

Aaah! 'The lazy days of summer' are back with us again. There is something deeply attractive about July is there not? It may not be that the days are particularly lazy but hopefully with good weather and long evenings of sunshine the days themselves may feel a little less rushed and a little more relaxed. If you are on holiday during this month then do enjoy yourselves. Take time and opportunity to do the things which bring relaxation, refreshment and recreation. If you are not on holiday this month then enjoy the things which can be enjoyed at home.

Reading the Genesis stories again recently it struck me that God declares 'good' everything he has made at the end of each creating day. The writers remind us after the creation of light and earth and animals and fish and things to eat that 'God saw all that he had made and it was very good'. We do need to remember the goodness of God's creation not only in the beauty of a new landscape while on holiday but also in the well worn parts of our daily habitation. In our society which is constantly acquisitive for the new, we do well to remember that which we already experience of God's goodness in our daily lives. How easy it is to forget that it is in the ordinary that we find the extraordinary generosity of God. So in July take time, whether at home or away, to notice the good things around you. I try to remind myself how lucky I am to live surrounded by Bushy Park. Walk in there at dusk and ask yourself am I really surrounded by nine million other Londoners here? For the openness and space seems almost infinite. Stroll back home and stop in at your local to enjoy a pint and the hanging baskets. Peer over the neighbours' hedge and admire their garden. Or even better invite the neighbours round, take the neighbours with you to Bushy Park or to the pub and enjoy a drink together. Sit outside for breakfast, get the barbecue out for lunch; whatever it takes, do something different this August and come afresh to the goodness of God where you live.

For the great thing about observing the goodness of God in creation is to be reminded that we have not earned it. We have done absolutely nothing to warrant the beauty of Bushy Park or the delight of that first sip of a pint of bitter on its refreshing way down the throat. We have not earned the beauty of our gardens or the friendship of our companions; they are all part of God's bounty. In traditional language this might be called God's mercy, the unwarranted gift of God which depends not upon us but upon the very nature of our loving creator who is at the heart of all things and all relationships. And when we are reminded of God's generosity so too we are reminded of the need for us to live caught up in that generous way. Aware of the unwarranted mercy of God in the generosity of God's love so too we are reminded that it is for all God's children and not just us. The goodness and bounty of the earth is to be shared and cherished for all God's children and those yet to come.

So in July take the opportunity for a 'lazy day' which may not be a day at all, it may

be half an hour or an afternoon. But take the opportunity nevertheless to enjoy God's creation, to be reminded that the creation is a sign of God's infinite generosity and be reminded too that as Christians we are bound to live by sharing that generosity.

Brian Leathard

THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF HAMPTON HILL BROWNIES

I was very saddened to read Brown Owl's article in the May edition of the Spire, pleading for someone to come forward to run 3rd Hampton Hill Brownies. I have applied for a warrant to become a Brown Owl but I cannot do this alone. I have a very busy life with four young children aged from 6 months to eight years old and am also currently studying for an NVQ at work but I have managed to find the time to help out. We are all very busy people with complicated lives and we all have reasons why we can't find the time to help, but please ask yourself honestly, are they really valid or just an excuse?

If you have ever helped out at Brownies you will know how much the children love it. Every week I see so much enthusiasm and I can't wait for Tuesday to come round again. Why not come and see for yourselves?

It would be terrible to have to explain to our children why 3rd Hampton Hill Brownies can no longer continue. Don't hope that someone else will come forward. It is up to you.

Natasha Clifford

Lesley Brough has given so many years to our Brownies and we cannot let it close now. Natasha, who is extremely busy herself, has volunteered. Please can you help her to ensure their survival? Two years ago, our Scout Group was in a similar position and facing closure. Now, with new leaders, committee and the support of parents, it is one of the largest groups in the area, revitalised and with waiting lists bursting at the seams. Let's do the same for our Brownies!!

BAZAAR Saturday 20 November
Please note the date of our next Bazaar in your diary now. Any ideas for stalls or offers of help please contact Wendy Baker on 8979 3654. More information as the date draws nearer.



The West Porch

By the time you have read this it will all have changed! To the trained, and even untrained, observer there has been much building activity going on. Some, but not all, of it has been to plan. There had to be an adjustment of the position of the west wall which required extra piling. This resulted in some delay which means that the project is currently behind schedule by about four weeks. (How often is a building project ahead of schedule?) However, as I write, the piles are completed, the base is ready and the walls will start growing fairly rapidly now. By the time the magazine is published the roof might even be on.

