (Hon. Sec.)

The following article was seen in a Lancashire Newspaper:

Answer to prayer The prayers of a church's small congregation have been answered.

The Vicar, the Rev. Steve Croft, said he was delighted that the congregation of only 300 at St. George's, Lee Mount, Halifax, had raised more than £68,000 in a prayer and gift weekend. More cash was still pouring in and the £70,000 needed to help to buy the vicarage for community use looked within easy reach.

"It is marvellous and we are really delighted. You would not have thought people could give so much and there still be so much joy", he said.

The church has already raised £10,000 towards the £92,000 cost and hopes for a further £10,000 grant. The remaining £60,000 needed to convert the vicarage into use for church activities will come from trust funds.

I am sure you will agree that this is a quite amazing achievement.

Alan Taylor



Christian Aid Needs You

Every year about 100 students are given a scholarship to come to Britain through one of the programmes administered by Christian Aid. Sometimes such scholarships are part funded by government, or the World Council of Churches or other agencies, but the whole process, from admission and placing until a student's return to his or her own country, in order to implement the skills newly gained, is the responsibility of the Scholarships Office of Christian Aid. Students come from all over the world, from all sorts of backgrounds.

We need help. Can you imagine arriving at Heathrow or Gatwick after a long journey, after having stood for a long time to queue at immigration, not knowing how to use a telephone in England or where to buy a bus or train ticket?

We need volunteers, particularly in September and October, to spare a couple of hours. Could you meet someone, usually at Heathrow, and see them onto a train or bus, give them a welcome, perhaps a cup of tea, show how to buy a tube ticket and travel into the Christian Aid office at Waterloo. It is all so easy when you know how, but would you know how in Managua or Abidjan, Calcutta or Kuching?

If you think you could help, or would like more details please contact Ramani (979 2069 or 071 620 4444 ext. 2211) or call in at the Vicarage. Any travel costs incurred by you are met by Christian Aid.

A welcome, safe and happy arrival makes more difference to a student's time here than you can possibly imagine. Thank you.

St. James's Nursery School

Some definite news at last!

St. James's Nursery School will be moving out of the Parish Hall in School Road at the end of this year. From January 1991 we will be found in the Crypt of St. Francis de Sales Church on the corner of Wellington Road and Princes Road, and we will stay there until work on the Parish Hall is completed.



It will seem strange to be leaving the parish Hall after nearly 34 years, but we are most grateful for the warm welcome extended to us by Father Martin Griffin at St. Francis de Sales, where we have found very suitable accommodation for the Nursery School.

Nevertheless we look forward to returning to the heart of Hampton Hill in time for our 35th birthday!

Jane Newman, Chairman St. James's Nursery School Committee

Leprosy Mission

At Prayer 'n' Praise on Sunday 10th June we welcomed back the Rev. Mike Heywood from the Leprosy Mission who had previously talked to us in 1987.

The Leprosy Mission is an international interdenominational Christian organisation founded in 1874 and now bringing healing to some 300,000 leprosy patients in over 30 countries, the Mission works both directly through its own hospitals and clinics, and in co-operation with many churches, governments and voluntary groups; there are over 28,000 staff working in centres it supports.

The main aim of the Mission is to meet the total needs (physical, spiritual, social, psychological) of the people affected by leprosy, and to work towards the eradication of the disease.

The reading was from Ephesians Chapter 3, which points out that all are God's people and was particularly fitting as so many leprosy sufferers are considered outside the human race, in India for example they are classed as untouchables.

Mike Heyward was particularly pleased that the Princess of Wales who recently visited leprosy hospitals on her tour of the Far East shook hands with sufferers and helped to show the world that leprosy is not a disease that is transmitted by touch. The Princess has agreed to be a Patron to the Mission for five years.

The film we watched was of the Missions' work in Nepal, a beautiful country but where the average yearly income is £100. We saw patients who had travelled miles to come to the place where they could receive treatment. One of the principal aims is to identify the disease at an early stage when the treatment is relatively easy and successful. With this in mind the Leprosy Mission goes out to the people in the villages and sets up clinics where everyone can be examined, particularly the young, to detect and, if necessary, treat the disease.

Many older people had not been caught in time and had as a result lost hands and feet but still benefited from the drugs and physiotherapy made available.

