

Can you help me? We have now been in Hampton Hill for nearly eight years. During that period I can think of at least five new supermarkets, within a three mile radius of St. James's. And yet the population of the area has only increased marginally. I can't quite work out which is cart and which is horse. Do we eat more and therefore need more supermarkets, or do we have more supermarkets to encourage us to eat more? Or perhaps I am hopelessly out of touch? I do realise that shopping is now officially Britain's premier leisure activity and I do realise that the diversity of goods and services being sold in supermarkets is expanding rapidly. But can we really be convinced that we want to spend even more time (not to mention money) in shopping?

And now that the question of money has been raised I would like to ask you another question. Could you possibly, during the whole of the month of May, collect all your till receipts from any of the big local supermarkets and bring them to church. We shall be collecting them according to the issuing store and using them in an exercise of some considerable interest. The big supermarkets lay before us a bewildering array of goods from around the world. If in any doubt read the ingredients listed on the back of your breakfast cereal packet or look along any fruit and vegetable section and you will see how extremely dependent we have become on products from all across the world.

As the big supermarkets are in such keen competition with each other we, along with many other parishes and churches across the country, want to challenge the supermarkets to look particularly carefully at the ethical implications of their purchasing power. By the end of May we hope to have gathered enough till receipts to write to the local stores, who all report such concerns to their Head Offices, to say here in this community we spend corporately £X,000 per month in your stores and we are very concerned to know about the way in which you - Sainsbury, Tesco, Waitrose, Somerfield, Safeway, approach fair trading. Yes you may stock Cafe Direct and Clipper Tea, but how do you ensure that mange-tout growers in Kenya, Demerara sugar reapers in the Caribbean, rice pluckers in India are receiving decent rates of pay, that child labour is not being unfairly used; that workers are not exposed to dangerous pesticides or working practices which would be outlawed in Britain; that long term damage to the environment is not happening in Bangladesh as salt water is being used to flood land for prawn cultivation?

As you will observe from elsewhere in this edition of *The Spire* this month of May sees the annual **Christian Aid Week** door to door collection as well as our **Young Church's Shoe Shine on Saturday 17th May from 10.30 to 13.00 in the High Street**. But Christian Aid Week isn't just about the little red envelope through your door, or about one week a year. Each of us has a God-given responsibility for each other, all year round. Jesus reminds us that the labourer is worth of his (or her) hire and tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves. 'Tesco, ergo sum' may roughly be translated 'I shop, therefore I am' but does

your shopping really define who you are, or indeed your relationship with God and your neighbour, both of whom have participated in the production of your purchase?

We look forward to receiving your till receipts, either in church or pop them through the Vicarage letter box. We shall of course bring you the results. Watch this space!

Brian Leathard

MIRACLES AT ST. JAMES'S

Two hundred people leave the church clutching oranges whose spikes have already been stripped of their 'seasonal fruits' after the Christingle service, one hundred and fifty people leave the Mothering Sunday service, each with a bunch of flowers. How did that happen? Who remembered far enough in advance to organise the group to assemble these little gifts and see that the necessary materials were at hand? While you are working that out, consider how it is that while you may be agonizing over housework not done, the church never looks dirty. What about the services held at Marling Court and Laurel Dene? Well, at St. James's these miracles have been performed by Margaret Taylor for the last five years, along with a number of even less obvious administrative tasks and decisions that fall to the lot of the churchwarden.

I must hasten to add that Margaret does not do all these things by herself, as she would be very cross if those who do the work she organises were not given due credit, and she is always keen to nurture others and avoid the limelight herself. We all hope that Margaret will continue to do at least some of these jobs after she retires as churchwarden at this year's A.P.C.M. - You don't HAVE to be a churchwarden to Hoover the sanctuary carpet! However, I do want to say thankyou very much, on behalf of all the congregation for her work over the past five years and her wonderful quality of being there whenever things are to be done.

I must also add a very personal thanks for taking the lion's share of churchwardens' duties, and leaving me as free as possible to pursue my college work.

David certainly deserves a mention, too. His supportive presence has contributed to the wardenship, thankyou, David.

THANK-YOU MARGARET for you very supportive 'thereness'.

Ruth Mills

BISHOP WAND SCHOOL

I recently attended a meeting at Bishop Wand School for representatives from the churches which have children from their congregations at the School. The aim is to publish a newsletter, probably once a term, in which the various activities at the different churches can be advertised, and news of the School can be shared. There will also be a School Prospectus available.

Please contact me for further details.

