

Following on from the drama of Holy Week and the celebration of the resurrection, the Church enjoys the seemingly endless days of Eastertide. During this time we reflect on the meaning of the resurrection life here and now. This season culminated in the celebration of the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Over recent weeks we have rejoiced in the story of the resurrection and reflected on the heady times of spiritual empowerment. Then our seasonal colours change from white to green. We enter 'ordinary time'. The ordinary seems less exciting; it sounds mundane.

The reality is that the Church has to get on with the business of being Christ's body in the world, proclaiming the Gospel of love and seeking to build his Kingdom on earth. However, we know that from newspaper headlines that the reality of the Church is often caught in controversy and conflict. We know from the reality of our own lives of faith that there are times when we are unmotivated, when our ideals are thwarted or when the ordinary seems less than inspiring.

That is why when I hear or read passages from the Acts of the Apostles I find myself greatly encouraged. It is a narrative of the early Church which reveals something of the idealism of those first communities and also the very human conflicts and tensions. The believers met regularly to worship, for teaching, to share in the breaking of bread and held their possessions in common. The gift of the Spirit brings courage to preach the Gospel to Gentiles as well as Jews. However, there is a darker side to the narrative as we also read of the beginning of the persecution of the Church. Saul's dramatic conversion stands alongside Stephen's death and Peter's imprisonment. We read of disagreements between the leaders of the Christian community and of a conference to resolve the tensions. People are called to engage in a ministry which is fruitful, challenging and exciting. There are also personality clashes between leaders and disappointments; we read of arguments with philosophers and late night, wine-fuelled conversations about God. Within all this, the message of God's love is proclaimed and lives are transformed.

Reading Acts reminds us that some things never change! We still face differences within the world-wide Church on issues of inclusion, about the way in which we interpret Scripture. We are like the Christian community described in Acts: we have ideals and a vision; we may not always agree; we may not always get on. As human beings we are susceptible to all things. The bell at Westcott House, which summoned us to chapel, was inscribed with the words 'the one who calls is faithful'. This reminds us that regardless of human quirks and failings God continually calls us into relationship with him so that we might share in His mission of love in and for the world. God is in the midst of the ordinary.

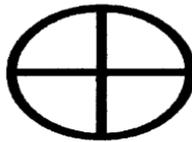
At the heart of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles are two figures, Peter and Paul, whose feast day we keep at the end of this month. It is important that we celebrate these very different Apostles on the same day. They have different gifts, different areas of ministry and different personalities. Yet together they lead, nurture and guide the early Church. We too can rejoice in the range of gifts within our community. We

are inspired by the same Spirit to show God's love in all that we do and say. I hope that we can be encouraged and inspired by the examples of Peter and Paul. We commemorate them on 29 June. For me, it will be poignant as I preside over the celebration of the Eucharist for the first time, but it is also a chance to give thanks for our common life. It will be an opportunity to celebrate our common calling as the people of God and to rejoice in our life together. We will be able to reflect on God's faithfulness to us and on the task we share in proclaiming the Gospel.

Julie Gittoes

The one who calls is faithful

I Thessalonians 5:24



Please pray for all those to be ordained this Petertide
and among them

Julie Anne Gittoes

to be ordained priest by
Michael, Bishop of Kensington
in the Church of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington
on Sunday, 27th June 2003 at 4.00 p.m.

Pray also for the Reverend Dr. Brian Leathard
and the people of the parish of St. James, Hampton Hill
where she will continue to serve as Assistant Curate

Julie will preside at the Eucharist for the first time on
Tuesday, 29 June, at 8.00 p.m. in St. James' Church.
All are very welcome to attend.

I very much hope that you will be able to be present at the ordination service itself as well as joining in the parish celebration of the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul on Tuesday, 29 June. Thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given me over the last year: it has been a steep learning curve. I have enjoyed being with you and sharing in the life and worship of St. James', I look forward to continuing in ministry with you in the assurance of God's faithfulness.

