

The Wedding Season is upon us! Actually, we shall have fewer marriages in church this year. An increasing number of our wedding celebrations are the Blessings of Marriages in which at least one partner has previously married and divorced. Another reason why we have fewer marriages is the recent change in the Marriage Laws, which now allow marriages to occur in a bewildering variety of places. At St. James's we shall probably have about 20 celebrations of marriage this year.

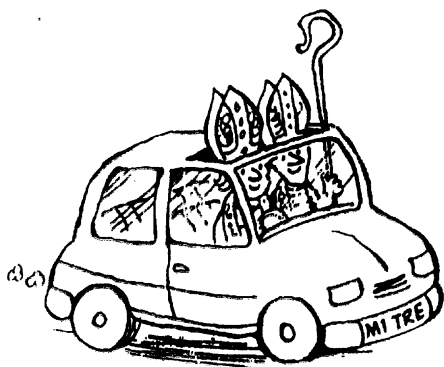
But this month also sees the first of a new type of marriage celebration! For several years now we have known that parishioners have found helpful the occasions on which we invite people back to church after baptism or after the death of a loved one. Now we hope to add to our pastoral care by inviting all those who have celebrated their marriage at St. James's together with family and friends, and those members of our congregation and their partners, to celebrate their love for one another by attending a short service on Sunday 7th June at 4 p.m. Like all good marriage celebrations it will be followed by a time for toasting with bubbly. Everyone is invited to attend - to thank God for their own marriages and to re-affirm their vows, their own relationships, their parents, families and friends. You will be most welcome.

A celebration of this kind clearly begs questions about our human capacity to love. In the Christian Community we believe that human love is a reflection of the nature of God. "We love because God first loved us". Our loving is a poor, pale reflection of God - but nevertheless in our human relationships we can gain an insight into what God is like. After all in Jesus of Nazareth, we believe the true nature of God is shown in human form, and it can be seen in our love for another - physical, emotional, sexual, intellectual and social.

But what about when things go wrong? We know that about half of all marriages fail within seven years. What does this say about our view of human love reflecting, however poorly, the love of God: There is no easy answer - there are perhaps only more questions, valid for every long term relationship. Questions such as: what do we expect from our partner, what are we prepared to give or forego? With increasing longevity can we expect relationships, in marriage or outside it, to be sustained for 50 or 60 years? How do we cope with the fact that each partner is a very different person at 25 and 75? With more scattered families and friends what are the support networks we rely on to sustain our marriages and partnerships?

Such questions, among many others, will, I believe, help us better to prepare for marriage and, within relationships, better sustain us in our love for our partners. We are not called to believe in romantic idylls or to run away from hard questions. We are called to witness to the world the love of God. Such love is hard to put into practice; but were it easy, perhaps we wouldn't realise what a miracle it truly is.

I look forward to seeing you and those you love - on Sunday June 7th at 4 p.m.



WORLD CHURCH

WEEKEND

11/12 JULY

On 12th July at 6.30 p.m. in St. Paul's Cathedral there will be a Diocesan Service "Invitation to the Feast" at which the whole diocese will celebrate the diversity of the World Church as bishops from throughout the Anglican Communion gather for the Lambeth Conference.

All welcome. Further details from Brian.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH A.G.M.

The A.G.M. took place after Parish Communion on 26th April. The work of St. James's throughout the year was reviewed and parishioners had the opportunity to air their views.

The new P.C.C. was elected:

Brian Leathard (Vicar, ex-officio)

Ann Peterken and Dick Wilde (Churchwardens, ex-officio)

John Gossage, Lesley Mortimer and Pip Rowett (Deanery Synod, ex-officio)

Pippa Butterfield (Secretary)

Paul Peterken (Treasurer)

Ann Collins

Christopher Edwards

Robert Hampton

Susan Horner

Caroline Miskin

Coryn Robinson

Rodney Taylor

Judith Winstanley

Andrew Craig

Elizabeth Gossage

Sally Highley

Ruth Mills

Debbie Nunn

David Taylor

Gordon Tucker

Sunil de Mel

Maud Hadden

Margaret Hobbs

Andrew Miskin

Kate O'Sullivan

Margaret Taylor

Jean Wilson

The meeting was followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.

