

One of the uncontrollable parts of being a parish priest is perhaps also both one of the most frustrating and one of the most exciting. The diary may be full or relatively empty (rarely the latter) but time and time again something happens during the day which knocks the diary sideways. It may be a telephone call, it may be someone coming to the door, it may be a chance encounter walking down the High Street or on a visit to someone in hospital. But time and time again what one has planned for seems to be less important than the things that happen unplanned. I suppose the same was very true of the women who first visited the tomb on Easter morning to do for the corpse of Jesus that which was traditional. They had come to wash and wrap and embalm the body for its permanent burial but were completely thrown by the fact that the stone was not there. Neither was the body.

In this month of May we celebrate Christian Aid Week and this year the theme is 'local heroes'. This may sound a bit like the title for a page in a Boys Own magazine but local heroes are the sort of people who one keeps meeting time and time again in the most unlikely places. In the parish I remember taking a funeral a few years ago for a very faithful parishioner who, over many years, it later transpired, had taken in the washing from her sick and housebound neighbour week after week, year after year. It might not seem much to us but for an elderly single woman who had no other means of maintaining her dignity and her cleanliness this was an enormous undertaking, an act of great generosity and Christian witness.

Just after Christmas last year I had the opportunity to accompany Ramani on one of her visits to collect material for Christian Aid Week 2003. In that time we came across some local heroes who, through their own imagination, willingness to get involved and generosity of spirit and resources, had a massive effect upon the lives of their local communities. In this magazine you can read of one such woman in war torn Eastern Sri Lanka.

It is precisely the fact that in the ordinary God works his extraordinary love that makes for such surprises. Even when we know that in our minds, when we come across it in reality it challenges us time and time again. All of us will be able to think of people who are such local heroes. Many of you reading this will in your own way be agents of God's love, which can transform our community and transform our world. Just as the devil may be found in the detail so it is I believe that God's love is to be found in the minute particular of our daily actions, our daily thoughts, our daily speech.

So in this period of Eastertide, the 40 days rejoicing, which balances the 40 days of Lent before Easter, I would urge you to discover, enjoy and join that band of local heroes who transform the lives of those around them. When Mary Magdalene met Jesus in the garden she mistook him to be a gardener. It was only when he called her

by her name, when he recognised her for whom she really was that she was sufficiently transformed to recognise him. It is so often in that transformation that we discover God. The transforming of ourselves into the people God wants us to become. Or maybe, we should say, the transformation of ourselves into the people we were really created to be. Now that is the world of the local hero, brave enough, strong enough, compassionate enough, loving enough to become the person God has made you to be. That's a real resurrection, real transformation and certainly requires enormous heroism.

Brian Leathard

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2003

Inspiration in the midst of adversity: A story from Sri Lanka

Behind her life lies a tragedy of events and this is borne out in Yogamma's story. What is extraordinary is that she has beaten the odds and has been able to hold her head high. A woman who started off with a loan of £6 from Thadaham Rural People's organisation, a Christian Aid partner in Sri Lanka, ended up representing her community by talking to MPS and army commanders and has become an inspirational local celebrity. Yogamma attributes her success to the training she received when she says "before I joined Thadaham I was not able to speak out but I have now gained a great deal of confidence".

Yogamma is 42, married to Edmund and has four children. She lives in the village of Vishankerni in the Batticaloa district, north-east Sri Lanka, where communities have been shattered by war. In 1994 she became a member of Thadaham through its literacy and numeracy programme. Thadaham works to organise some of the poorest and most marginalised people, particularly women, through small loans, income-generating activities, literacy schemes and through raising awareness of human rights issues and building a movement for peace. Yogamma progressed through the community-based organisation from the sub-executive committee, to being its Treasurer and finally in 1998 was elected Leader.

Displaced as a result of the ethnic conflict in the island, life has been far from easy for Yogamma and her family as they have strived to re-build their lives. Yet, her courage and indomitable spirit have helped steer Thadaham through some of the most turbulent periods of the conflict. Thadaham's investment fund rose from Rs. 29,000 to Rs. 4,000,000 during her tenure as Leader.

Yogamma's husband has been a great source of encouragement and support especially during the time she served as leader of Thadaham. The two of them work well together as a team. Edmund carried on tending their slash and burn cultivation plot, while Yogamma devoted her time to building and nurturing a grassroots movement for peace. With a loan from Thadaham, Yogamma and Edmund were able to buy a

water pump to help irrigate their plot of land. Their hard work has begun to pay off and they are reaping the produce from the land on which they grow paddy and other vegetables. The proceeds from the sale of the produce sustain the family and provide for their basic needs.

Yogamma suffered greatly through the ethnic conflict. Yet in the midst of adversity her calm, quiet attitude has served to inspire hundreds of others within her community to get the same new start that she had setting up a rice processing business. Her dream is that her children and grandchildren will live to see more peaceful times. She says "the sacrifices we have made will not have been in vain if future generations benefit from the proposed solutions to the conflict".

