

Earlier this year, Bishop Michael asked me to take on another role within this Episcopal Area of Kensington in our London Diocese. In order to take up this new post I realised very quickly that I would have to give up several others. This was probably just as well, and certainly timely, because my filing cabinets were bursting at their metal seams. So I have ceased to represent our Deanery on the London Diocesan Board for Schools and have ceased to be Inter-Faith Adviser to the Bishop and to be the Bishop's Representative for Archbishop's Faculties. Alas for you long-suffering parishioners, I have not ceased to be your Vicar!

I really do believe it is good to give things up occasionally and to hand over a bundle of files can be very satisfying. It is, of course, very humbling too, to realise that others will do a job every bit as well as you (or better) and bring to it different understanding, perception and opinion.

So to return to my new role: I have, since Easter this year, been Director of Ordinands for the Kensington Area. What does that entail, I hear you ask. Well, one month into the post I am coming to realise that it entails rather a lot! First let me remind you that our Kensington area comprises six Deaneries:

Hammersmith and Fulham	Hampton	Hounslow
Kensington	Chelsea	Spelthorne

- that is from Hyde Park Corner to Staines. Anyone, male or female, of whatever age who believes that they may have a vocation to ordained ministry in the Church of England first seeks the advice and support of their parish priest. Then they are introduced to the Director of Ordinands (DDO) whose responsibility it is to guide them through the discernment and selection procedures. Over a period of months the DDO will work with potential ordinands to explore their sense of vocation; what does it mean to be a priest? How can I serve God and the Church best with my gifts? What are my strengths and weaknesses? Could I exercise the ministry of a priest in the Church of England? By gathering information from referees and assessors, by asking candidates to broaden their experience, tackle certain areas of skill and knowledge, by challenging people with alternative avenues of ministry - but most of all by developing a relationship of honesty and trust between potential ordinand and DDO, a picture will build up. The Director then decides whether people should be seen by the Bishop and it is the Bishop who decides whether to send a candidate to a national residential selection conference. Selectors, representing the breadth of the C of E, recommend whether individuals should train, should not train or should train when certain conditions are fulfilled. Candidates need to be sensitively de-briefed. If successful, they need to sort out their training - at residential theological college or on a non-residential course. Their personal, family and financial circumstances may need particular attention and, during their 2 or 3 years of training, they need regular pastoral oversight. Finally, those training for ordination need to be found suitable parishes in which to complete their training after ordination. All of this work falls to the Director of Ordinands as the Bishop's responsible officer.

So - pray for me in exercising this ministry and pray for our Bishop who bears ultimate responsibility and for all those currently seeking to explore their understanding of just what it is to which God might be calling them. And remember in your prayers Freda Evans, who is coming to our parish in July to serve in her first ordained post and Alison Hampton, from our parish, currently training for ordination.

CHRISTINA NOBLE - Open Gardens - Sunday 17th June 1999

As last year, the Open Gardens event will collect for the Christina Noble Children's Foundation. There will be refreshments in the Church Hall, and plants, flowers and cakes will be sold. Contributions please!

It is worth visiting the Christina Noble Children's Foundation Website at www.cncf.org to read in detail about the work of the Foundation, fuelled by Christina's commitment and passion in Vietnam and Mongolia.

Christina's life story begins with being born into the deep poverty of the slums of Dublin in 1944. Her mother died when she was ten years old, and her drunkard father abandoned Christina, her brother and sisters to an orphanage where she was treated appallingly by the nuns, with all her dignity and self respect beaten out of her. She escaped back to Dublin where she lived as a street child, starving and sleeping in a hole in the ground in Phoenix Park.

At this vulnerable time she was subjected to a gang rape and became pregnant. A baby boy was born but given up for adoption against her will. At the age of 18 Christina ran away to England to be with her brother. Here she met and married her husband and had three children. Unfortunately the cycle of abuse continued and her husband proved himself to be a violent and faithless man. She was regularly beaten, suffered a miscarriage and was later forced to undertake shock treatment for a mental breakdown and depression.