DENIS LEATHERDALE

The 1961 Stewardship Campaign, directed by the Wells Organisation, was instrumental in bringing Denis into active membership of St. James, initially through participation in its fund-raising activities.

The financial targets having been met, he was soon persuaded of other areas in which help was required. In addition to being a member of a new and lively Social Committee, and of the PCC, he soon became a member of the Properties Committee, with a special responsibility as a Churchyard Guardian, a role he shared with Roy Brooks. He took a leading role in the levelling of the unmarked grave mounds around the Copper Beech, and in the creation of the Garden of Rest. Later, he produced a complete survey plan of the whole churchyard, - a truly enormous task, and of tremendous help in forming our Burials records. And throughout the years up to 1990, when the Council took over its maintenance, Denis spent many hours keeping the vegetation in the Churchyard under control.

He also drew the detailed 1 - 48 scale survey plan of the Church building, which has been most valuable in various subsequent re-orderings of the interior.

In 1972, he became Chairman of the Management Committee of the old Hall in School Road, and also its Treasurer: jobs he faithfully discharged until the building was sold to become the Greenwood Centre.

When CCG (now VCG) was formed, Denis became a volunteer driver, making himself regularly and readily available when there was a need to take people to hospitals for appointments or visits, - a duty he continued to discharge until some 18 months ago.

Any responsibility he undertook was carried out, fully, quietly, and unobtrusively; but always reliably, as a truly good Samaritan, wherever there was a need: an impressive and exemplary record of service to our community. In all this, and especially during his recent period of illness, he was wonderfully supported by Margaret, to whom, with his family, we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

Jack Gostling

What a wonderful life of service!

HAMPTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH CHARITY

The Trustees of the above charity have limited funds available for residents of Hampton and Hampton Hill who are in condition of need, hardship or distress.

Further details from Brian or from: R.E.G. Farrer, Clerk to the Trustees,
35 Ashley Road, Hampton,
Middlesex. TW12 2JA
Tel: 0181 979 4333

THE TASTE OF THE MOON

When I was a child I sat an exam.
The test was so simple.
There was no way I could fail.

Q1 Describe the taste of the moon.
It tastes like creation I wrote,
it has the flavour of starlight.

Q2 What colour is Love?
Love is the colour of water a man
lost in the desert finds, I wrote.

Q3 Why do snowflakes melt?
I wrote, they melt because they fall
on to the warm tongue of God.

There were other questions.
They were as simple.

I described the grief of Adam
when he was expelled from Eden.
I wrote down the exact weight of
an elephant's dream.

Yet today, many years later,
for my living I sweep the streets
or clean out the toilets of the fat
hotels.



Why? Because I constantly failed my
exams.

Why? Well, let me set a test.

Q1 How large is a child's imagination?

Q2 How shallow is the soul of the
Minister of Exams?

*Brian Patten, New Internationalist
(Issue no: 248) October 1993*

Those taking exams at this time are in our thoughts.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

I helped my Mum deliver some Christian Aid envelopes this week, I did all the houses with low letter boxes and she did the ones high up that I couldn't reach. I liked peeking through the letter boxes and seeing people's homes, even though Mummy said I shouldn't! But we're really lucky here in Hampton because we have nice homes, some children in the world haven't even got a warm house or food and clean water. It makes me feel sad to think of them, I'm glad that we can help a little bit by collecting the Christian Aid envelopes and when I go to bed tonight I'm going to pray to God that the rich people in the world help the poor. Amen.

Pippa Highley
Age 5 years

WOMEN 'S FORUM

The programme for the next six months of Women's Forum is now underway. There are some very interesting meetings planned so please support them whenever you can. Evening meetings now begin at 7.30 p.m. so that people can get home earlier.