Ramani Leathard

You can help change the world. This Week.*



ChristianAid
We believe in life before death

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
May 11th - 18th

Please give generously when your collector calls for the red envelope. The need is great and you can make a difference. Don't forget to fill in the name and address space on the envelope if you are a tax-payer. Our charity will benefit by an extra 25 - 30% of your donations at no extra cost to you!



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1903 Extracts from the May Issue

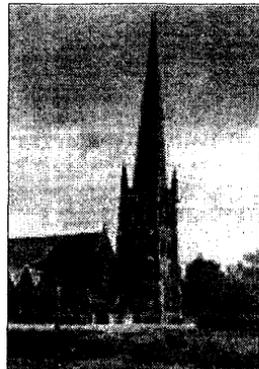


MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Another Easter has come and gone. It used to be called the "Queen of Festivals," and in many respects it is the brightest and happiest of all the seasons. The Church looked as beautiful as ever with the quantities of flowers and plants and tasteful arrangements. The congregations were very large, the number of communicants being 465. May I take this opportunity of expressing my warmest thanks for the most kind and generous Easter offerings.

The Vestry Meeting was held on Thursday evening in Easter week, when there was a very good attendance. The Churchwardens presented the accounts for the year, which were adopted. Hearty votes of thanks were given to the Churchwardens and Sidesmen, and also to the members of the Voluntary Choir. I had again the pleasure of appointing Mr. C. Griffiths as Vicar's Warden, and Mr. Storey was again unanimously elected People's Warden.

Attention was drawn to the draughts in the North Aisle of the Church, and it was evidently felt that something ought to be done to remove the cause of the discomfort before another winter, and it was understood that the matter would shortly be taken in hand.



The following letter has been received by Mrs. Job in acknowledgment of the work sent from the Missionary Working Party:-

DEAR MADAM.

Your splendid quantity of beautiful work was most gratefully received by the Special Committee yesterday, and it will be sent out immediately to Kaffraria where the articles will be sold at each of our four Missions there.

Believe me, Yours truly,

ETHEL L. MACKENZIE, Secretary.



I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

A woMan That Looks On Glass

On a cold sunny March morning I enter the little church of St. Nicholas, Moreton, in Dorset. At first I do not notice the windows, but am struck by the absence of stained glass, enabling me to connect immediately with blue skies and trees as sunlight streams through the windows of this dark little church. Then my eyes open. Every window is exquisitely engraved. No violent reds or golds, no haloed saints but butterflies, magnolia buds, birds, cornfields, swirling leaves and snowflakes. I walk round amazed. My friend, a Dorset resident, who is with me had muttered something about the Whistler windows, but at the time I was lured more by the thought of an attractive tea room in the old village school than by the church or the grave of T. E. Lawrence which is nearby. A bored looking young man with a ring through his nose wanders round. His granny has dragged him here, I suppose, as an elderly lady holds forth about the 12th century font.

I stand before a window which takes as its theme the words of one of my favourite hymns 'The spacious firmament on high'. A spiral galaxy swirls and vanishes into eternity. Framed by the Greek letters Alpha and Omega some of the stars are turning into flowers. 'Look can you see the two people?' says a voice. The young man is beside me. No. He directs my gaze and eventually I discern two minute figures. 'That's us compared to this great universe' he explains. 'I often come here. It's wonderful.'

The church was bombed in World War 2 and when it was restored Laurence Whistler was commissioned to engrave the windows which he did gradually over thirty years as funds became available. One window shows a crashed plane, the cottage where the pilot lived and Salisbury cathedral near to where he was stationed. As it is the Trinity Window, birds, butterflies tulips and hares appear in groups of three. Verbal accounts just can't do justice and there is too much to describe. The more I look, the more appears to me.

Round I go again. My friend is cold. 'I fancy hot soup' he says bringing me down to earth. So do I as it happens.

On the way home a few days later I make a detour to Moreton to have another look. I would urge you to do the same if you are down that way, but perhaps you have done so already.

Marion Dewey

P. S.

Look in the side chapel. All married women will surely aspire to having a memorial like the first Mrs. Frampton [d. 1762]. Her husband (presumably) describes her as a 'rare Example of true *Conjugal* Affection and of those amiable Qualities on which alone are founded the Charms of Domestic Happiness'.

Has anyone else got any good memorial quotations?