Julie Gittoes



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1904 Extracts from the June Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Looking at our Church Accounts it will be noticed that the total contributions, addition to the pew seats, amount to just over £1000, which shows that a good deal of generosity has been shewn. Papers are sent with this month's magazine for promises of contributions for the ensuing year, and I would ask our kind supporters to be good enough to fill them in and forward them to me as early as convenient.

OFFERTORIES.

| | 11 a.m. | 7 p.m. | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| April 29—Churchwardens' Fund | 3 9 3 | 1 10 0 | 4 19 3 |
| May 6—Curate's Fund | 5 6 4 | 1 13 7 | 6 19 11 |
| " 13—Churchwardens' Fund | 3 15 9 | 1 15 9 | 5 9 6 |
| " 20—Bishop of London's Fund | 8 4 10 | 3 8 4 | 12 13 2 |
| " 24—Mission to Seamen, 7.30 & 11. (Ascension Day) | 4 1 10 | 2 4 6 | 6 8 4 |
| Early Celebrations (Poor Fund), April 29, 6.4; May 6, 13/-; May 13, 9/8; May 20, 7/7 | ... | ... | 9 16 2 |
| Children's Services (Missions), April 29, 2/7; May 6, 2/-; May 13, 5/8; May 20, 3/8 | ... | ... | 0 12 10 |
| Special Celebrations—May 1, SS. Phillip and James | ... | ... | 0 5 9 |
| Special Service—Communicants' Meeting | ... | ... | 1 7 10 |
| | | | <u>£19 12 8</u> |



The Sunday School Excursion is fixed for Monday, the 20th inst., and is to be to Portsmouth and Southsea. Full particulars will be issued in a few days.

The subscriptions to the Nurse Fund are now due, the year closes on the 30th inst., and those who have not sent their contributions are asked to send them before the end of the month.

A Temperance Meeting was held at the Schools, on the 9th ult., when a most stirring and instructive address was given by the Rev. Prebendary Murdoch Johnston. The next meeting will be held in the Vicarage Garden, the first week in July.

The Annual Flower Show is fixed for Wednesday, the 13th July, and it is again to be held in the grounds of Mr. Clifton Robinson. With the present favourable season for vegetables and flowers, the Show ought to be a great success.

It is an institution that is deserving of every encouragement, and the Committee hope they may have the warm support of the public, both in subscriptions and in exhibits.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.



Through a Glass Darkly

I understand Zen Buddhists have a teaching technique in which the master poses to each novice a logically insoluble problem called a "Koan". The novice is expected to wrestle with this problem, perhaps for many years, until he produces an answer which satisfies the master that he has become enlightened. The answer is unique to the individual, so the clever books that give glib solutions to koans miss the point entirely.

More than thirty years ago my sister accidentally gave me a personal koan which I am still trying to solve. Her question, posed in all innocence, was: "Why do you go to church?". It has been an extraordinarily fruitful question for me personally; though as I implied I still do not know the answer. My attempts to explain what glimmers of faith I have to others are embarrassingly incomplete and incoherent. However, I think it is perhaps the most important question that I have ever had to answer, and rather to my surprise my ignorance does not worry or frustrate me. I find the darkness quite unthreatening, I might even say friendly.

A lot of ancillary questions are raised. One is the puzzle of philosophers and scientists, of much greater knowledge and wisdom than mine, who are exasperated and frustrated that the nonsense of belief in a reality which transcends the physical world still persists in this rational age. Richard Dawkins, author of "The Blind Watchmaker", is one of the many brilliant scientists who regard religion as pernicious rubbish. Of course there are also brilliant men who hold another view.

I read a little story which I found very helpful in this context. I can't attribute it because I have forgotten the author's name. The story concerns a scientist walking along a cliff top at night and seeing a luminescence out at sea. He was quite fascinated, and when he got home he told his wife what he'd seen. He described the colour of the light, its intensity, its apparent motion, and its strange pattern of intermittency. All recorded with great precision. A boy scout was also walking along the cliff top that night. When he got home he told his mother: "There was an SOS signal flashing at sea. I told the coastguard and a lifeboat went to the rescue".

