

'The Marketplace' has become a household expression in a new way during the last few years. We now have a marketplace in the National Health Service, in Education, in the way our Councils work and many other areas of our common life in society. We all know Kingston market place, with its intriguing array of vegetables and fish, clothes and household goods, and its marketplace banter. The 'Marketplace' has come to mean free exchange, where the only factor controlling the selling and buying of apples or antibiotics, bandages or bananas is the price. Certainly it has beaten off some unwarrantable restrictive practices and cosy cartels. That is the positive side, but do we stop to consider the other side?

I think of other 'marketplaces' also in London where the price of some of the most basic commodities in our diet is set. Do we realise that exchanges in London effectively set the price of tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa - all of which are grown thousands of miles away from our city. For us it is advantageous in the short term to keep the price down - it means a cheaper cuppa, an easily affordable Easter Egg; but the other side is to consider the implications of low cost tea or coffee for the people who sweat and toil to grow it.

I think of a rather different marketplace in Sri Lanka. It is called Satyodaya (Dawn of Truth) - it is a partner organisation supported by Christian Aid. I have seen their marketplace in action. Teapluckers and other landworkers can borrow a cow or goat or rabbits, or seeds, or a small amount of cash, using it to become a little more self-sufficient and adding to their miserable income from teaplucking (62p on average for 12 backbreaking hours in extremes of heat and dampness). They repay what they borrow and use their products for a better diet, learn new skills and sell any surplus at a slight profit. It is a very basic marketplace and small scale, yet very successful. Your contributions to Christian Aid have enabled this - and many projects like it in Asia, Latin America and Africa - to happen. And yet as the Co-ordinator of Satyodaya says 'If we had a decent price for our tea, not one set in distant London, we would have no need of foreign aid'.

Yes, we enjoy cheap prices but others are paying the real price, the true cost of our enjoyment - be they teapluckers, coffee growers, sugar or cocoa plantation workers. Yet we can do something about it ourselves - not just by giving support to Christian Aid, important though that is. We can also ask Sainsbury, Tesco, Safeway or any other shop to stock goods which are traded fairly - where a fair proportion of the price we pay reaches the producers. I am told that if any branch of Sainsbury receives six requests for a product they are obliged to inform Head Office. So why not ask for 'Cafedirect' - a fairly traded coffee or Typhoo tea which is also fairly traded. From this Autumn look for the fair trade mark.

**It is not just what we put in the Christian Aid envelope that counts,
it is also how we spend the rest of our resources.**

Brian Leathard

O God of justice and joy,
may the goods we bring
to the marketplace
bring life
and health
and wellbeing
to all who trade there.
Teach us
to refuse a bargain
that leaves others
without the means of life.
May our world trade,
not in human lives
but so that all may live.
Amen



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Saturday 15th May at 8pm

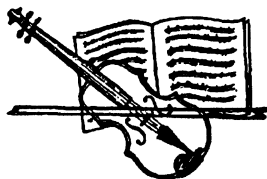
CONCERT OF MUSIC

in Church

for Organ, Strings
and Woodwind

Tickets at Door £2

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHRISTIAN AID



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Sunday 23rd May at 9.30am

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

and offer our collected envelopes

Preacher: Romy Tiongco

A Christian Aid Partner from the Philippines now teaching at Edinburgh University on the Christian Aid sponsored Theology and Development Programme.

We will be hosting 15 students from the course from Saturday 22nd to Monday 24th May. Any offers of accommodation to Ramani or Brian, please.

Meet Romy and the students over a shared lunch after the service.
All are welcome.

Christian Aid



During the week beginning Sunday 16th May, we shall be trying very hard to make a really substantial contribution to the work of Christian Aid, which, as tragedies multiply around the world, becomes more and more important. Life in Hampton Hill is greatly different from that in Somalia or in Bosnia, but we can all share in trying to bring help, relief and the prospect of a better life to those in need. So whether you are a collector, who must gird his/her loins and don a bright smile, or whether you are a contributor, please play your part with generosity so that St. James's can make a significant donation (£2,000?) to the funds of Christian Aid in 1993.

Magaret Taylor

Alan Taylor - Farewell to a Churchwarden

As many of you will know, Alan and Helen spent three weeks in April in Kenya, where their daughter Ruth is now living, and consequently missed the APCM, at which we would have had the opportunity of thanking Alan for his years of service, as a churchwarden, to the church and congregation of St. James. Some years ago, we decided that the office of churchwarden should have a fixed term of five years and Alan has now come to the end of his period of service.