May 20 - 7.30 p.m.	Life and music in Ethiopia - Talk.
June 3 - 2.30 p.m.	The Church Bookstall - Talk by Jean Western.
June 17 - 7.30 p.m.	The Gideon Bible Movement - Talk.
July 15 - 7.30 p.m.	Summer Party.
No meetings in August	
Sept. 2 - 2.30 p.m.	Service in Hall and Tea.
Sept. 16 - 7.30 p.m.	Children's Society - Talk.
Oct. 21 - 7.30 p.m.	AGM and discussion.
Baptismal Party	13 September 3.30 p.m.

REV CANON IVAN H. FUTTER

9th March 1930 to 26th March 1998

Michael and Ivan came to live in St. James's Avenue in March 1939 and were soon worshipping at St. James's. After school Ivan went to sea in the Merchant Navy and left to be ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral in 1964. He went to Vancouver Island in 1966 and remained there until his death.



SPRING IN SUFFOLK

The rape is coming into flower. This much maligned/much subsidised crop has one endearing feature, the colour it imparts to the fields. The bright yellow flowers are not universally popular, but I like them for their simple cheerfulness after the drear of winter.

Not that the rape alone is colourful; many of the trees and flowers are now coming into bloom and the hedgerows have been full of blackthorn blossom, the small white flowers looking like a dusting of snow. My favourite, though, is only just beginning to show her true colours, the cowslip, the quintessential Suffolk flower, known locally as "paigles". On childhood visits to my maternal grandmother in the Easter holidays we would go and pick bunches of them. There are some in the ditches and along the banks, interspersed with the equally beautiful primroses.

Recently, we were bagging up horse manure at a local stables (as you do) and in the yard there were several hens scratching about - true free-rangers these - including a hen closely followed by her four chicks. I wondered how long it was since I had seen such a sight. Needless to say, I finished up buying some eggs; taste better than manure!

Another kind of egg has also appeared recently, a glutinous mass of frog spawn in our pond, and we are waiting for the tadpoles to hatch. As the pond is so new I didn't think the frogs would be interested in it but perhaps there is a housing shortage in the frog world.

The daffodils and forsythia have been cheerful and long-lasting. Have you noticed how many Spring flowers are yellow, truly the colour of Spring. Some of you may remember Jim Cranswick and his New Zealand visitors coming to St. James's. The Spring quite overwhelmed them in the new meaning it gave to Easter, and the message that Easter brings of hope and new life.

By the time you read this Easter will be over and we will be celebrating the birth of our second grandchild. We look forward to seeing some of you, all of you, any of you who wish to come sometime during the summer.



Helen Taylor

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Please remember that we shall need three volunteers to be present in the Hall during each of the Sunday family services 19th July to 6th September inclusive, when there will be no Sunday School. They will have no formal duties other than making sure that facilities are available for anyone who needs to give their children a break during the service. We hope that each volunteer will only have one or two days of duty.

If you are willing to help, please let Brian or one of the churchwardens know, or put your name on the list on the notice board in the south aisle.

Dick Wilde

CHURCH GARAGE - EARLY WARNING!

We need to make the items in the church garage that are really used, such as staging, ladders and tables, more easily accessible. There are many more things in the garage which do not seem to be used or cared for at all, and which have no known owner. The Properties Committee have decided that items that look useless, unloved or redundant will be given to jumble or dumped. If you have anything in the garage that you want to preserve, let one of the churchwardens or one of the Properties Committee members know, and make sure that it is labelled with "PLEASE KEEP", and your name and a date. After the end of July we shall feel free to get rid of anything that is not labelled with a known name. We may also have to ask owners to find another home for their belongings.

There are certain objects, such as crockery, hardboard sheets, wooden racks and elderly electrical equipment, also memorabilia such as framed pictures and certificates, that might be attractive to someone. Anyone who wants a sight of these good things with a view to taking them away should see me. I will label them with the name of the potential new owner, who can take them after the end of July if they are not claimed by a previous owner.



ISTANBUL HIGHLIGHTS

Since our retirement we have made short visits to five cities in continental Europe accompanied by two other couples. Last month, armed with three books about Turkey and a 'What I would do' list kindly supplied by Brian Leathard, we took a four-day break in Istanbul, the great city where east meets west.

Our hotel was centrally located, within walking distance of the main sights; indeed, we could see the domes and minarets of the famous Blue Mosque from our room.

