

Simple random stimuli have made me think about land over the last few weeks and I hope that by the time you get to the end of this article you may feel they are less random than initially seems. First we have been delighted in the vicarage to enjoy this year's bumper crop of blackberries. Not only does it seem very early for the blackberries to be fruiting but the fruits themselves in our well tended wilderness areas of the garden and in the churchyard are real whoppers. Large and juicy and sweet, they are a delight to eat like sweets or in any other form. By the time you read this there may be relatively few left!

The second stimulus has been our Old Testament reading at morning prayer each day for the last month. We have been marching, often literally, through the Book of Judges. The Book of Judges is not an easy read at the best of times. It is about a conquest of the land by the Israelites after they crossed from Jordan and began to settle in the "promised land". Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose! It does seem that some things never change because, of course, the Israelites didn't just walk into an empty land; they routed, defeated and put to flight almost all the contemporary inhabitants of the land we now call Israel and Palestine. The stories in the Book of Judges are at best violent and at worst downright gruesome. They certainly don't make light reading at 9.15 in the morning. They do, however, show a determination of the Israelites, or at least most of them, to adhere to what they believe God had called them to. In our contemporary world we may well dispute that that is how God seeks to use the land of his creation and the people who seek to follow him, but for the ancient Israelites they were clear in their sense of duty and action. They had no hesitation in taking land away from people who they felt had an inferior claim to it even though they may have been there first.

The third stimulus has been a fascinating book by Robert Winder called 'Bloody Foreigners - the story of Immigration to Britain'. It is a fascinating read tracing the history of immigration from the very first immigrants into the British Isles 25,000 years ago to our reaction to contemporary refugees and asylum seekers. It traces the continuing waves of immigration through settlement, economic adventure, military conquest, sanctuary and refuge, all of which are not new issues but ancient occurrences constantly re-working themselves.

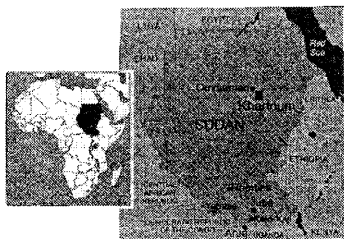
So taken altogether these three stimuli have made me ask what's the Christian attitude towards land, its ownership, possession and use? It is a very hard question to answer. An Englishman's home might be his castle but as Winder remarks: 'Who is an Englishman anyway?' It was clear that in the biblical story certain newcomers among the Israelites felt that their claim on land was actually better than the claim of the current land holders - something which is not only contained in the Old Testament but is once again being played out before our eyes in Palestine and Israel in our own day. And so I turn to the blackberries once again because it does seem to me that the humble bramble which we can look down upon from our gardening heights as a weed which has to be controlled, cut back and uprooted, nevertheless is a good example of

the way we ought to treat the land. First of all it is not ours, as the biblical story also makes plain the created order belongs to God and we are 'but sojourners and stewards' whose duty it is to tend the land, not only for ourselves but for each other and for the coming generations. It is very easy to look down upon other people as late comers, people seeking after that which we already enjoy, rather like a bramble trying to cash in on a fertile piece of soil competing with our most treasured plants but the result of the bramble is a fruit of great sweetness and enjoyment. So too, I believe, is the diversity of human culture, religion, language, hope and expression which we find in an open, engaging society where each is valued for himself or herself irrespective of when they arrived, who they are or what their hopes are. So, as I tuck into more blackberry crumble, I delight in the sweet diversity of God's creation and hope that you will too as we move towards harvest, the harvest of our compassion and love for God's creation and all his children.

*Brian Leathard*

---

## SUDAN



I am sure you have all heard a lot about Sudan over the last six weeks. It is very easy to think 'another crisis' when we listen to the news but as St James' Mission Link Partner the newsletters arriving from Joanna Udal and other information from the Church Mission Society (CMS) has made me more aware of Sudan and its people.