The steering group have regular meetings with the contractors and the architects to discuss progress and to sort out big issues as well as details. There are also meetings to discuss the fitting out of the new space that will become available soon. The office space is going to take in lots of the things that are currently scattered around the parish, some with Janet Nunn, some with Griselda Barrett, some with the churchwardens, and some on the floor, and in the filing cabinets, of Brian's study. This will bring together the increasing load of administration of the parish into a central point that is part of the church. The other room will have many functions as a small meeting room, an interview room, a counselling room and will be fitted out appropriately. But, most importantly, we shall have the view through the new glass doors from St James's Road right up to the altar, which will be illuminated as the focus of our church. Truly this is an opening of our doors.

Fund raising continues and there is an updated timetable with more details of all the events that are taking place over the coming months. These events have been and continue to be ways of not only fund raising but bringing people from across the parish together with a common purpose in support of opening our doors, and our church, to all.



OPENING OUR DOORS

Future Events

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

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

Monthly Roving Theme Dinners

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 29 th July at 7.30 pm | Jack Gostling's birthday bash for 15 people |
| 21 st August at 12.30 pm | Pimm's party and lunch at Tim and Ros McDowell's, Teddington |
| 11 th September | Julie Gittoes' Veggie Feast for 20 people |

Harvest Festival Spectacular 1st - 3rd October

A celebratory weekend to officially open the new West Porch

Friday 1st October Flower Festival

Saturday 2nd October Roving Harvest Supper

Sunday 3rd October Harvest Festival celebrations and official opening of the West Porch

Buy a Brick Project

This runs throughout the year. There are various packages to suit all budgets, with bricks starting at £5, paving stones, windows, heaters, right through to the actual glass doors and the roof. Please ask any of the fundraising committee for a sponsorship package leaflet.

BELL RINGING



Would you like to learn to ring our bells? They are rung before Parish Communion every Sunday, at festivals, for weddings and even occasionally at funerals. At present, we have 7 adult bellringers, ably assisted from time to time by some of our Guides. However, even now there are occasions when we all seem to be away the same weekend and two of our ringers will be moving abroad, so newcomers would be welcome.

I would like to teach some new ringers, preferably during July or August. Times can be flexible to fit round other commitments. Our bells are rung by one person, although we often like to have two, so once trained the commitment is only to ring from 9.15 to 9.30 about every fourth or fifth Sunday.

If you are interested, or would just like to come and see what is involved, please let me know.

Susan Horner 8979 9380



Lifeboats

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Evening River Boat Trip on Tuesday 20th July 2004 from Kingston Landing Stage leaving at 7.15 pm. Tickets are £18 including supper. Music will be provided by Gary and Jack Fletcher. Please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Jill Goddard

PRIMERA COMUNIÓN DE NICOLÁS CÉSAR SILVESTER

Twenty years ago, when she was eighteen and on holiday, my niece Jane met a handsome young Spaniard. She married him and lives happily in his home town Nerja on the Costa del Sol, a highly suitable place for her only aunt and godmother to make regular visits.

This May I went for a very special occasion, my younger great-nephew Niki's First Communion. All Nerja's children used to take part in this ceremony at ten years old or so, but Jane says numbers have dwindled to 75% as many younger people no longer believe.

In some ways, Spain is country of extremes - the passion of flamenco, the cruelty of bull fights, the joy and noise of fiesta and so on. First Communion is extremely spiritual and extremely materialistic.

The children attend weekly classes in small groups for two years prior to the ceremony. They must learn by heart the Creed, Commandments, Seven Sacraments, names of Apostles, Ave Maria etc. Jane's integration into the Spanish way of life had included a vague acceptance of Catholicism, but when she was asked to be a catequista and teach one of these groups she received weekly instruction from Juan, the cherubic-faced young deacon, before passing on her knowledge to the children, this year including Niki. She said they all have to work so hard in preparation and rehearsals that some children can be completely put off and hardly ever go back to church.

Long before the great day, many Spaniards take out large bank loans for the receptions, presents and outfits. Girls wear white and boys (for no apparent reason) naval officers' uniforms (£200 and never worn again)! A book of posed studio photographs of Niki looking pensive / prayerful / joyous alongside a sailor's trunk and a stuffed white dove is commissioned. Photos of all the children are displayed in a shop window for weeks beforehand. Jane books the Parador for the reception including a five-course dinner for fifty. She buys a designer outfit and when I arrive is panicking that "the Avon lady hasn't brought the pink nail varnish for the First Communion"! The children compete as to who gets the most money and rush off to spend it on Play Stations. Niki is well pleased with an electric drum kit and £500.

And yet . . . the little white church of El Salvador is packed long before the service is due to start. The pews are filled with older friends and relations with front rows reserved for grandparents. Young couples and families throng the aisles, talking loudly, chewing gum, making phone calls. Film crews dash about and nearly everyone has a camera. This being the Costa del Sol it pours with rain all day. I am able to follow the gist of the service which very much resembles our Eucharist. The children process to the front with their proud parents, Niki solemnly bearing the chalice. Although cameras whirr and conversation continues, once the elderly priest Don Francisco begins his address a silence falls as he imposes his wisdom and authority over his flock. We follow the children in receiving Communion (bread only

of course). I had previously been granted permission by the priest, but other members of my family chose not to partake.