Like many other tourists, we began our explorations at the Topkapi Palace, a fascinating collection of buildings and courtyards, formerly the residence of the Ottoman Sultans and now a museum. Here we enjoyed a guided tour of the Harem, the secluded, closely guarded dwelling place of the Sultan's many 'wives' and children. We also saw impressive displays of jewelled artifacts, chinese porcelain, silver and huge kitchen utensils (needed to cook food for the many hundreds of people who used to live within the confines of the palace).

Next we visited the Ayasofia (the Church of Divine Wisdom) built in the 6th century as a christian church, subsequently converted to an islamic mosque and now a museum. After some debate among ourselves, we engaged a guide to show us around the massive domed edifice. This proved to be an excellent investment as our guide brought Ayasofia's features and history to life in a most interesting and entertaining way, pointing out many aspects which we would not have experienced if left to our own devices. The christian mosaics were particularly superb even though many had been covered or defaced during the building's conversion to an islamic place of worship.

Nearby was the Basilica Cistern, a vast underground reservoir built over 2000 years ago by the Romans at the behest of Emperor Justinian to store water brought from Belgrade Forest beyond the city limits. We were most impressed by the construction of this ancient water tank with its four-metre thick brick walls, numerous symmetrical pillars and graceful arches - so impressed in fact that we dined one evening, by candlelight, in a similar though smaller cistern which had been converted to a first class turkish restaurant.

The Blue Mosque, opposite Ayasofia, is multi-domed, has six minarets (mosques usually have four) and beautiful stained glass windows and is in everyday use by practising muslims. The fully-carpeted interior is devoid of furniture, attractively decorated with blue tiles and mosaics and has four huge piers supporting the cascade of domes and semi-domes.

Our last full day in Istanbul dawned - and remained - wet and cold. Undaunted, we stuck to our plan and took the ferry up the Bosphorus to the Black Sea, where we ate locally-caught fish at a village in Asia before returning to our

hotel in Europe. Unfortunately, the views from the ferry were severely restricted by low cloud and persistent drizzle.

On our last morning we visited the Grand Bazaar, a large indoor eastern market with hundreds of small shops selling jewellery, carpets, leather goods, clothing and other items, where haggling over price is the norm. We also walked to the more authentic Spice Market, again a bewildering myriad of colourful shops and stalls.

Enduring impressions of our brief stay in Istanbul include:

- being woken at 5 a.m. each day by the amplified voices of the muezzins calling the faithful to prayer

- being accosted - in the nicest possible way - in every public place by vendors desperate to sell us a carpet or rug

- the skyline of the city, wonderfully festooned with domes and minarets

- the varied architecture, including a surprising number of clapboard faced buildings.

Overall a memorable, enjoyable, cultural but too short break, giving us insufficient time to explore fully this intriguing city.

Wendy and Brian Baker

**STEWARDSHIP PARTY
AND
CHURCHYARD TREASURE HUNT**

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE at 8 p.m.

Meet in the Hall

An opportunity to thank you for your support,
or to encourage you to join Stewardship
over a glass of wine, a nibble to eat and a treasure hunt.

For more details contact Andrew Craig on 979 2997
or Brian Leathard on 979 2089

SCOUT

April 14th saw four Venture leaders loading Triangle, all for four nights Broadstone



NEWS

seven Scouts, Scouts and three up at the ready and keen camp down at Warren

campsite, near East Grinstead in East Sussex. We arrived at a beautifully forested site, the largest in the country and started to set up camp. Initially we had to set up the large communal tent, 'the Great White', the Scouts then set up their two tents, the rest of us waited to see where Greg would set up his tent before we sited ours (Greg being a legendary snorer!). By the time all this was over, it had started to rain with a certain persistence, but it wasn't to continue raining for long. . . . The following morning, I turned back the flap of my tent to reveal four inches of pure white, freezing snow! There are few sights that I find quite as beautiful as a forest in its fresh winter coat and a huge snowball fight ensued. Although it remained very cold, the snow started to melt and it was raining for most of the time as well. This limited our activities for the day to indoor pursuits, so we practised at the air rifle range in the morning, turning to badge and award work for the rest of the day. With the floor of the Great White turning good and muddy, it continued to rain, turning once again to snow as we turned in for the night.