This is where the miracle begins. The strength of Christina's character is such that she does not spend the rest of her life in decline. She has a dream that she should go to Vietnam and help the street children there. With no money at all for herself let alone for a mission of this sort she arrives in Ho Chi Minh City. The story of her courageous, determined, sometimes humourous but always heart-rending struggle to achieve her aim of a Foundation where the needy children can be cared for, educated and healed, is told in her book 'Bridge Across My Sorrows'. A second book 'Mama Tina' continues her story, showing Christina's incredible energy in her mission to set up a similar Foundation in Mongolia.

Even to read about the life and work of Christina Noble is to feel humbled, elated, hopeful, uplifted and positive. What it must be like to meet her and work with her, one can only imagine. Please join us in doing our best to raise funds for this incredible woman's Foundation.

Lists of the 'Open Gardens' will be available in church.

Judith Winstanley

THE PARISHIONERS' MEETING AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The meetings, chaired by the Vicar, were held immediately after the parish communion on Sunday 25th April. At a Parishioners' Meeting, any person on either the civil or church electoral roll of the parish can vote in the annual election of the churchwardens. At this very brief meeting Ann Peterken and Dick Wilde were re-elected unopposed as churchwardens for a further year.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, whose members are those on the church electoral roll only, followed immediately. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 26th April 1998 were agreed. The new electoral roll compiled by Prill Hinckley was presented; we have now 150 resident and 88 non-resident members, a total of 238.

The Vicar presented his report on the work and progress of the parish through the year. Among the many significant developments, perhaps the most important is the appointment of our new curate, Freda Evans, who will take up

her post here after being ordained deacon on 3rd July.

The PCC secretary, Pippa Butterfield, presented a report on the work of the PCC through the year, after which the accounts for the calendar year 1998 were presented by the treasurer, Paul Peterken. He reported that our financial position, though satisfactory, left no room for complacency. Our new curate would be an added responsibility for the parish.

There followed the reports on stewardship and the fabric of the church. The chairmen of both the Stewardship Committee, Andrew Craig, and the Properties Committee, Jack Gostling, are both standing down. The Vicar spoke of our debt to them for their skill, enthusiasm and unstinting hard work.

All the above officers and also all the other parishioners who had contributed to the church during the last year were thanked most warmly.

Nominated new Deanery Synod and new PCC members were elected unopposed. The PCC later elected its secretary and treasurer. The new PCC has at present the following members:

<i>Chairman:</i>	<i>Brian Leathard</i>
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	<i>Ann Peterken, Dick Wilde</i>
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives:</i>	<i>Ruth Mills, Leslie Mortimer, Pip Rowett</i>
<i>Officers:</i>	<i>Pippa Butterfield (secretary), Paul Peterken (treasurer)</i>
<i>Other members:</i>	<i>Elizabeth Cossage, John Gossage, Maud Hadden, Bob Hampton, Caroline Miskin, Kate O'Sullivan, Eila Severn and Rodney Taylor.</i>

Margaret Taylor and David Taylor were unable to attend the APCM. They are willing to be co-opted as PCC members. Mona Gow is also willing to be co-opted as the fourth Deanery Synod Representative. If this is agreed it will bring the PCC to a total of 19 members.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT STEWARDSHIP IS?

When I first came to St. James's, I heard this word 'Stewardship' and had no idea what it was all about. In the end, I plucked up the courage to ask someone. It is a scheme whereby one can pledge to give a regular amount to the church. This means that the financial running of our church is a lot easier as we know (to a certain degree) how much can be budgeted for in a year. There is committee who promote and administer the scheme and a **stewardship recorder** who actually keeps a record of the amounts given. To maintain confidentiality the recorder is the only person who has access to the amounts given by any individual.

I had my reservations about joining the scheme - it seemed rather a long term commitment; my children like pulling their money in the collection plate; you had to fill in complicated forms about tax. However, these were mis-conceptions.

Firstly, any contribution you make can be changed at any time and no amount is too big or too small. My children still put money in the collection, often just the small change from my purse and this a little extra for the church.