Here are some basic facts supplied by CMS

- Sudan is the largest country in Africa - ten times the size of the UK, with its landscape varying from desert in the north to rainforest in the south.
- The population in 2001 was 32.2 million; there is an infant mortality rate of 65 per 1000 live births while the life expectancy is 55.4 years.
- Christianity probably came to Sudan between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries and Christians now account for about 25% of the population.
- The main protestant church is the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) which was founded in 1899. Since 1976 the ECS has been a Province in its own right beginning with 4 dioceses and now there are 24. The ECS works in nearly all parts of the country and since 2000 has been under the leadership of Archbishop Dr Joseph Marona. Joanna Udal is assistant to the Archbishop, currently based in Khartoum.
- Many Christians have had their faith tested by the suffering caused by war and famine. Many have had to flee the country or are displaced within Sudan.

- Islam and the Arabic languages are pre-eminent in many northern parts of the country while more traditional African languages and cultures predominate in the south.
- Sudan has been independent since 1956 but a civil war started then and has continued for 16 years. The war ended in 1972 when some autonomy was given to the south. However, in 1983 when General Nimeiry (in power since 1969) tried to impose Islamic law on the whole country, the rebel movement in the south resumed its activities and war continued till 2002 when a peace process began. This was to be completed in June 2003 but was extended till June 2004 when crucial agreements were finally reached.

Joanna was part of this peace process, when she attended the Ecumenical Forum Assembly just after the signing, as part of the Sudanese Church delegation. In her July newsletter she writes of the crucial role the ecumenical community has played on the road towards peace. She writes that the greatest challenges for achieving peace are in Sudan itself with the peoples' lifelong experiences of civil war and injustices. The Church is setting up a Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Committee to help broken communities become reconciled. A small team have been undertaking training for clergy, Mothers' Union and Youth leaders to raise awareness of their responsibilities for advocacy and peace building in their communities. Joanna was co-opted to the team for training in Wau. The issues tackled during training were very real to the local community. It must be hard to practice forgiveness when you return home after years of separation by war to find your wife, home and cattle taken by somebody else.

Finally, besides all the problems of a prolonged civil war, Sudan is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. The economy has been in a poor state over the past 20 years due largely to the war, declining annual rainfall and the large foreign debt. Now we have the stories given to us daily of increasing famine and a rising death toll amongst those who are starving.

Our generosity with financial help is one thing but as Joanna says - please pray for peace and help for all these people. To learn more do read Joanna's newsletter which I put on the noticeboard every month. More information can be obtained from the CMS - email: [info@cms-uk.org](mailto:info@cms-uk.org) or [www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)

*Gwynneth Lloyd*

**THE 2004 BAZAAR**

**When? Saturday 20 November**

**How can you help?** Please volunteer to run one of the following stalls or suggest a stall which you would be prepared to run:

Tombola Raffle Cakes Books Refreshments  
 Gifts Home-made Preserves Plants

Please contact Wendy Baker as soon as possible with your offer of help on 8979 3654 or see her after church on Sunday.

# ST JAMES' CHURCH - PASTORAL VISITORS TEAM

Would you like to be visited?

There's a group of us in this parish who are happy to visit people and indeed are doing so at present. The idea is to call for a chat, give a friendly ear, to anybody in the local community who fancies some company, including those who are housebound, are feeling lonely, or aren't too well. A visit to someone might be on a monthly basis, alternatively more or less often, by the same person where possible.

There's nothing like a chinwag on a dull afternoon and you never know, you might get to hear a shaggy dog story.

Incidentally, anybody who would like to do some visiting would be most welcome, and could contact Brian on 8979 2069 or Greta on 8979 6222 to register their interest.



## St. James's Chronicles

---

### The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1904 Extracts from the September Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

A list of subscriptions to the Annual Treats' Fund will be found below . . . . the total amount fell short of the actual expenditure by something over four pounds. If this should meet the eye of any who have not contributed . . . .

The Electric Light is now being installed in the Church. The adoption of the light was unanimously decided upon at a meeting of the Churchwardens and Sidesmen, and a Committee, consisting of the Churchwardens, Mr Bearcroft and myself was appointed to see the matter through. Experiments have been made and a system finally fixed upon. The installation will be completed about the middle of the month. Not only will the light be much better than it is at present, but there will not be that exhaustion of the atmosphere, incidental to gas, which is so trying in a large building. I think the general effect of the new lamps will be very good, and I hope universally pleasing. The total cost of the installation will be about £90. It has not been decided whether this sum should be raised at once, or whether the payment should be spread over fourteen years . . . . It is hoped that the total cost will not exceed that of gas, but of course this yet remains to be proved.