The following day it was still raining so we decided to try the potholing. This consisted of an artificially constructed maze of underground concrete pipes in three diameters, small, even smaller and 'I can't fit through there', thankfully all dry. The afternoon's activities consisted of an orienteering exercise, using map and compass on the site, where I thankfully managed to cover up the fact that I was learning at the same time as the Scouts. It was still raining and by the evening the floor of the Great White had started to consume boots wholesale and we had to keep an eye on the smaller Scouts lest they disappear forever. During this evening, one of the Ventures made a bet that it wouldn't stop raining that night. At approximately 22:10 it stopped for ten minutes or so, so the next day saw him pay up on his bet by coming out of his tent dressed in shorts, T-shirt and sunglasses, no mean feat as it was still freezing!

On Friday morning it had actually stopped raining for a while so we took the opportunity to try archery. The range had been constructed on a filled in swimming pool, but with all the rain, it looked as if they had forgotten to empty the water before they filled it in. Fortunately it remained dry for the rest of the day and we were able to enjoy our only evening around a camp fire, toasting marshmallows, toes and socks. The final morning saw us packing up camp in another dry spell. We just about got all the kit and canvas packed away before once again the heavens opened. Although this week seemed to be more of an endurance test than a camp (we did hear that another troop abandoned their camp), I couldn't fail to be impressed by the Scouts' and Ventures' good spirits

all the way through. Even after all this I'm looking forward to the next one.

Paul Fitchett, Scout Leader, Third Hampton Hill

CONCERT

'... a delicately impressive sound portrait, often very moving, and always evocative.' This is what the Surrey Comet music critic wrote about the cantata 'ST CUTHBERT OF LINDISFARNE' when it was first played in Kingston Parish Church.

STUART WARD is presenting another concert of his own compositions in Kingston Parish Church on Thursday, June 18th, at 8.00 p.m., which will include 'St Cuthbert'. There will be first performances of 'A BURNS SONGBOOK' for voice and guitar, 'THE DEATH OF CLEOPATRA' to Shakespeare's words, and 'AN EVENING HYMN', words by Sir Thomas Brown, for two voices and harp.

Guest artist will be the boy soprano JASON MUSIL, who will sing songs by PURCELL, BRITTEN, and Czech Folk Songs to his own guitar accompaniment.

Do come along and support one of your own musicians! It's not going to be impossibly highbrow. Tickets are £8, concessions £6.50, obtainable from Stuart, (preferably), or at the door. Wine and soft drinks.

Stuart's works have been played on the Radio, in major London Concert Halls, and on the Continent. A professional CD of the music played in the concert will be generally available shortly afterwards.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 1998

Perhaps it is the wintry weather that has brought to mind the next Christmas Bazaar! The date for the Bazaar is Saturday 21st November. Please put it in your diary NOW.

It is time to think about stalls and stallholders. In 1996 people were very enthusiastic and offered to organise and run stalls and we had a wonderful team effort. Please can we repeat that again this year - only have more people involved and make it an even better bazaar! We need to start thinking, collecting and making NOW as the months will soon speed by.

If you have an idea for a stall or are willing to organise and run a stall please let Wendy Baker know as soon as possible. Tel. No. 979 3654. Thank you very much.

A PLEA FOR INTER-FAITH UNDERSTANDING

A century or two ago the Pope decreed that all Jews must leave Rome. Understandably the Jews were upset, so they went to see the Pope to appeal his decision. The Pope said he would engage a in a debate with a representative of the Jews. If he won, the Jews would go. If he lost, the Jews could stay.

None of the Jewish leaders were willing to debate the Pope because the stakes were so high. So they set about finding someone who would. After many refusals an old man named Moishe, a street sweeper, agreed to debate the Pope but under one condition: neither one was allowed to say a word. The Pope agreed to Moishe's condition.

On the day of the debate that sat down opposite each other at a table. The Pope held up three fingers; Moishe held up one. The Pope made a circular motion around the top of his head with his index finger; Moishe pointed to the ground. The Pope put a glass of wine and wafer on the table; Moishe took out an apple.