Debbie Nunn - 979 3078

A.P.C.M.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on 20th April following Parish Communion. Margaret Taylor has completed her 5 years as Churchwarden (see page 2) and Dick Wilde was elected as her successor. Officers for the coming year are:

Churchwardens: Ruth Mills and Dick Wilde

P.C.C.:

David Adams	Sue Adams
Pippa Butterfield	Jennifer Clay
Andrew Craig	Elizabeth Gossage
Jack Gostling	Sally Highley
Margaret Hobbs	Susan Horner
David Lloyd	Moya Meredith Smith
Rosalie Meyerowitz	Andrew Miskin
Caroline Miskin	Debbie Nunn
Kate O'Sullivan	Ann Peterkin
Coryn Robinson	Julia Sharp
David Taylor	Margaret Taylor
Gordon Tucker	Jean Wilson

John Gossage, Lesley Mortimer and Pip Rowett (Deanery Synod representatives) and John Meredith Smith (Treasurer) are ex-officio members of the P.C.C.

Sue Adams takes over from Julia Sharp as Secretary to the P.C.C.

THE SPRING EVENING



There is a happy evening
wandering in the streets

in softly scented air
expectant, secretive -

by the gate-posts
like the young girls whispering
flowers in their hair
the trees in bloom.

I walk into the beauty of evening
for this moment of time
it's a way out of gloom -

in my eye
falling
the sun is a hot tear.

Anja Clarke

FINAL ORGAN APPEAL EVENTS

SATURDAY 10 MAY BARN DANCE and FISH & CHIP SUPPER

Live band led by John Asher. Caller: Mike Wigney

Tickets £7 from Geoffrey Bowyer from 1st May

SATURDAY 17 MAY GRAND CONCERT: ENTENTE CORDIALE

Chorale Prelude de Fontainebleu conducted by Carlos Fassino

Cantante Camerati and Church Choir conducted by Geoffrey Bowyer

7.30pm

£6 (concessions £4)

and FINALLY, TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE APPEAL,

SUNDAY 8 JUNE 4pm ORGAN RECITAL and RECEPTION

The Vicar will bless the organ

Short Recital by Geoffrey Bowyer and visiting organists,

followed by a reception in the Church Hall

FREE to all who have contributed in any way

to the rebuilding of the organ

Geoffrey Bowyer is extremely grateful
for the tremendous support he has received.

A Christian Approach to the Millennium

Early in the morning of April 1st, I heard Una Kroll give the 'Prayer for the Day' on Radio 4. Usually regarded as a day when we exchange pranks and tricks, it was also a day with a New Beginning: in fact, the start of the last 1000 days before Millennium 2000.

Her thought was that Christians should partake in the initiative of Christian groups of all denominations to support Jubilee 2000 (see Brian's letter in the January magazine).

The important thrust of this project is that the colossal debt burden of the poorest countries should be written off. Una Kroll suggested that a daily act of prayer we could place a 2p piece in a container, to be saved until the year 2000 when £20 will have been collected. This fund could then be distributed to Christian Aid and other agencies.

We read about all the extravagant plans being made worldwide to give pleasure to the affluent nations. Would it not be better to regard the New Millennium as a time to give help and encouragement to the poorer nations - and give them hope for the future?

Jean Wilson

Christian Aid Week

May 11 - 17, 1997

This year, when the need for funding is greater than ever, we hope to have an interesting and profitable week in Hampton and especially here at St. James's. 'Freedom to Live' is the theme of Christian Aid Week 1997, which focuses on India as it celebrates 50 years of independence. Although this 'freedom' is a cause for celebration, the relief and development work done by our partner organisations overseas is still vital. It helps some of the poorest people in the world - people like 12-year-old Moti.



Moti lives in the slums of Raipur, South India. He shares a one-room house with his brother, sisters and parents. They have no electricity, toilet or running water.

Unlike 12-year-olds in Britain, Moti has to work to help feed his family. He is a shoeshiner and walks up to 8 miles a day looking for customers, earning about 30p a day. Moti's parents believe education is the key to improving their children's lives, but they cannot afford for Moti not to work.

However, Moti recently started going to evening classes and a playtime in the park on Sundays. Both were set up by the Raipur Churches Development and Relief Committee (RCDRC), which is run by local people to improve the lives of child labourers. The Committee is planning to offer food to families who put their children into full-time education, to make up for lost wages. RCDRC is funded by an annual grant from Christian Aid.

Material for collectors will be in the Church Hall after the 9.30 service on Sunday May 4th and you are invited to come and count your own envelopes! (They will be delivered if you can't manage to be there).

On Saturday 17th May the Young Church members will be cleaning shoes for Christian Aid (remember Wash for Dosh when they did cars?) on the Parade at Hampton Hill. So when you call for your bread, birthday cards or wine, pause for a moment and have your shoes expertly polished. Service available between 10.30am and 1.00pm.