The Harvest Festival is fixed for Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, St Michael's and All Angels Day . . . . Gifts of Corn, Bread, Fruit and Flowers, and the loan of plants will be very thankfully received. The summer has been one of the most delightful on record, with more than the average sunshine, and the season has been a very

productive one in most of the fruits of the earth. We ought to be thankful, and the least we can do is to show our gratitude by gift and praise.

I am, my dear Friends,

Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB

*There was also an interesting article by F M Holmes:*

### THE SUBMARINE BOAT

The very mention of the words Submarine Boat suggests the question, How can men live and breathe below the waves?

For the answer we may reply, that they take their air with them, just as they take their food and drink. "Is the air all right?" We can imagine the captain asking, before he orders the boat to dive below; and he will be told that the reservoirs are full - full, not of air exactly as we breathe it around us every day, but compressed very tight, so that the store chambers contain sufficient, when gradually released, to supply the men for several hours . . . . .

Compressed air is also employed at various pressures to work parts of the machinery . . . . . Compressed air, therefore, is one of the secrets of the submarine.

Electricity is another secret. Steam was found unsuitable as a motive power, and electricity has been employed instead, its use being to drive a screw-propeller fitted to the stern. When the boat is on the surface, she may be driven by a gasoline engine; but when she descends to the depths, ubiquitous electricity comes into play from accumulators, and sends the vessel onwards at a speed of seven or eight knots . . . . .

The future of the submarine appears, however, to be still uncertain. The great limitation of vision is no doubt a difficulty and a danger; but that inventors have done so much is a marvel. Calling the latest resources of science to their aid, they have built boats which will actually live beneath the waves and enable brave-hearted men to venture down to the realm of the lonely and mysterious sea.

*(This much abbreviated extract hardly does justice to a fascinating article, much of which is hardly outdated a hundred years later).*

---

### A RESPONSE TO WHAT NEXT? IN THE AUGUST SPIRE

It was so interesting to hear of our young graduates' experiences of university life. They reminded me vividly of my years at college. I look back upon it now as a very important part of my life. Although illness prevented me from following my chosen career, college life was such a profound experience that I have never forgotten it. I do hope our young people will remember the time with joy too. In whatever circumstances they might find themselves, may they remember that education is never wasted. Many congratulations to you all.

*Janet Jeffries*

# THE WORLDS WE LIVE IN

## The Archbishop of Canterbury in public dialogue with global experts

Four meetings in St Paul's Cathedral. Admission is free. Doors open 5.50pm.  
Seating is first come, first served. There will be a retiring collection.

### How should the World be Governed?

**Wednesday 8 September 6.30 - 8 pm**

Dr Rowan Williams, Professor Philip Bobbitt and Lord Owen.

Chaired by Mark Tulley.

Philip Bobbitt is an historian of nuclear strategy and has served in the White House.

David Owen was UK Foreign Secretary from 1977-9.

Mark Tulley was for 22 years the BBC's India and South Asia correspondent.

### Is There an Alternative to Global Capitalism?

**Wednesday 15 September 6.30 - 8 pm**

Dr Rowan Williams, Dr Muhammed Yunus and Professor John Kay.

Chaired by Baroness Williams.

Muhammed Yunus, economist, is founder of the Grameen Bank for the poor.

John Kay is currently visiting Professor at the LSE.

Shirley Williams now sits in the House of Lords as leader of the Liberal Democrats.

### Environment and Humanity - Friends or Foes?

**Tuesday 21 September 6.30 - 8 pm**

Dr Rowan Williams, Dr Ricardo Navarro and Professor Mary Midgley.

Chaired by Baroness Williams.

Ricardo Navarro founded CESTA in El Salvador to promote conservation.

Mary Midgley is a moral philosopher: "our foremost scourge of scientific pretension".

### Is Humanity Killing Itself?

**Thursday 30 September 6.30 - 8 pm**

Dr Rowan Williams, Dr Ian Smith and Dr Russell Greig.

Chaired by Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss.

Ian Smith is now Advisor to the Director-General of the World Health Organisation.

Russell Greig is President of Pharmaceuticals International for GlaxoSmithKline.