Alan has done so much for the life and work of the church that it would be impossible to mention everything, but we owe much to his energy and foresight in helping to further the re-decoration of the church, making it the bright well-lit and hospitable place it now is. Churchwardens' duties include care of the fabric and furnishings of the church and Alan has always been active in cleaning either floors or gutters, in organising groups of volunteers to make sure that St. James's was up to standard - do you remember the cleaning parties most Saturday mornings when the church was full of scaffolding and we tidied up for Sunday, inspired by Alan, who not only laboured hard himself but always remembered to greet volunteers as they arrived and to thank them as they left? Who do you think always puts up the Christmas tree, the candles for special services and remembers all the details that make for smooth running of the church organisation? Over the years we have come to rely on our two 'master builders' Alan and Jack and they will still be busy in checking the progress of the building of our new Hall and sharing with us the benefit of their professional skills.

Alan will continue as lay reader to give us thoughtful and sincere sermons, to organise both some of the family services - even to produce Moses from Mount Tabor! - and also Prayer and Praise, and to share his strongly-felt faith with his many friends at St. James's. His young friends, of whom also there are many, will still be looking for a bit of activity after the services!

So it is to Alan the churchwarden we offer our grateful thanks for five years of hard work, willingly and zealously undertaken - five years which included the departure of Nicholas, a long inter-regnum, the arrival of Brian, the sale of the Church Hall and Wayside and the organising of the building of the new Hall. Without Alan and Helen, St. James's would indeed be a different, and poorer, church. Thank you both from all your friends.

Margaret Taylor

* * * **130th Anniversary Celebrations** * * *

THE SONG OF THE HILL

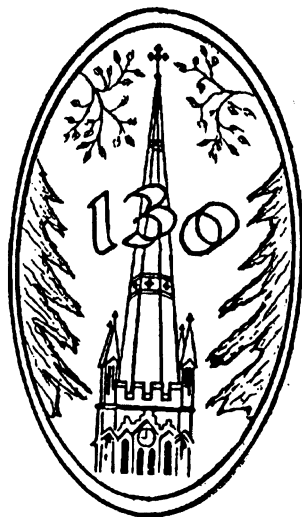
This extravaganza (?) is to be presented in St. James's on

**Friday evening, July 9 and
Sunday afternoon, July 11**

REHEARSALS will recommence after the 9.30 am service on every Sunday, starting May 9.

A notice is up in church on which you are asked to tick when you can't possibly attend - please keep these absences to a minimum!

Singing, acting, dancing, walk-on bits - there's still time to join, and enjoy yourselves being Victorian!



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Parents and Under - 5's

All parents/nannies/carers with children under 5 are invited to a new group which will be meeting on alternate Monday afternoons starting on 10th May, from 1.45 - 3 pm.

We will begin with a short (15 minute) period of worship which will be followed by a craft activity for the older children, refreshments and a time to play.

For further information see Brian (Vicar), Susan Blay (977 0263) or just come along and give us a try.

Susan Blay

Treasures Wrapped in Tissue Paper

Some thoughts on a Sunday when I had not made it to church.

Why do you come to church - regularly, every Sunday? What is it that compels you to go - again and again?

There are many different motivations. For myself the central, deepest reason is twofold: I go to worship the Lord and I go to be fed and built up by the Lord. In worship I tell him I love him and want to be his servant: worship within the congregation, with liturgy, hymns and ceremony is so much more beautiful and worthy of the name than solitary prayer. To be his servant, to live his way, I need his bread. He gives it to me Sunday by Sunday in the sacrament and the word.

For me the Word is very important. My faith has grown out of the vast store of treasure contained in the scriptures. But it has not been enough for me to read the bible by myself. To discover the deep truths of God's own wisdom that he is willing to share with us, we need to wrestle with his word. It is like those round, smooth, hard stones that look ordinary on the outside, and when broken open reveal beautiful, precious amethyst. It is like a round, crusty loaf which needs to be broken open to release its fragrance and to yield its soft nourishing substance. A sermon can break open God's word. We can and we need to share in the fruits of each other's labours. If a priest is really a man of faith, his own struggles yield rich fruit.

Another picture came to me the other Sunday. The vicar had said: 'We are here this morning because we have discovered faith. We love God. We know that he loves us, and we know that he is active in our lives. Yes, I thought, we do know that, but unless we expose ourselves to real encounters with God's word again and again, we are in danger of forgetting how we have come to know that. It is like standing in front of a cabinet with glass doors in which we keep some treasured possessions. They are all wrapped up carefully in tissue paper to keep them safe. We feel happy that we have collected these treasures together over the years. Some are actually valuable, others are mementoes of valued experiences. Idly looking at the cupboard like this is very well for a while. In the end we forget what the little parcels contain. We know we have some treasure but unless we unwrap the parcels we forget why we treasure them so much.

Telling ourselves we 'have faith' is not enough. We need to remind ourselves what has given us faith. Searching sermons, concentrated, open-minded reading of the bible, hard thinking about it and prayer help to 'break the bread'.