Liz Butler - New churchwarden

What do churchwardens do? I've often wondered. Do they change the light bulbs? Do they police the graveyard? Are they responsible for providing Brian with a G and T in times of stress. I suppose I will discover the answers to these and many other questions over the next few years as I carry out my duties as your new churchwarden. What can I offer? I can change a fuse; I am an efficient washer-up; I can feed a family of five luxuriously or frugally, including at least 45 meals based on a pound of mince; I can make bridesmaids dresses and I can sing a bit. I wonder if any of these skills will be of any use? Whatever duty comes my way, I can assure you that I will do everything to the best of my ability. I think it is a great honour and privilege to have been nominated for this position and I look forward with enthusiasm to the challenges that lie ahead and working with Rodney Taylor who seems to know exactly what he is doing and who will hopefully guide me through my first year.

Liz Butler

The Voluntary Care Group and Hampton Enterprise

Our local Voluntary Care Group based at the Greenwood Centre (once the church hall) offers a range of activities that include children's music groups, bridge, yoga, bowls and a nursery school. Richmond Arts Council have their office at the Greenwood Centre. The Group aims to improve the quality of life for local people, especially the elderly and those who have mobility problems. It's there for you if you need transport to the hospital, the doctor, the hairdresser, or somewhere else. If there is no possibility of using public transport ring the Greenwood Centre at 8979 9662 and explain your problem. You can drop in any time, and have a cup of tea and a chat about what's available. If you come on a Wednesday morning I will be there as a volunteer and representative of St. James' on the Trustees Committee.

Here are details of our Enterprise bus trips. You will be very welcome to join any journey if there is room - Just ask.

Hampton Enterprise Bus Trips

For your pleasure.

Mondays:- Pub Lunch.

Tuesdays:- Linden Hall Day Centre, Tesco shopping bus.

Wednesdays:- Outings: - Coast, New Forest, France, Suggestions?

Thursdays:- Linden Hall Day Centre, Kempton Market (fortnightly).

Fridays:- Sainsbury shopping bus, Afternoon outings.

For details and availability ring Ron Hillier on 8979 9662.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help our work, especially drivers who fulfil an important function helping our clients to lead better lives and to move around the world outside their homes.

Margaret Taylor - 8979 3961

P. C. C. Members April 2003

These members of the congregation were elected as our representatives at the Annual Parish meeting on April 6th.

Churchwardens:

Rodney Taylor

Liz Butler

P. C. C.:

Rodney Taylor

Wendy Baker

Clive Beaumont

Marion Dewey

Linda Mann

Paul Peterken

Val Traylen

Liz Butler

Don Barrett

Anne Cowlin

Prill & Martin Hinckley

Charles & Susan Nettleton

Janet Taylor

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Carole Greville-Giddings

Pip Rowett

Lesley Mortimer

David Taylor

TEDDINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Teddington Memorial Hospital has vacancies for volunteers:

The **Hospital Shop** requires volunteers for a 2, 3 or 3½ hour shift each week or even help on an occasional basis. Please ring Linden Loader for details on 8408 8270. The Shop provides a wonderful service for in-patients and outpatients alike. Can you help please?

The **Front Reception Desk** also needs volunteer receptionists for a morning slot 8.30a.m. - 11.30a.m., one session per week or on an occasional basis. You would provide a friendly and welcoming face for patients arriving for clinic. Linden Loader will again be pleased to hear from you on 8408 8270.



I SAW a picture the other day of an old fashioned red telephone box inside a cathedral! British Telecom gave the kiosk to Liverpool Cathedral. Can you guess why?

The answer is, Sir Gilbert Scott who was the architect of Liverpool's Anglican cathedral and who also designed the telephone kiosk. Something of beauty and grandeur, and something of great use, and both came from the mind and skill of one man.

The telephone box and the cathedral have another link, that of communication. In a telephone box we talk to each other. In a cathedral we talk to God.

1. Cain 2. Covenant 3. Cephas
 4. Caesarea 5. Crete 6. Catiphas
 the High Priest 7. Canaan 8. Cana
 9. Centurion 10. Corinthians

LIGHT RELIEF

What kind of lights did Noah have on the Ark?

Floodlights.

What is yellow and flickers?

A lemon with a loose connection.

What did the big candle say to the little candle?

You're too little to go out.

This match won't light.

That's funny, it did a moment ago when I tried it.

Why did the idiot have his sundial floodlight?

So that he could tell the time at night.

What happened when the glowworm got trampled on?

He was delighted.

C-QUIZ

All the answers to this Bible Quiz begin with the letter C - can you find them all?

1. Eldest son of Adam and Eve.
2. A promise between God and man.
3. Another name for Peter, a rock.
4. Where Paul was imprisoned.
5. Where Titus founded a church among liars.
6. Jesus was arrested and taken to his house.
7. Grandson of Noah, son of Ham.
8. Where Jesus turned water into wine.
9. A Roman soldier (his servant was cured by Jesus).
10. Paul wrote to them about Faith, Hope and Love.