Elizabeth Butler-Sloss is President of the Family Division at the Old Bailey

*Note: The notes describing the participants are necessarily very short and omit much of their achievements. Leaflets in the church give fuller material on the dialogues and the participants.*

## SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE

Perhaps one of the most important anniversaries of 2004 is the ten years since South Africa became a democracy. We had a whirlwind visit there earlier in the year, travelling with a friend. It was part holiday and part catching up with friends of longstanding - of all races. We felt the buoyancy in the people and in the country as well as recognising the great needs that still exist and the gap between those who have and those who do not. There are basic needs for water, electricity, housing and jobs all over the country and the devastating onslaught of Aids still has to be fully addressed. A member of the Government, who happened to be a neighbour when she was exiled in London, said recently, "There was a feeling that if you dealt with apartheid a lot of other things would automatically fall into place, but that has not been the case. It is much harder than we expected; a lot of problems are much more deep-seated".

One friend had served in the government for the first five years after Nelson Mandela was sworn in as President. He commented, "People recall he was in prison for 28 years. What they should remember more is that Nelson Mandela left with no bitterness". Some say that helped lay the foundation for the transition to democratic government without bloodshed. And then the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee had a great part in bringing healing where it was desperately needed.

There were two visits which have stayed with us. We travelled an hour's drive from Pretoria to see someone who is Clerk of the Court in her locality. She had specially taken the afternoon off to talk and give us tea. She has a responsible job which includes collecting fines from people who have had driving offences, and which is done with much humour. She recounted her recent experience of bringing reconciliation between two people in the work place. We had a moving two hours with her as she told of situations within her family which reflected some of the difficulties South Africa is facing. We each prayed before leaving for sustenance and strength to overcome the difficulties.

Another friend, Bukiwe, who works as a tour hostess in one of the big Johannesburg hotels, took us to Soweto, the black township, where she lives with her mother. There is an incredible mix of homes there - the identical tiny brick houses, the shacks and the big houses. It was mid-afternoon and the school kids were going home in their smart uniforms. All sorts of goods and fruit were being sold on several street corners - fresh mangoes piled neatly ready for sale. A memorial has been created there for the thirteen-year-old student who had been the first one shot by the police during the student uprising in June 1976. The march had begun as a peaceful protest against the introduction of the Afrikaans language as a medium of instruction in all African schools. The student march led to an uprising which spread all over the country. There is a beautiful museum too documenting the struggle of the youth against the injustices of the regime at that time.

Bukiwe spoke movingly of her sister who had been one of the students protesting that day and then detained by the police for two years. She was now living in Soweto again, married with two sons.

Later we travelled to George on the south coast where we had been invited to stay with cousins of Eila Severn, our travelling companion being a close friend of theirs! They were most generous in their care of us wanting to show us all the local delights which included a visit to an elephant park, orphan baby elephants being fed two litres of cow's milk every two hours!

Finally we visited Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula, surely one of the most beautiful places in the world. We went to the Cape Town press club lunch where the Deputy President was speaking to journalists. He was guarded in his comments!

During our time there we found the Government had issued a big colour poster well documented about progress in the last ten years. Part of it reads, "Ten years since our country's free democratic election, South Africans are taking stock of the progress that freedom has brought towards a better life for all. Government has been looking at how far it has gone to building a caring society since the attainment of democracy. It has also been assessing the weaknesses in our experience and the challenge of the next decade to 2014". It then invites every sector of society (including the faith-based organisations) to assess what the past decade has meant for them.

An Afrikaner friend wrote recently: "Difficult issues confront us. We have to work through them with honesty, courage and hope if the 'South African miracle' is to survive".

*Betty and John Rainbow*

---

## BELU WATER

Walking down the water aisle in Waitrose one day, US entrepreneur Reed Paget had a eureka moment. He recalled hearing that a quarter of the world's population does not have access to clean drinking water. This was to prove the inspiration behind Belu, a bottled water new to selected branches of Waitrose.

What makes Belu different is that all its profits go to clean-water projects in India, where 1.5 million children under five die of water-related diseases each year. Its first project will be in the Thiruvaiyaru region of Tamil Nadu and, by the end of 2005, Paget hopes that sales will be sufficient to repair the community's damaged water pumps and install sanitation units in 500 homes.

The source of Belu water is the remote Wenlock region of Shropshire. Paget says "We want to provide the best product in order to generate profits and with profits we can also have a good impact on the world".