Little tales like this nibble away at the edges of my koan. I'm quite sure I shan't get much further than the edges, but it's a wonderful search.

Dick Wilde

A Week in Marrakesh

Nothing had prepared me for the fabulous city of Marrakesh surrounded by red mud walls and densely packed houses, also of red mud, its souks, gardens with palm trees, running water, palaces and mosques. The old town, the Medina, is home to the souks, those spreading maze of narrow alleys which is forever enticing you on further until, totally disorientated, you wander along past the blacksmiths quarter where men are hammering, welding and bending metal to create anything that can be made with iron, where there are dyers of wool and silk with their steaming vats - men plunge arms dyed purple or green into vats bringing out hanks of wool to dry in the sun, red, orange, cobalt, green, colours more intense than you could ever imagine; in dank and foetid tanks leather is tanned - the smell is unspeakable as sheep, camel and goat's leather is processed to produce wonderful soft handbags, belts and cases. The alleys are crowded with the people of Marrakesh, some in European dress, others in long robes, the women wear veils or head scarves and pointed-toe Arab, or Berber round-toed shoes, walking with a proud erect carriage. The narrow alleys are thronged with bicycles, donkey carts, mopeds, and taxis and people chatting wandering and shopping from thousands of tiny shops and stalls.

Beyond the Medina is the Hivernage - the French influenced modern town with its wide boulevards, blocks of flats, and hotels. But there are no European type cafes and alcohol is nowhere to be found - if you need a drink it will be ice-cold freshly squeezed orange, or mint tea costing about 20p! Along the main roads are hedges of rose trees that bloom from February to November. Beyond the rose trees at the end of the town the mountains rise like pearly clouds. We sat in the famed Marjorelle Gardens with its palm trees, pools and cunningly placed streams, everywhere is cool and green. We sat in the huge main room of one of the palaces with breezes bringing fresh air and alcoves with squashy sofas for those who wish to recline and watch the fountains play. We admired the lavish decoration of the hand cut elaborate tiles in the traditional blues, greens and whites from the Arab culture, the pinks, purples, reds, yellows and oranges of the Berbers - all wonderfully clear and vivid. In the palaces we gazed at wood carving in ceilings, screens and doors, some of them massive, others small and intricate. There seemed to be acres of stucco work unbelievable in its delicate detail; we marvelled at the remarkable workmanship everywhere.

Apart from all this vibrant life, splendid art and architecture, there is the world of the Great Square the Jemma El Fna a place for entertainment, eating and trading. In the evening hundreds of people gather watching the snake charmers, acrobats, contortionists, jugglers and fortunetellers, having their hands painted with henna or listening, rapt, to the storytellers and musicians. In the brilliant light of many lamps and torches hundreds of stalls sell every kind of Moroccan food; you can buy anything from snails to sheep's heads cooked in the al fresco kitchens.

But going over the Atlas Mountains is yet another experience. The pass is 7415 feet above sea level, the views truly breathtaking. The mountains are terracotta and black, with vivid green patches near to Berber villages where brown mud houses nestle by

water that flows down the mountains and where the tiny green fields grow barley and hay and Berber men and women are harvesting with sickles. The emerald green terraced fields, rugged peaks, dramatic valleys and barren mountainsides are an amazing spectacle that eventually opens out into the Sahara Desert with its arid ochre coloured stretches of sandy soil.

Words cannot express the endless beauty of Marrakesh and its people.

Margaret Taylor

Youth Action Theatre

Established 1970

YOUTH DRAMA IN HAMPTON HILL

For any young adults, (16 - 25) living in the Parish of St. James's, Hampton Hill, who may be looking for a worthwhile leisure-activity where new friends could be met, should consider the possibility of joining Youth Action Theatre (YAT) which is completely free of charge.