A collection raised £22.50 which has been sent to the Mission and if anyone would like a collecting box please let me know and I will let them have one.

Remember £12 is sufficient to pay for all the drugs necessary to cure a patient if the disease is caught early on.

Whilst it is not always easy for the Mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God, as for example in Nepal where it is forbidden to do so, it is obvious from the very nature of its work and the people from many countries who work for the Mission it fulfils the spirit by its dedication to the welfare and care of the sufferers of this terrible disease and lives up to the motto . . . By love serve one another.

"Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched the man saying 'be healed'. Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured".

Please remember the Leprosy Mission both in your prayers and in your giving.

David Lloyd

LET'S CELEBRATE

ST. JAMES'S DAY

SUNDAY 29th JULY at 4.30pm

Come and join the family of St. James
in worship and enjoy fellowship and friendship
at tea to be served after the Service.

Churchyard Working Parties

Working Parties to help keep the Churchyard tidy are held on the first Saturday morning in each month from 9.30am onwards. The labourers are few but the work to be done rather great so volunteers are always welcome. Coffee and cheerful company always provided.



The recording of grave inscriptions continues quietly. Slow but sure progress is being made. We hope to finish the task by the Autumn. Recording sessions are also on the first Saturday in each month so make a note in your diaries. A card index of all burials is now almost complete and this will be a very useful work of reference. Before long some decisions will have to be made about the final form all the material which has been gathered should take and where it should be stored. Anyone with previous experience in this field should contact Helen Taylor or Janet Nunn.

Flitting To and Fro Around the World

It was not an overwhelming desire to enter yet again into the scrummage seething around airport check-in desks, not even to escape from the pressures and responsibilities of a life which is still active and demanding even in retirement and enjoy the bliss of realising that problems are 13,000 miles away which prompted our flight once again to New Zealand. There were two strong motives for our journey. One was a pressing desire to see Laurence and Kate, our youngest son and his wife, and our two grandchildren just emerging from the toddler stage; the other motive was to share in the Ruby Wedding celebrations of Gordon's brother and his wife, Alan and Jean, on 8 April. Gordon had paid his first visit to New Zealand in 1975 to celebrate their Silver Wedding, and also the 21st birthday of their eldest son, his godson, on 4 April. Gordon had married Alan and Jean in 1950, though they had forgotten this and declared that the local vicar had done it - until the marriage certificate was called for and the name of the officiating minister was seen to be C.G. Wilson (the fact that this was a copy, and not Gordon's personal signature prompted him to tease them by questioning the legality of their marriage!).

En route we went to Singapore which we have visited several times before. On this occasion, we did the 'East Coast' tour, visiting a Hindu and a Buddhist temple, also Changi Jail, notorious during the war as a prisoner of war camp, where a sombre museum brought back memories. We also visited a crocodile farm.

A World Conference of Religions for Peace friend, the Asian Secretary of WCRP, invited us to tea in his home, with his wife and two sons. This made us feel that the world is a family place. After harbour tour by Chinese junk we set off on a Singapore Airlines non-stop flight to Auckland.

All the family were at the airport to greet us. The four grandchildren are roughly of a similar age. The oldest, Esme, our daughter's child, has just started school in Twyford, Buckinghamshire, and will be 5 in September.

We are frustrated that there are 13,000 miles between two sections of our growing family. But it does give us an excuse for nipping off round the world every few years.

Another, quite different, purpose of our visit was to help prepare for a forthcoming mission in New Zealand by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. Gordon addressed groups of APF members in Auckland and Wellington. New Zealand APF have created a fund to pay for this mission, which will be conducted by the Rev. Sidney Hinkes, until now UK Secretary of APF. He has just retired from parish work. During the war he was a paratrooper. He changed his ideas about Christians and war while studying the theology of the just war when the Suez crisis arose in 1956. Now he is a totally committed pacifist and will have a good strong message for the people of New Zealand. Perhaps our next excuse to go to New Zealand may be at the climax of his mission around October/November 1991. Who knows?

FLAME

FLAME - Family Life and Marriage Education, is a new charity. It has grown from the Family Life Education Advisory Group and the Bishop's Marriage Education Panel. At FLAME's Launch on 6th January, 1990 at Church House, Westminster, the work of these groups in promoting, supporting and sustaining educational work in family life, marriage and human relationships was acknowledged with thanks.