At its simplest you can join the **envelope scheme**. This involves putting a regular contribution, however large or small, in an envelope every week and handing these in with the collection when you next go to church. In this way the church receives an amount even if you don't get to church every Sunday. Alternatively you can set up a **standing order** so that a regular amount can be paid to St. James's every week, month, quarter or year. This involves completing a form, which the Stewardship recorder will then send to your bank.

If, like myself, you never have the right money at the right time this is ideal as once it is set up you can just forget about it.

If you are a tax-payer, the church can claim back the tax you have paid on the money you give. This means they get an extra 30p for every pound you give. To do this you have to fill in a covenant form provided by the stewardship committee. Once again this is not as daunting or irrevocable as it sounds.

If you are not a member of the Stewardship scheme and would like to join or just want further information, please contact our recorder **Pip Rowett on 892 4736** or **Ann Peterken on 891 5862** or speak to Brian.

We need new members as inevitably there are a number who leave the scheme each year for a variety of reasons. So do please think about taking the first step.

Carol Bailey



There was an exhibition of kneelers in various stages of creation, from partially stitched to one which was complete and made up, in Church prior to the APCM. The designs were lovely and thanks are due to all those who have given so generously of their time and talents. Many have also donated the cost of the materials, and Tina Bunce would be happy to receive any additional contributions. We are hoping to have

further "kneeler-bees" to make up the finished canvasses into kneelers.

Thank you also to all those who collected for Christian Aid. The total at the time of going to press was looking good - more details next month.

Kath James of Uxbridge Road has died recently and we send our sympathy to her family and friends.

If you would like to help in any way with a St. James's presence at the Carnival on 12th June, please contact Alison and Bob Hampton (255 0842).

We have been very pleased to have two family baptisms at St. James's recently: a father and daughter and a mother and daughter. Another family baptism took place in Weybridge, when the four children of Helen and Paul Shepherd were all baptised. Helen is the daughter of Margaret and David Taylor.

We would like to remind people that they are very welcome to bring flowers to the garden of remembrance in the churchyard, but it would be appreciated if dead flowers, oasis and containers are removed at a later date so that the area remains tidy and pleasant for all.

So far, £800 has been received towards the cost of the Spire. It is not too late to make a contribution if you have not yet done so! Please also support our advertisers, whose support is vital to the Spire. You may have noticed that long-term advertisers Conoley and Webb Chartered Architects no longer appear on the back cover. They have not gone away, merely merged with international construction consultants Dearle and Henderson, and continue to operate from Strathmore Road, Teddington. The firm has been involved with Rochester, Salisbury and Worcester Cathedrals and, more locally, the Greenwood Centre and the United Reformed Church. We wish John Webb and his staff continued success.

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The family of May French would like to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy, sent floral tributes and attended her funeral. Though we are still grieving very much and will be for a long time to come, it has been very comforting to know how highly our mother was thought of in both the church and the community.

Maureen, Brendan and James

**"But let justice
roll down like water
and righteousness
like an ever-flowing
stream"** Deut. 25:17-19

The Palestinians' thirst for justice gathered momentum as the 4th of May drew near. This date marked the end of the five year interim period of the Oslo peace process. The Oslo accords, which according to Christian Aid's partner the Middle East Council of Churches, were supposed to "provide scope for hope", have not addressed any of the big or thorny issues. The Final Status talks were to have dealt among others with the issue of water. The access to water has been one of the six main obstacles



to the development of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. In the aftermath of the Oslo Accords, instead of receiving 80 million cubic metres of water per year only 8 million cubic metres were made available to the Palestinians. Israel still controls almost 80% of the Palestinians' water resources. According to statistics from the Palestinian Hydrology Group, an Israeli settler in the West Bank consumes 800 litres of water per day whilst a Palestinian consumes 30 litres per day. Justice in this instance does not roll down like a river, it is more akin to a dried up stream.