I feel it is quite essential to meet with others and share the hard work of 'opening' the treasures. To use my last picture, weekday meetings will force us to open our little tissue paper parcels to show others what they contain, and of course they will show us theirs, which means in fact that together we go out into the wilderness to gather some new costly treasure.

Hilde Bucknell (from Somerset)



Setting an example to his people, King Ethelbert is baptised
by St. Augustine "Archbishop of the English"

We commemorate St. Augustine, first Bishop of Canterbury, on 26 May.

Our New Hall - Update

Preparation of the design drawings has been slightly delayed by illness, but we understand that good progress is being made.

Tenders have now been received for the necessary alterations to the Vicarage, and work should soon be started.

We expect also to go ahead soon with the removal of those trees which have to go, and with some careful thinning and pruning of those protected trees which are to be retained.

Also in the pipeline is the removal of the church notices board, and its re-location facing Park Road.

Jack Gostling

'The Spire' Recipe Book 1993

April 3rd saw the launch of 'The Spire' Recipe Book with a Coffee Morning and Tasters. All the recipes were donated by members and friends of St. James's and the book costs just £2. We do hope you have bought your copy - if not see Janet Nunn or myself after morning service, or telephone 979 6325 or 979 7033.

Jill Denton

Was Jesus A Zealot?

A recent BBC TV programme suggested that Jesus was closely linked with the writers of the Dead Sea Scrolls; that these writers were Zealots - jews who sought to drive out the Roman occupying army by force of arms, led by a warlike Messiah; and that therefore Jesus thought of himself as this warlike Messiah; thus shattering the foundations of Christianity,

What of the Jesus portrayed in the Gospels and other New Testament writings? This Jesus, it was suggested, was the invention of St. Paul, who sought to soften the image of the 'real' Jesus, so that He would appeal to the gentiles.

So once more the BBC has put out an 'intellectual' programme which seeks to undermine the Christian faith.

The Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in desert hill caves near the abandoned settlement of Q'mran. They are of immense interest and value, containing for example, a nearly complete copy in Hebrew of the book of Isaiah - the oldest known manuscript of any part of the Bible, dated about 100bc.

Other scrolls revealed that the writers were possibly an exclusive jewish sect, the Essenes, more strict in ritual observance than the Pharisees. The scrolls speak of 'The Teacher of Righteousness' harried by a 'wicked priest'. Most seem to have rejected the use of arms, but some were Zealots. They had a sacred common meal, and thought all were equal before God; full members of the community were expected to be celibate. There is a 'War Scroll' describing the final battle between the sons of light and the sons of darkness, reminiscent of Ephesians VI vv.10-17.

So there are some similarities between the scrolls and the New Testament. The BBC programme makes much of these. But they are neither numerous, nor convincing.

The 'Teacher of Righteousness' is not comparable to the Jesus of the gospels. 'Messiahs' were to be found everywhere at the time - natural enough in an oppressed nation, conscious of being God's Chosen People. Jesus the Christ, or Messiah, in the New Testament, has to explain that He is far from the popular idea of a 'Messiah'.

But hold on! Of course the Jesus of the Gospels is unlike any figure found in the Scrolls or the popular expectations of the day! Didn't Paul purposely invent such a Jesus? (so the programme implies).

This notion is absurdly weak. Why should St. Paul, having 'invented' a Jesus who never existed, then have spent the rest of his life in toil and danger, finally to be executed in Rome for preaching something he knew to be false? However clever and dominant he was, how did he manage to persuade all those eye witnesses, Peter, Matthew, John, to go along with him?

Perhaps St. Paul was mad? Can one remotely believe that the writer of the letters to the Corinthians, the Galatians, the Ephesians, was mad? That subtle theologian, that man who wrote 'Now remain Faith, Hope, and Love. And the greatest of these is Love'? And if mad, then Peter and all those others were presumably also mad.

Yet the BBC programme will have been taken at its own value by some - it has 'shattered the foundations of the Christian Faith'. Or has it?

Confirmation

There will a Confirmation by the Bishop of Kensington in St. James's Church at 8 pm on Wednesday 12 May. Those to be confirmed are:

Jennifer Clay

Paul Clay

Sarah Clay

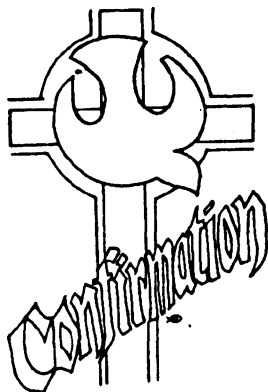
Christopher Cox

Annalie Croney

Francesca Croney

Jan Croney

Kate Hennessy



Aita Ighodaro

Jeanette Lawson

Anusha Leathard

Suzanne Nunn

Kate O'Sullivan

Eleanor Parker

Reza Sazegar

Karen Scruby

All are welcome to come to the Confirmation. Please remember the candidates in your prayers.