On Sunday May 18th there is to be a great Whitsun Walk round 40 City Churches. There will be music, drama, quizzes and children's events - a good day out for all the family, beginning at St. Giles, Cripplegate at 2pm and ending at St. Mary-le-Bow at 5pm with a Pentecost celebration. Please do sponsor our

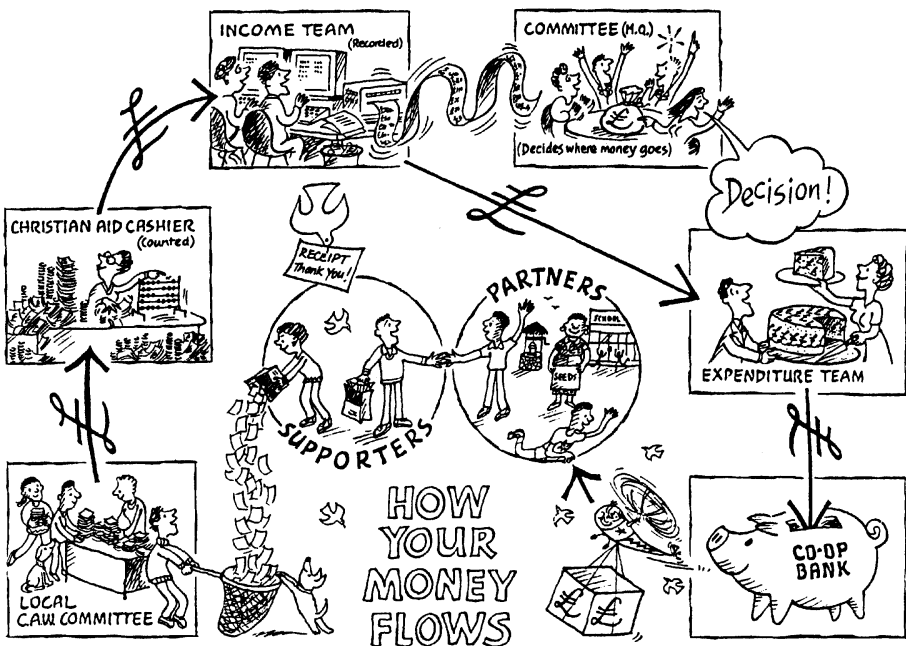
Young Church members; other walkers are more than welcome for as long or as short a time as you wish.

We hope that this weekend's events will bring a great contribution to our Christian Aid funds. Do help! More information from Margaret Taylor (977 1342) or Elizabeth Gossage (979 3793).

O God, the Creator and Father of all humankind,
by your Holy Spirit you have made a diversity of peoples
one in the confession of your name.
Lead us, we pray, by the same Spirit
to display to the whole earth one mind in belief
and one passion for righteousness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As ever, thanks are due to our faithful collectors, many of whom have supported Christian Aid for years; without their efforts there would be no Christian Aid Week.

Margaret Taylor





CHILDREN'S CORNER

MY EASTER HOLIDAYS



This Easter Holidays I've been on lots of outings. I thought I'd tell you about them so that you could visit some of these really good places next school holidays.

On Easter Sunday after church we took the train to Waterloo and visited the new London Aquarium in the old City Hall. It was really cool with loads of huge tanks with fish from all the different parts of the world. I like the shark tank and rock pools the best. In the rock pools you could touch and pick up some of the sea life and you could touch the sting rays in their tank as well.

On Easter Monday we went to the Brooklands Museum in Weybridge. Brooklands is an old racing track and aerodrome, where they now rescue old planes and cars and restore them so you can see what they used to be like. You can go inside lots of them and even sit in the cockpit.

Last week we went to Marwell Zoo, which is a one hour drive down the M3 to Winchester. It has loads of brilliant animals like tigers, jaguars, giraffes, zebras, monkeys, parrots, penguins and many, many more. On May 22nd it will be their 25th Birthday and they would like to break the Guinness World Book of Records by receiving the most Birthday Cards, so if you'd like to help them, make the animals a card and send it to this address:

Marwell's Big Birthday, Marwell Zoological Park,
Golden Common, Nr. Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1JH.

I hope you have time to visit some of these places and enjoy them as much as I did.

Alex Highley

EUPHEMIA'S SPECIAL DAY

"Choice" and "Empowerment" have become the buzz words of the 90s. In today's society we are taught that both children and adults should be encouraged to make their own decisions - but just how young can that start? Both Jon and I have never wanted to enter the debate about allowing our daughter Euphemia to be baptised when she was old enough to make her own decisions. To us, from the day that we first discovered that I was pregnant we discussed her baptism.

Looking back this was quite odd, because neither Jon nor myself had been avid church goers in our adult life, but both of us remembered, as children, being brought up in a Christian community. Euphemia to us is a miracle, just as any child is to their parents. We "chose" to have her baptised and enter her into the church before God - she is far too young to be able to make that decision for herself. But to us her baptism was more than this - it was our chance to celebrate her birth with our family and friends, a day where people could come together, be happy and remember how much joy a new child can bring.