On a recent visit to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, I was struck by the acute water shortage. In springtime the usually green strip of the Jordan valley was already parched and brown. The unequal distribution of water is compounded this year by the lack of rain. It is anticipated that a water crisis will erupt this summer. At the beginning of March less than 20% of the average expected rainfall had occurred. The region has witnessed one of the driest winter seasons in 60 years. Abdel Rahman Tamim, and agronomist with Christian Aid's partner organisation, the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) has said "this year the lack of rain will not ignite an agricultural season". But will it ignite an explosion over the just use of water?

In years of average rainfall accumulated salinity is washed away. This year however, Palestinian farmers are finding work increasingly difficult as the lack of rainfall renders their soil less fertile. In addition to this PARC has been encouraging farmers to harvest rain water for irrigation purposes as a counter measure to the lack of access to water resources. This drought in conjunction with the lack of access to water supplies could prove to be a major setback and very costly to Palestinians who will be forced to buy water. They already pay over the odds. Palestinians pay \$1.20 per cubic metre while Israeli settlers pay \$0.40 per cubic metre. (The Israel-Palestine Journal No.1, 55).

The current dry winter is held by many to be an indicator of a series of dry seasons to come. Palestinian farmers, already suffering under harsh economic conditions, may be compelled to leave the land and seek alternative sources of

income. Mohammed Abu Salah, a farmer in Jiftlik, a village 50km north of Jericho said "my cucumber crop has been badly affected this year due to the unusually high temperatures last month". A dunum (or quarter acre of land) that usually yields 200 boxes of potatoes has produced only 70-100 boxes this year.

Both Jordan and Israel have declared states of emergency with regard to water and are taking measures to compensate their farmers. The Palestinian Authority, however, is unable to follow suit as they lack the funds and resources with which to assist farmers. According to B'tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation and another Christian Aid partner "Israel's failure to supply enough water to Palestinian residents of the West Bank to meet their needs, and Israel's use of water from local wells for the needs of Israeli settlers contravene International law". For many Palestinians while the quest for justice stagnates the daily thirst for water intensifies.

Ramani Leathard

Jubilee 2000 Campaign Action in June 1999

A Very Important Month for the Campaign

1. Petition signing at polling stations on Thursday 10th June - European Elections

A great opportunity to boost the size of the petition before handing it to the GB leaders the following week. Tearfund are co-ordinating a nation-wide action. Lots of local volunteers are needed to cover local polling stations. Please offer some of your time (contact Ann).

2. Jubilee 2000 Human Chain in London on Sunday 13th June

Come and join a human chain around the River Thames to send the UK petitions off to Cologne for the GB Summit the following weekend. A full programme of events.

3. G8 Summit in Cologne - Saturday 19th June

Please be there in spirit if not in body and remember this event in your prayers.

Look on website www.jubilee2000uk.org or contact Ann Peterken on 0181 891 5862 who will be pleased to give help and information.

Did You Know?

Richmond Council supports Jubilee 2000

3rd HAMPTON HILL BROWNIES

I thought it would be nice to keep the parish updated on what is happening with the Brownies. We continue to thrive although our numbers are low due to several Brownies joining the new and thriving Guide Company. If you know of anyone aged 7 to 10 (girls only!) who would like to come along please do get in touch with me. It is unusual to have several vacancies and certainly the year 2000 looks like being a busy one so please even if you're not sure do come along and see what Guiding has to offer.

This term the Brownies are concentrating on several outdoor skills. They are working towards their cyclist badge which will include our now annual bike ride and picnic in Bushy Park which this year will be more exciting as the Guides are going to join us. They will be planning and cooking an outdoor meal, which of course will be well supervised, as well as going swimming, playing outdoor games, craft and much more.

The most important event this term will of course be our Annual Fundraiser from which we donate the funds to the Church for the use of the Church Hall during the year. This will be held on Tuesday 22nd June from around 6.15 pm. There will be the usual stalls, bring and buy, raffle, cake and children's games as well as tea and coffee from which donations will be sent to the Mencap Big D Tea Party Fundraiser. This year the Guides will be supporting us with An Act of Service Stall and you will no doubt hear more about this nearer the time. Basically the Guides will be able to provide small Acts of Service such as cleaning and tidying a cupboard drawer, brushing the dog, washing the car, sewing a pair of holed socks etc for a small donation. You will be asked to support this event by letting the Guides know in advance what service you would like them to do for you so that they can be prepared. This will not only raise valuable funds for the Guide Company but also help them achieve a special badge which they have been working towards all this year.