## ROVING SUPPER

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - in aid of Opening Our Doors

For tickets or more information contact Griselda Barrett 8979 2069





Many congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Julie Gittoes! After the completion of her thesis on Anamnesis and the Eucharist; Contemporary Anglican Approaches and her recent viva examination, Julie has passed her PhD and the degree will be awarded in the autumn. There cannot be many parishes in the country with two Reverend Doctors as their clergy! The winner of the "Guess the length of the thesis" competition was Carole Greville-Giddings whose guess was closest to the 74,676 words.

Congratulations also to Jack Gostling, who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of July.

We were delighted to hear of the birth of Greta Rosten's granddaughter Anna, a daughter for Lucy and Peter Moritzen.

As you may have noticed, there has been no building work taking place on the West Porch recently. Our architect is not satisfied with the quality of workmanship in the bricklaying and there will be a pause until this is resolved. Please be patient and careful until the work is completed to the high standard we expect.

Bernard North, known to many in the parish, has died at the age of 96. He was a policeman and master bee-keeper.

Liz Butler's son Crispin married Karine Menard at Cambridge Cottage, Kew Gardens in a ceremony conducted by Marion Dewey after which Brian gave a blessing. We send our best wishes to them and to all the many couples who have married at St James's this summer.

Susan Taylor, of St James's Avenue, competed in the Women's Sprint event in London Triathlon and finished 150<sup>th</sup> out of the 304 women in her race, an excellent result as she was one of very few "older" competitors. She completed the course in 1 hour 40 minutes and has already raised £5080 for Princess Alice Hospice; the total is still rising. Well done, Susan!

Thirza Powell, daughter of Gill and Geof, achieved the Silver Award of the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme last November and has now completed the Gold Award. Thirza is joining the Royal Navy on 6<sup>th</sup> September, starting with basic training at HMS Raleigh at Torpoint and then . . . . the world! We wish her good luck in this exciting new step in her life.

---

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IN HAMPTON  
2004**

Hampton Churches this year collected £11440.50 during Christian Aid Week. St James's share of this total was £2874 which reflected the hard work and dedication of our collectors; there are 31 volunteers, many of whom have done this work for several years. Collectors in Hampton persuaded 434 people to fill in the Gift Aid declaration

on the envelopes which will result in an extra £1074 when the tax is reclaimed. Last year over £1 million was raised for Christian Aid's work in this way!

The grand total for 2004 is expected to be about £15 million; this is very good news for Christian Aid's partners throughout the world and for the people who benefit from their work. So, on behalf of our charity, thank you all so very much.

If you would like to help even more, try the **RICHMOND PARK SPONSORED WALK on 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**. Starting at 10am, it's a day for all the family. Walk as much or as little as you like in congenial company. For sponsorship forms ring Elspeth Clarke on 020 7496 1681 or speak to me.

*Margaret Taylor 8979 3162*

## **FROM THE JULY REGISTERS**

### **BAPTISMS**

- 11 Jonathan Jack Webb, Hampton Hill
- 18 Cory Sinclair Peter Willington, Teddington  
Harri George Ellis Jones, Teddington  
Charlotte Elizabeth Cowper, Hanworth

### **WEDDINGS**

- 3 Olufemi Olaleye Durosinmi-Etti and Enida Irene Ighodaro
- 17 Nicola Knight and Peter Baverstock
- 24 Alexandra Mary Lomax and Dominic Oliver James Cockcroft Bemrose
- 31 Aisling Anna Alexandra Robinson and Michael Paul Smith

### **FUNERALS**

- 8 James Shea, Hampton 68
- 22 Alan Hunter, Hampton 72

## **DATES TO NOTE IN SEPTEMBER**

- 3 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604
- 5 **Trinity 13**
- 12 **Trinity 14**
- 13 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, teacher, 407
- 14 Holy Cross Day
- 15 Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage and martyr, 258
- 16 Ninian, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, 432
- 17 Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, 1179
- 19 **Trinity 15**
- 20 John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia, martyr, 1871
- 21 Matthew, apostle and evangelist
- 25 Lancelot Andrews, Bishop of Winchester, 1626
- 26 **Trinity 16**
- 27 Vincent de Paul, founder of the congregation of the mission, 1660
- 29 St Michael and All Angels