We all very much enjoyed the Mothering Sunday Service. It was good to see the church packed with family and friends. Thank you for all your work in the preparation of the service, especially the Children's Choir so delightfully organised and conducted by Susannah Littleton. It was also a pleasure recently to welcome this year's 'Women's World Day of Prayer' services.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Megan Parry in Surbiton Hospital with a broken shoulder. Kath Brooks is now at home and feeling much better, whilst David Nunn at the West Middlesex Hospital, is making slow progress after his recent stroke.

Isla's brother David Prentice died in the hospice and we send our sincere condolences, and as with all our sick and departed, our prayers to the family. Many will be sorry to hear of the death of Daphne Dafforne wife of the previous and well known organist Ron.

The Sazegar-Lory family wedding was celebrated with joy on a wonderful day. Our good wishes go to Sally, Mark, their daughter Amber and to Sheri and Ali. Pam Phillips a popular local piano teacher and accompanist married recently. Our congratulations to her and her new husband Brian Kent.

Our Visitor Training Course has ended and the visiting programme will start shortly; more information from Brian with possible requests for visits.

The Roving Supper on 6th April in aid of the 'Opening the Doors' Campaign was an enjoyable and resoundingly successful evening making over £1000 for the appeal. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. Shall we have another?

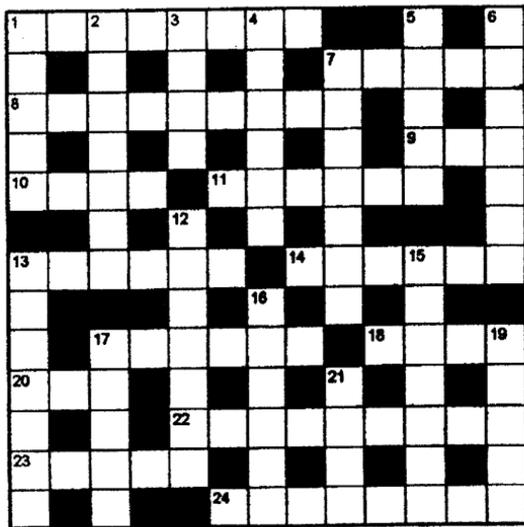
Crossword

Clues: Across

1. Sing praise (8)
7. Arabian Deity (5)
8. Rite of Witchcraft (5,4)
9. Wise Bird (3)
10. You (Old Form) (4)
11. Creed (6)
13. Give (6)
14. Sculptured Figure (6)
17. Chess Piece (6)
18. A Whip (4)
20. Part of the Ovaries (3)
22. Embody in Flesh (9)
23. To Make (3,2)
24. Art of Singing Sacred Songs (8)

Clues: Down

1. Superior of a Monastery (5)
2. Dealers [Anagram] (7)
3. Medical Apostle (4)
4. Pictures (6)
5. Apart (5)
6. A Cup for Wine (7)
7. Helps (7)
12. Adoration (7)
13. Blind Zeal (7)
15. Hurricane (7)
16. Musical Parts (6)
17. Sounds Like Forbids (5)
19. Faith (5)
21. Spoken (4)



FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 16 Jack Oliver Ling, 59 Hampton Road, Teddington
Thomas Barnaby Ling, 59 Hampton Road, Teddington
22 Thomas Charles Barlow, 28 Royal Road, Teddington
Lily Helen Barlow, 28 Royal Road, Teddington
30 Alexander Charles Saul, 33a Broad Lane, Hampton
Hugo Mchael Harris, 9 Connaught Road, Teddington

Funerals

- 5 Georgina Gilbey, 110 Connaught Road, Teddington 76
6 Margaret Dunn, 9 Charles Court, Teddington 94
20 Ivor Little, Kingston Lane, Teddington 73

Weddings

- 22 Mark Antony Lory & Salomeh Zahara Sazegar

DATES TO NOTE IN MAY

- 1 Philip and James, Apostles
2 8.30p.m. **FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT** at St. James' -
Debussy & Vaughan Williams
4 Third Sunday of Easter
5 Bank Holiday - have a great day
8 Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, 1417
11 Fourth Sunday of Easter, Sunday in Christian Aid Week Preacher
at Parish Communion: Ivan Kent, Christian Aid's Desk Officer for
Sri Lanka
6.30p.m. Churches Together Around Hampton United Service at Hampton
Methodist Church
14 Matthias, Apostle
15 Caroline Chisolm, Social Reformer, 1877
18 Fifth Sunday of Easter
19 Dunstan Archbishop of Canterbury, 998
20 Alcuin of York, Deacon, 804
24 John and Charles Wesley, Priests, Poets and Evangelists,
1791 and 1788
25 Sixth Sunday of Easter
26 Augustine, Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
Bank Holiday - have a great day!
28 Ascension Day
8.30p.m. Parish Communion
30 Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906

COPY DATE FOR JUNE MAGAZINE: 10TH MAY