A wonderful party follows; there is a tiered cake with a tiny naval officer on top. The young deacon wrote each child a letter which they received the next day, a sweet gesture. It ends: "God will pronounce your name in the silence of your heart each night, a whisper which you will only hear if your ears are attuned to His word This is for your tomorrows, for you have lived enough for today".

Marion Dewey



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1904 Extracts from the July Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

The Sunday School Excursion on 20th ult., was one of the most successful we have had. The weather was perfect, and although we started early and came home late, our large party found plenty of things to entertain them in Portsmouth and Southsea. We took two hundred and one children, and a large number of parents and friends joined us. This is always a hard day for Teachers, but their work was far lighter than it might have been owing to the excellent behaviour of the children.

The Temperance Committee have decided to hold another open-air Meeting this Summer, and it will take place in the Vicarage Garden, on Tuesday, the 5th inst., at 7.30. Mr Eardley-Wilmot, from the Central Society, has promised to give us an Address. There will be light refreshments at the close. Tickets may be obtained from the members.

As St. James's Day comes on a Monday, and the Schools break up on the previous Friday, the usual treat will be on the Friday afternoon, and will take the usual form. The children and Teachers will meet at the Schools at two o'clock and march through the village, with band and banners, to the Vicarage. The children's tea will be at four o'clock. Gifts of provisions for the children's tea, and toys, &c., for prizes, will be thankfully received.

I am, my dear Friends,

Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB

Also in this July issue of the magazine was a prescient article.

The Motor Car & Its Story A NEW TRIUMPH OF SCIENTIFIC INVENTION

The motor-car, some folks say, is the vehicle of the future. It will almost entirely supersede horsed vehicles, especially in towns, and it may seriously threaten the

supremacy of the railway-engine itself. So folks say.

A high-power motor-car can whizz along at sixty miles an hour, and yet can move gently at the speed of a methodical and meditative farm-horse. It can be stopped suddenly within its own length, and it can swerve aside as rapidly and warily as an expert skater - to avoid collision - if the driver knows his business. Nothing so swift, nothing so docile, nothing so easily managed as a good motor-car — so folks say.

Without endorsing all these statements, yet we may still hold that the motor-car has a great future before it . . . three "powers" are in use - steam, electricity and oil or petroleum spirit. The last-named is also called "petrol", and is perhaps the most suitable for the lighter carriages; as it enables them to be driven at high speeds for long distances. Steam would seem to be the best adapted for heavy vehicles, while electricity is no doubt the best of the three

Motor-omnibuses are not unlikely to be made which will largely supersede not only horse-buses but also electric tramcars there would seem to be no reason why we should not give a warm welcome to this new triumph of scientific invention.

FAMILY MOVE

The Adelaja family are relative newcomers to our congregation. We are very happy to welcome them to St. James's.

Debo and Sade Adelaja moved with their two sons - Seun and Kunle - to the neighbourhood from Enfield Deanery in October 2003. The move primarily brought a big relief to the family in terms of travel-time to work. Debo works with the Surrey Police at its HQ in Mount Browne, Guildford while Sade is with BP at Sunbury. The children, aged 17 and 15 are at Kingston College and Hampton Community School respectively.

The family is committed to living a truly Christian life and follows a family tradition of commitment to the Anglican Communion. Debo's father and two aunts are diocesan Readers, his sister is a priest, his uncle was an archdeacon and granduncle was the Bishop of Lagos. Sade's father is a reader and the medical adviser to the Archbishop of Lagos.

Debo graduated in 1979 with a Bsc Combined Honours degree in Geography and Archaeology and started his career as an Assistant Curator with the Nigerian National Museum before proceeding to University of Strathclyde for a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Between 1982 and 1994 he lectured at the University of Nigeria, served as a Branch Manager at the Federal Mortgage Bank, Head of Banking Operations at Quality Homes and obtained a second Master degree in

Banking and Finance. Since returning to Britain in mid-1994, Debo particularly enjoyed his term as a Missionary cum Senior Administrator with the Leprosy Mission International. He is a licensed Reader of the Church of England with a diploma in theology. He is an Associate of the Institute of Management Consultancy (AIMC) and a member of the Association for Project Managers (MAPM).

Sade was born in London about 42 years ago and studied at the universities of East Anglia and Strathclyde where she obtained her Bachelors and Masters degrees. Prior to starting work at BP she worked as Human Resources Adviser and Manager at Scope and with Cubic Transportation Ltd. She set up and currently runs the Empowerment and Equality Focus Group for the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development - North London Branch. She is a chartered member (MCIPD) as well as a committee member of the Institute.