'Disciples', he said, said he

The Bible re-told by popular authors

A.A.Mine

Simon Peter
Known as The Fisherman
Said to himself, said he,
'Is Christ Jesus
Just trying to tease us
When he says we can walk on the sea?'
Simon Peter
Known as The Fisherman
Stepped from the edge of his boat.
Simon Peter
Vanished abruptly
Scarcely appearing to float.
Christ Jesus
Told his Disciples,
'Disciples', he said, said he,
'Nobody oughter
Go walk on the water
If they don't believe in Me!'

Philip Kemp

Gift Aid

Under the provisions for Gift Aid, it is possible for a charity to recover basic rate income tax on a donation made by a tax payer. Originally this applied only to gifts of £600 or more, but that figure has been reduced in recent years and, as a result of this year's budget, is now only £250.

If you are interested in making a one-off donation to the church of at least £250 under these arrangements, please get in touch with me (979 6865) and I will be pleased to give you full information. The procedure is quite simple and, indeed, if you pay tax at 40%, you will gain a tax benefit yourself.

Ron Bridges

Stewardship

Stewardship giving over the last two financial years has been as follows:

April - June	1992	£ 7,065	1991	£ 6,042
July - September	1992	£ 6,887	1991	£ 5,713
October - December	1992	£ 7,335	1991	£ 6,149
January - March	1993	<u>£ 8,474</u>	1992	<u>£ 7,501</u>
Total for 12 months		<u>£29,761</u>		<u>£25,405</u>

This is an increase in giving in 1992/3 over 1991/2 of over 17%.

Around the Spire

Jean Western has at last had the plasters removed from her legs and is now learning to walk again after months with her legs in plaster. We wish her well.

In his younger days, Bob Salisbury, who has died recently at the age of 86, often used his great building knowledge and skills to the advantage of the church. He was involved with the purchase of Wayside nearly forty years ago and has been Treasurer of the Wayside accounts ever since. Bob and Edna's house was home to meetings of young people with their son and daughter, and it was moving to see the five grandsons helping to carry Bob's coffin at the funeral in church. Our condolences go to Edna and all the family.

We were saddened to hear recently of the sudden death at a relatively early age of Bryan Gray who, for some time until he moved to Twickenham a year or two ago, was often to be seen in church and around Hampton Hill.

As we go to press, we have just heard of the peaceful death at his home of Dick Waltham, who, in a quiet and unassuming way, has done so much to help with the work of the church. We remember his family at this sad time for them.

Teddington Memorial Hospital has now achieved its aim of acquiring Trust status. We wish them well and hope that they will continue to serve our local community in the splendid way they have done for so many years.

From the Registers - March

Baptisms

7	Gemma Louise McLaughlin Lucy May Monahan	58 Pigeon Lane 12 Grenville Mews
14	Kim Louise Fulford-Brown	149 Rectory Grove
21	Sophia Letitia Roth Benjamin Dean Trimm	36b Griffiths Road, Wimbledon 2 Cromwell Road, Feltham

Funerals

10	Roy Laurence Clack	3 Blandford Road, Teddington	Aged 68
12	Jennie Lottie Priest	formerly of Myrtle Road	Aged 72
18	James Anderson Miller	6 Lindsay Road	Aged 51
19	Robert Salisbury	31 Wellington Road	Aged 86
19	Lilian Maud Fuller	Laurel Dene	Aged 96
25	Bryan Stanley Gray	8 Elmsleigh House, Twickenham	Aged 53

Dates to Note

May	1	St. Philip and St. James, Apostles
	5	14.00 Women's Forum, Fair Trade Shopping, Church 14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	9	09.30 Service to include reports on a Mission Action Plan from the Lent Groups Rehearsals for 'The Song of the Hill' recommence
	12	20.00 Confirmation at St. James's Church, by the Bishop of Kensington
	14	St. Matthias, the Apostle
	15	20.00 Concert of Music for Organ, Strings and Woodwind, Church, proceeds to Christian Aid
16 to 22		Christian Aid Week
	19	20.00 Women's Forum, The Work of Christian Aid, Church
	20	Ascension Day 20.00 Parish Communion
	23	09.30 Service to include a Celebration with Christian Aid Partners present of Christian Aid Week
		18.30 Let's Celebrate! St. Paul's Cathedral
25 to 28		National Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park, Esher, 10.00 to 17.30 daily.
	30	Pentecost



Advance Notices

Jun	2	14.00	Baptism Babies' Tea Party (Women's Forum)
	11		St. Barnabas the Apostle
	16	20.00	Evening Garden Party for recently married couples (Women's Forum)

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