Please do come along and support this worthwhile event and show your support for Guiding in Hampton Hill. Further information from Lesley 0181 979 6400.



A NEW PERSPECTIVE - LEARNING BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

Last September I started an evening class in British Sign Language (BSL). As a hearing person I had never considered how different the life experience of a deaf person was. A hearing child learns language as an infant and subsequently develops thought processes based on a spoken/written language. A deaf person

must develop thought processes in a very different way. How scary it must be to grow up in a world where the majority of society cannot communicate with you.

At the beginning of the course, in my first enthusiastic throes (which I hasten to add have not diminished), I read avidly about deaf people and sign language. I was appalled to discover that deaf children often suffered atrocities, such as having their hands tied behind their backs to prevent them from conversing using signs or having instruments forced into their mouths which made the tongue bleed, to induce them to pronounce sibilants, simply because the state decided that deaf children should learn a written language in the same way as hearing children and not use sign language. In my opinion this is denying deaf people their "voice", which is very rich and varied if people only took the time to appreciate it.

There are still many people who want to deny deaf children the use of sign language, so much so that the Department of Education no longer recognises the category "Deaf children", placing them instead into the category "Children with special needs". For many deaf people BSL is their first language or mother tongue, English being learnt later, much like a hearing person learning a foreign language. On "See Hear", which is sadly one of the only programmes specifically aimed at deaf people, there is a signer, a voiceover and subtitles. At first you might think that you do not need someone signing if there are subtitles. This is a fairly "normal" reaction for a hearing person but many deaf people understand BSL better than English. Also most of the presenters are deaf themselves so would naturally sign as a means of communication.

Our teacher is profoundly deaf. Although she is generally very happy she recently got cross with us for talking amongst ourselves, signing that it was very unfair and how would we like it if the situation was reversed and people were signing amongst themselves and did not include us. Again this is something that as a hearing person it is difficult to comprehend, although a visit to a Deaf Club by a non-signer might simulate the feeling of loneliness and exclusion which must be very hard for a deaf child to overcome.

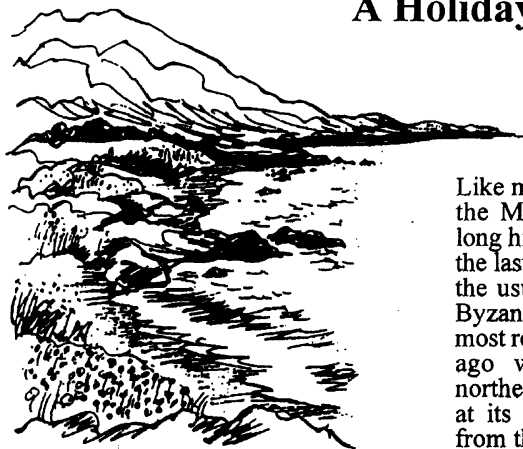
Contrary to first impressions sign language isn't just hand gestures but also involves the face and the "signing space", which is the area on and in front of the body, from just below the waist to just above the head. BSL doesn't translate English word for word but rather a single sign can express one or more whole phrases. For example "You phone me" is represented by a sign which can also mean "I'll phone you" if the direction of the sign is reversed. A facial expression can change the meaning of a sign and word order (or should I say sign order) is very different from English.

On my Linguistics course at university we were taught that BSL could not be defined as a language, due to the fact that a prerequisite for language is that a word is distinct from its meaning, for example the word for bird is *Vogel* in German, *Oiseau* in French, *Bird* in English and *Ave* in Spanish but the concept (physical object) is unrelated to the arbitrary sign/word chosen to describe it. This is a disputed fact because many BSL signs are similar to the words/concepts they describe. However whatever the outcome of this argument it does not detract from the fact that deaf people should be able to express themselves in their first language, which for many is BSL.