"That's it," exclaimed the Pope. "This man's too good for me. The Jews can stay."

Later the cardinals gathered around the Pope to ask him what happened. "I raised three fingers signifying the Trinity," the Pope said. "He raised one finger to remind me that we share one God in common." Then the Pope said, "I circle my head to show that God is everywhere. He pointed to the ground saying that God is right here." "I took out the wine and a wafer to show that God forgives our sins. He took out an apple to remind me of the original sin."

The Jews similarly gathered around Moishe to ask him what had happened. Moishe said, "The Pope held up three fingers signifying that the Jews must leave in three days. I said not one of us is leaving. He circled his head as if to say the whole city must be cleared of Jews. I said we are staying right here. Then he took out his lunch and I took out mine."



At the Informal Service this month, cards were filled in and collected for presentation to Vincent Cable. These cards were to assist in pressing for debt cancellation in the Jubilee 2000 campaign. Some of our congregation also went to Birmingham on 16th May to lobby the G8 summit - more about this in the next Spire.

We would like to take this opportunity to report that we have received £750 in donations towards the cost of the Spire and to express our thanks for this generous amount.

Congratulations to Helen and Alan Taylor on the birth of their second grandchild. Their daughter Ruth, wife of Danny Clarke, has given birth to Kirsty Helen, a little sister for Joshua.

We are sorry to say that Daphne Burden is in hospital and Denis Leatherdale has died. We pray for them and their families.

The Quiz Night in April was most enjoyable and the winners were Kate O'Sullivan's team. Well done! Congratulations to the Young Church for organising a talent show at which they raised nearly £200 for the new chapel at Teddington Hospital.

Lastly, we are pleased to note that Hampton Hill Junior School has survived OFSTED. What a relief to all concerned!

FROM THE APRIL REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 12 Rosemary Jane Hayler, 117 Wordsworth Road
19 Alice Laura Smith, 44 Connaught Road

Wedding

- 18 Andrew Thomas and Caroline Hale

Funerals

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|----|
| 3 | Pat Morris, 16a School Road Avenue | 88 |
| 7 | Christina Cooper, 27 Dean Road | 88 |
| 7 | Edith Twyman, 8 Bayleaf Close | 87 |
| 17 | Frederick Saunders, 26 Rectory Grove | 81 |
| 28 | Norah Webster, 40 Nation Court, Hampton | 85 |
| 28 | Peggy Irwin, 52 Rectory Grove | 77 |

DATES TO NOTE IN JUNE

- 1 8 p.m. Parochial Church Council
3 2.30 p.m. Women's Forum: The Church Bookstall. Talk by Jean Western
5 **St. Boniface, Bishop and Missionary, Martyr 754**
7 **Trinity Sunday**
9.30 a.m. Children's Eucharist
4 p.m. Renewal of Wedding Vows Service and Celebration
8 8 p.m. Properties Committee
9 **St. Columba, Abbot of Iona, 597**
8 p.m. Hampton Deanery Synod
11 **St. Barnabas the Apostle**
13 Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival
17 7.30 p.m. Women's Forum: The Gideon Bible Movement
18 Concert of Stuart Ward's music at Kingston Parish Church
19 8 p.m. Stewardship 'Thank You' Party and Treasure Hunt
22 **St. Alban, First Martyr of Britain, 209**
23 Baroque Music Concert at St. James's as part of Hampton Music Festival
24 **St. John the Baptist**
26 Ember Day
28 Open Gardens around the Parish - watch out for more information
29 **St. Peter the Apostle**

OPEN GARDENS - CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the open gardens will now be on 28th June. Further details will be available in church nearer the time.



SYRIA AND LEBANON
with the Revd Dr Brian Leathard
22-31 October 1998

Tyre and Sidon, Byblos and
the Cedars, The Crusaders,
St. Simeon and Aleppo, Palmyra, Seydnaya and Maaloula,
Damascus, Baalbeck

For more information contact Brian on 979 2069

COPY DATE FOR JULY MAGAZINE: 12TH JUNE