Mr. Adelaja and the boys have been members of St. James Church Hampton Hill Choir since the move to the neighbourhood in October last year. However, Debo had continued to help with the Church service at All Saints (alternate morning and evening services) until 18th April 2004 when he gave his last sermon. While at All Saints Church, Debo was a member of the Parochial committee, a Synod delegate, member of the Healing and Prayer ministry, the Worship committee, Tithe and Gift committee, crossing Bridges and a chorister. Sade was a sides person and also served as a resource for both the Sunday school and the Youth club.

The family is particularly happy to have found a church that is both welcoming and constantly dishes out inspiring altar messages every Sunday.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year our contribution from St. James's was £3247, a sum which reflects both the commitment of our 30 collectors who each spent several hours distributing and then collecting the well-known red envelopes and also the generosity of many who made individual donations. Those who signed the envelopes as tax-payers made a difference of about £500, which represents the amount refunded by the government.

Christian Aid sends thanks to you all with this message: "By supporting Christian Aid Week, you are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions, commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world. Thank you".

There are almost 600 partner organisations in more than 50 countries worldwide that Christian Aid funds and supports. The donations received in Christian Aid Week make their life-changing work possible.

Margaret Taylor



Elsewhere in this issue, you see the splendid total from our Christian Aid collection. Congratulations and many thanks to Margaret Taylor for all her hard work in co-ordinating the collection, a time-consuming task which she has cheerfully undertaken for many years.

Thank you also to Kim and Jon for a most enjoyable and successful Quiz evening.

Ken Taylor, of Teddington Choral Society, died on 24th May. He was involved in Rotary and community work over very many years. We would also like to extend our sympathy to Megan Parry on the death of her brother, Evan Roberts.

Anusha Leathard, Francesca Croney and Tom Gilbey all celebrated their 21st birthdays in May. Congratulations to you all.

The "wedding season" has now started and there have been several happy occasions involving members of our congregation. James Robinson, son of Coryn and Ian and grandson of Hal and Eila, married Melanie King in Shrewsbury in May. Later in May, Arabella Bunce, daughter of Tina and Michael, married Graeme Trethewey in Oxfordshire. On 3rd July, Enida Ighodaro will marry Femi Durosinmi-Etti at St. James's. We send our congratulations and best wishes for the future to all these couples.

THE HAMPTON HILL ASSOCIATION LIVES ON!

In May we reported that the Hampton Hill Association was in crisis and would be dissolved at the AGM unless new volunteers came forward. We are delighted to have received the following from their Public Relations Manager, Malcolm Day:

It was going to be a 'make or break' AGM for the Hampton Hill Association as its future was in grave doubt. In front of a packed audience, which included our four ward councillors, the outgoing Chairman Larry Dann spelt out that in order for the Association to survive it was vital for new officers and committee members to come forward. The only alternative would be dissolution. There was a spontaneous surge of offers and the Association was overwhelmed with volunteers to fill all the posts. Larry Dann said "This is beyond our wildest dreams. We hoped that the strong community spirit within our village would shine through and it certainly has. I would like to thank most sincerely all those who have served the association since its inception 40 years ago and now thank the new officers and their teams for coming forward at the eleventh hour".

Colin Keates, the new Chairman, said "I am sure that given the commitment and enthusiasm shown tonight we can keep the Hampton Hill Association well and truly on the map. It is our intention to preserve and enrich Hampton Hill in all respects".

FROM THE MAY REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 16 Hope Elizabeth Groizard, Hampton Hill
Joshua Ryan Bass, Hampton Hill
Isabel Marnie Dexter, Hampton
Luke William Dexter, Hampton
Miles Andrew David Belgrave, Camberley
Connor Stewart Wright, Hampton
Lauren Catherine Tauwhare, Hampton
Sian Louise Irwin, Hampton
- 23 Ruby Miranda Prasher, Hampton Hill
Max Morgan Kimberley, Hampton

WEDDINGS

- 22 Paul Peter Munday and Jennifer Suzanne Lee

FUNERALS

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 5 | Richard Frank Purbrick | 57 |
| 7 | Nesta Anne Sophia Humphrey | 78 |
| 28 | Mrs Lillian Emily Hanson, Hampton Hill | 92 |

DATES TO NOTE FOR JULY

- 3 **Thomas the Apostle**
4 **St James the Apostle**
6 Thomas More, martyr, 1535
11 **Trinity 5**
14 John Keble, priest and poet, 1866
15 Swithun, Bishop of Winchester
18 **Trinity 6**
19 Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, 394
22 **Mary Magdalene**
20.00 Choral Evensong at St. James'
27 Bishop Westcott, teacher of faith, 1901
29 Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of our Lord
30 William Wilberforce, social reformer, 1833
31 Ignatius of Loyola, founder of Jesuits, 1566