Learning BSL has made me stop and think about a community I was almost unaware of; it has shown me that the life experience of a deaf person is entirely different from mine but should be embraced for that difference rather than ostracised; and it has given me a new perspective and hopefully greater understanding.

Pippa Butterfield

A Holiday in the Republic of North Cyprus (Kibris)



Like most countries in and around the Mediterranean, Cyprus has a long history of occupation during the last 5,000 years. These include the usual list of Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Crusaders but the most recent invasion was just 25 yrs ago when Turkey overran the northern part of the island which, at its closest is only forty miles from the Turkish mainland.

A U.N. presence still secures the 'green line' which separates Turkish and Greek sectors and runs through the centre of Nicosia. The Republic of North Cyprus has never been recognised by the U.N. or any country other than Turkey. As a result it is relatively poor and undeveloped but the Cypriot Turks are fiercely independent and very proud of their country.

There are many Greek Orthodox churches in towns and villages which now stand empty but a few have been converted to mosques by the addition of a small minaret to the top of the towers. There are still some Maronite Christian villages whose small communities are supplied weekly with food and equipment by the UN on the grounds that they are refugees.

While we were in North Cyprus the war in Yugoslavia had begun and the exodus from Kosovo was in progress; several Turks we spoke to expressed special sympathy for the treatment received by the Kosovo Albanians and said they had suffered atrocities and low key ethnic cleansing by the Greek Cypriot government over many years. This is what had eventually led to the Turkish invasion.

There seems little prospect that the two parts of the island will be reunited; North Cyprus may eventually become a province of Turkey which would be similar to the present arrangement with Northern Ireland and the UK. The people are very pro-British and the 100 years of British rule are remembered as the 'good years'. Like Turkey, North Cyprus is a secular state with Islam as the religion but it is not intrusive. Almost everyone from children to old people wear 'western' clothes. Only in some villages do you see older people in more traditional dress.

Our actual visit constituted a 'wild flower tour'. The countryside is beautiful in spring with myriads of wild flowers (our party officially identified 436 different varieties) particularly in the mountain ranges (up to 3,000') which have old Crusader castles on some of the highest peaks. The island also has many fascinating archaeological sites from Greek, Roman, Phoenician and Venetian times.

On a 'day at leisure' we wandered into the church of St. Andrew's, Kyrenia. The small and obviously much loved church was a true haven of peace in this lovely harbour city. It was surrounded by a beautiful garden complete with several feeding bowls. The reason for their presence became obvious when we read "would the last person leaving the church please make sure the cat is outside before shutting the door".

Tony and Margaret Lawrance

FROM THE APRIL REGISTERS

Baptisms

4	Lily-Ann Peterson } Erik Peterson } Ria Wingfield }	13 Holly Road 30 Tanglewood Way, Hanworth
7	Stuart Burns	15 Eastbank
11	Michaela Lewin Matthew Turnill	21 Longford Close 27 Holly Road
25	Joseph James	Lime Tree Cottage, 332 Staines Road East, Sunbury

Funerals

1	Sandra Carson	186 Uxbridge Road	46
12	Colin Lane-Rowley	Flat 5, Seymour Road, Hampton Wick	48
28	Kathleen James	230 Uxbridge Road	58
29	Terence Butler	46 Sixth Cross Road	75

Interment of Ashes

6	Josephine Lewis	60 St. James's Avenue
9	Sandra Carson	186 Uxbridge Road

Memorial Service

26	Dorothy Weston	53 Burtons Road	86
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DATES TO NOTE IN JUNE

- 3 Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)
- 9 St. Columba, Abbot of Iona, 597
- 11 St. Barnabas, Apostle
- 12 Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival. Departs St. James's Road 12 noon
- 21 Deanery Synod, 8 p.m., St. Stephen, East Twickenham
- 22 St. Alban, First Martyr in Britain, 250
- 24 Birth of St. John the Baptist
Cburchwardens' Swearing-In at Holy Trinity, Hounslow, 7.30 p.m.
- 27 St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles



Remember to keep the afternoon of SATURDAY 3RD JULY free, when Freda will be ordained as deacon in St. Paul's Cathedral.