The skills of acting and the performing arts which the group offers to each of its members give much wider benefits than for use just on the stage. It gives self-esteem, self-confidence and spontaneity and trust in each other as you work as a team, leading to a much fuller life in maturity. It improves speech, poise, movement and gesture and all in a friendly, relaxed but disciplined environment. Performances are given at The Hampton Hill Playhouse. Full information from 020 8979 7904. Thank You.

Eric Yardley

Council of Christians and Jews (Staines and District Branch)

JEWISH FESTIVE FOODS
Explained by **PHYLLIS CONWAY**

Thursday 10th June 2004 at 8.00 pm
Staines Synagogue Westbrook Road Staines
JEWISH FESTIVE FOOD TASTINGS AFTERWARDS

Tickets only obtainable in advance
Telephone Carol Greville-Giddings 01784 455615
£5.00 each - includes Festive Food Refreshments

ALL THE THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT YOUR TAXES!

1. The first known Chancellor was "Henry the Treasurer" who appears in the Domesday Book, and many have served William the Conqueror.
2. The annual Budget seems to have taken its early form in the 1730's. The term comes from "bougette", a wallet in which documents or monies were kept.
3. The term "exchequer" comes from a chequered table, used from about 1110 to calculate expenditure and receipts on a grid pattern.
4. In 1377, the infamous Poll Tax was born. In 1381, Wat Tyler led a revolt against King Richard II's levy of a shilling on everybody over the age of 14.
5. In 1695, a tax was levied on bachelors, in a bid to encourage men to marry. The state of Missouri followed suit in 1820.
6. In 1702, in Russia, Peter the Great levied a "beard tax", apparently intended to encourage men to adopt the clean-shaven "civilised" look of the West.
7. A "hat tax" was levied here in 1784. Hatters had to buy a licence, and hats sold had a duty-stamp pasted inside them.
8. Although income taxes had appeared earlier, a graduated Income Tax was officially introduced in the late 1700's by William Pitt the Younger to fund the Napoleonic wars.
9. Strictly speaking, Income Tax has been "temporary" since the 1840's. It expires every year on 5 April, and Parliament has to re-apply it by a Finance Act.
10. PAYE was introduced in 1944, while capital gains tax and corporation tax arrived in 1965.
11. VAT was introduced by Edward Heath's government on April Fools Day 1973.

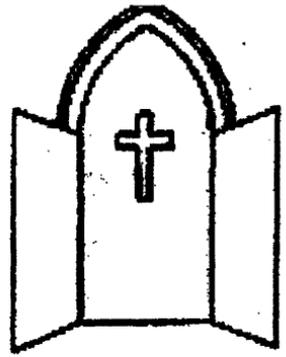
Nobody loves the tax-man, or likes paying Income Tax, but if you have to pay it, you can take comfort in knowing that if you Gift-aid your charitable giving, the tax-man will return to the charity 28p for every pound of your giving - and, if you are lucky (?) Enough to be a higher rate taxpayer, you can claim further tax relief via your annual Return. So, taxpayers, if you are making a gift to our Church, Gift-Aid it! Using and filling in a Gift Aid envelope is the simplest way. If you have any doubts or queries, our Treasurer, Paul Peterken will be happy to advise.

Support the Princess Alice Hospice

Susan Taylor, 18 St. James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, is competing in the London Triathlon on 31 July this year to raise funds for the Hospice.

You can support the Hospice by sponsoring Susan. Do this either on line via www.justgiving.com/susanstri or by knocking on Susan's door and making an entry on her sponsorship form.

Opening Our Doors



St James's Day 4th July Picnic in the Park

A change from our normal St James's Day BBQ. A really great fun day out. We will be organising a series of sponsored events, including games and activities for the children, a 5km run around the park and a sponsored cycle relay around the park. More details from the Vicarage.