The definition of family life below is taken from FLAME's recent newsletter.

WHAT IS A FAMILY?

Some excerpts from the core statement of "Living in Covenant with God and One Another", the study on sexuality and human relations requested by the WCC's Sixth Assembly (Vancouver, 1983):

From birth, and even before it, the very way we are cared for ... held, fed, sung to ... teaches us or fails to teach us, at the deepest levels of our lives

- that we are loved, and so members of a loving community,
- that we are lovable, and so persons of worth and dignity,
- that life itself is trustworthy, and so we may have faith.

...Families take many forms. We tend to idealize the family form we know. Yet no single structure captures the heart of family. Its many forms in the Bible and in

world cultures demonstrate that love can grow in them all: extended families, nuclear families, single parent families, childless families ... all kinds of families. Some are given, through birth or adoption.

Some are created by covenant of marriage. Some are founded as single persons

develop supportive relationships.

All may find their life, their energy, their future in the covenant love, the family of God.

All require our commitment, our willingness to work at relationships, and many daily graces.



Families of all sorts have good and bad times. Confidential and professional help is available when needed. Contact - via the Vicar.

Around the Spire

It was with much pleasure that we welcomed Freda Moses back into our midst after her recent spell in hospital. She has made an excellent recovery and wishes us to convey her grateful thanks for all our prayers, loving messages, letters and gifts sent to her during her illness. These were a great comfort and strength to her at this difficult time.

We have also had letters from Pat Lambert, Les's widow and Kathleen Belcher, Duncan Belcher's widow thanking people for all their letters and kind expressions of sympathy

at this sad time. Les Lambert's work among the old people of Hampton Hill we have already mentioned but Duncan Belcher was also known in recent years for his work with various charities. He drove the ambulance used to take the housebound and handiapped to various functions and was a member of 'The Caterpillar Club'. This is a very exclusive club, open only to those who have successfully baled out of an aeroplane. Duncan Belcher was a pilot in Bomber Command during the war and once had to make a rapid exit and descent from his plane. Parachutes, which were originally made from silk, are the connection with the name 'Caterpillar Club'.

The profit for church funds from the Edwardian Evening was £90.17p. Thank you to all who made the evening so enjoyable.

From the Registers

Baptisms

May	6	James Frank Tidd and Mark John Tidd, both of Janice Lisa Waller, Hazel Waller, and Amelia Elizabeth Ann Waller, all of	171 Uxbridge Rd., Hanworth
	20	Jonathan Frederick Hayle	7 Roy Grove 40 Ringwood Way

Weddings

May	12	Christopher Brian Baker and Glenys Margaret Bauman Roderick Alexander Michael Gerrard and Janice Susan Shields
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Funerals

May	2	Dorothy Grace Dennis	Laurel Dene	Aged 83
	3	George Frederick Joseph Gilby	27 Winifred Road	Aged 69

Internment of Ashes

	26	Leslie Lambert	74 Uxbridge Road	Aged 69
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Regular Weekly Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion (except, normally, first Sunday in
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer (month)
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion (with Ministry of Healing on the first Thursday in month)

Other Services and Dates to Note

July	3	St. Thomas the Apostle
	4	HCC at St. James 8.00pm
	7 09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	8 18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	9 10.30	Deanery Chapter
		14.00 Editorial Board
	10 20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Japanese Gardens in the Spring', Wayside
	15 18.30	Choral Evensong
	17 20.00	P.C.C. Vestry
	18 20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. James's
	22	St. Mary Magdalene
		18.30 Prayer 'n' Praise
	23 10.30	Fraternal - Fr. Scully
	24 20.00	Tuesday Club Summer Supper, Wayside
	25	St. James the Apostle
		20.00 Eucharist
	29	Celebration of St. James's Day
		08.00 Holy Communion
		09.30 Parish Communion
		16.30 Festival Service and Tea
August	2 20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, United Reformed Church
	4 09.30	Churchyard Working Party

Advance Notices

August 6 **The Transfiguration of our Lord**

NO Evening Services in August

COPY DATE FOR AUGUST ISSUE: 15 JULY



The Ministry of Healing

now forms a part of the
Holy Communion Service

at 7.15pm on

the First Thursday of each month