Harvest Festival Spectacular 1st - 3rd October 2004

A celebratory weekend to officially open the new West Porch. Starting with a fabulous **Flower Festival on Friday 1st October**, our very own **Roving Harvest Supper on Saturday 2nd October** and our **Harvest Festival celebrations and official opening of the West Porch on Sunday 3rd October**.

We hope to involve as many people as possible in our celebrations, we have some ideas on how to achieve this but would welcome lots more. One popular idea is for Brian to visit local schools, possibly giving each child a seed to grow in time for the Harvest Festival. The flower festival will be promoted as widely as possible and we hope to welcome many new comers through our doors to view the wonderful arrangements.

Barn Dance - Early February 2005

A great way to shed a few of those extra pounds left over from Christmas. Details haven't yet been finalised, but make a mental note now to start practising. Tickets will be £15.00 per person including a Delicious Fork Buffet Supper and glass of wine.

Buy a Brick Project

This project will run throughout the year. There are various packages to suit all budgets, with Bricks starting at £5.00 each right through to the actual glass doors and roof itself. For further information, please ask any of the fundraising committee for a sponsorship package leaflet.



During May we have with great pleasure welcomed many families for baptism on Sunday morning at 9.30 am and at smaller services.

Many thanks to our Christian Aid collectors and all who gave generously in their envelopes. Next month we will have news of the total amount contributed in this year's Christian Aid Week.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Kim Duller and Jonathan Smith who have organised many of our 'Opening the doors' events, and whose fund raising expertise has been very useful. They have now retired from the committee and will be much missed.

Best wishes to all the younger members of our congregation who are sitting exams of various kinds. We wish you every success.

Our friend Nesta Humphreys died a few weeks ago. We shall miss her on Sunday mornings. Our thoughts are with her family.

Hampton Enterprise Transport coach trips are on offer to a number of places including Kempton Park Market, Garson's Farm and the London Eye. Ring Ron at the Greenwood Centre (8979 9662) to find out more. Ring the same number if you can't manage to cope with heavy shopping. You may be able to use one of the regular shopping bus trips to Sainsbury's or Tesco's.

Our MP, Dr Vincent Cable would like to hear our views on the **proposed closure of Tangle Park (and Priory Rd) Post Offices**. He can be contacted, by 1st June, at 7 Kestrel House, 111 Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4AF. The Post Office would also like to hear our views by 21st June. They can be contacted: Paul Simmonds, Head of Area, Post Office Ltd, c/o National Consultation Team, P.O. Box 2060, Watford WD18 8ZW



Lifeboats

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

June 6th

After Church, why not visit Teddington Lock where the Lifeboat Station will be open and the Barge Lock will be celebrating its centenary? Many activities near the Lifeboat Station, on the Lock and Ham Riverside. See local Press for more details. Please come by public transport if possible - parking very restricted.

Jill Goddard 8287 7438

FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

18 Gabriella Katy Louise Twynam, Hampton Hill

FUNERALS

| | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|
| 22 | Arnold Whittles, Hampton Hill | 81 |
| 26 | Winifred Mary Wigginton, Sunbury | 93 |
| 27 | Lila Cooper, Twickenham | 79 |
| 30 | Irene Clare Raynsford, Hampton | 77 |

DATES TO NOTE IN JUNE

1 Justin the martyr c165
3 Martyrs of Uganda 1886 & 1928
5 Boniface bishop and martyr 754
6 **Trinity Sunday**
8 Thomas Ken bishop and hymn writer
9 Columba, abbot and missionary 597
10 **Day of Thanksgiving for institution of the Holy Communion - Corpus Christi**
11 Barnabas the Apostle
13 **1st Sunday after Trinity**
15 Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer 1941
20 **2nd Sunday after Trinity**
22 Alban martyr c250
23 Etheldreda, abbess c678
24 Birth of John the Baptist
27 **3rd Sunday after Trinity**
28 Irenaeus, bishop and teacher of the faith c200
29 Peter and Paul Apostles