Jon and I only moved into Hampton Hill in October and are absolutely amazed how welcome we have been made to feel at St James with such a young baby. Children obviously play a big part in the church - never had we seen a children's area in the back of a church before - it makes so much difference. Hopefully the Church and Christianity will become a focal point throughout Euphemia's life - and when the day comes when she can make her own decisions - she will perhaps read this, look at the pictures of very happy parents, godparents, aunties, uncles and friends and agree that we made the right "choice" for her.

Kim Duller



The HAMPTON HILL ASSOCIATION (HHA for short) would like to welcome all newcomers to the area and tell you something about our organisation.

The HHA was formed with the idea of maintaining, as far as possible, the pleasant environment in which we live together with a programme of social events to enable a sense of community to be established and has been a going concern for over 30 years.

We have an Amenities/Transport Committee that keep an eye on any planning applications that are submitted to the council to try, where possible, to ensure that they are in keeping with their surroundings; take up matters relating to bus service, car parking in the High Street, bus lanes, traffic lights, crossings etc., etc. We also have a Social Committee who organise outings to places of interest such as stately homes, gardens, museums etc. plus an annual barbecue, tea party and/or supper social.

The HHA has a representative on the Police Community Consultative Group and Sector Policing so concerns relating to crime can be brought to the attention of the police.

We have a Music Circle that meet regularly in members homes to have an enjoyable evening of music and new members are always welcome. There is also the Hampton Hill Photographic Society to which members of the HHA belong.

Every other year we have an Arts & Crafts Exhibition which enable local people to demonstrate and exhibit their work. There is a wealth of talent in the area. Finally we have a quarterly Newsletter which is distributed to members free of charge but once a year it goes into over 2000 homes. This Newsletter keeps folk up to date on local events and is our main source of communication. This is supported by our local shopkeepers who advertise regularly.

We hope that you find the above of interest and would very much like to welcome you to the HHA. Please ring 0181-979-1431 (Anne or Ken Wood) for information as to how to join.

A long and happy life in Hampton Hill.



Congratulations to Jean Western, who celebrated her 80th birthday on 6th April. The congregation went to the hall after Parish Communion on "Low Sunday" to drink her health and celebrate with her.

Congratulations also to Pauline (who prints the Spire) and her husband Simon on the birth of their daughter Jennifer.

Welcome back to "Bottom of the Garden", the flower shop near the traffic lights in the High Street.

Ron and Mary Metcalfe are enjoying a visit from their daughter Margaret, from Australia, and also their baby grandson Jack.

The Messiah on Good Friday made a good contribution to the Organ Fund of over £1100.

David and Betty Robottom, who have until now taken care of the hall bookings, are having to give this up because of work commitments. Many thanks to them for all their hard work, and particularly to David for organising the tenancy of the nursery school in the hall.

It is good to hear that David Nunn is out of hospital and progressing well.

May 31st will be the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Sid and Monica Heaford, but they are planning to have the actual celebrations in June. Our love and best wishes to them both.

Rosalie Meyerowitz

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

The Beavers and Cubs had a visit to the home of "The Beavers", Hampton F.C., recently. A beautiful Saturday afternoon was complemented by a home victory 1 - 0.

The Cubs have had evenings on science and the Hale Bopp comet and recently entered the district 6-a-side football tournament.

At Easter, the Scouts and Ventures went to camp at Chalfont Heights. Superb warm, sunny days were followed by freezing cold nights, I'm told, but an interesting time was had by all with archery and abseiling.

Our barn dance in March was well attended. Everyone enjoyed a lovely fish and chip supper, with a few dances to round the evening off.

Keep 12th July free. A very special day is being organised. Details to follow.

Paul Fitchett

FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Joseph Daniel HARDING 21 Fitzwygram Close
Tracy Ann HARDING 21 Fitzwygram Close

Wedding

29 Peter MORITZEN and Lucy ROSTEIN

Funerals

7 Mary Olive May KELLY 8 Hanworth Road 84
12 Ernest Alan STEWARD 13 Longford Close 79
18 Sylvia June MAXTED 18 Park Road 51
23 Catherine JONES (Interment of Ashes)
25 Vera WEEDON (Interment of Ashes)

DATES TO NOTE

1 St. Philip and St. James, Apostles
2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
4 9.30am Informal Service
5 Rogation Day. Bank Holiday. Have a good day
7 2.30pm Women's Forum. Church Music Today - Air your views
8 ASCENSION DAY 8pm Parish Communion
10 Barn Dance: Organ Fund
11 Sunday in CHRISTIAN AID WEEK. Preacher at Parish Communion
Karen Oon-Buffin, South Asia Team Project Officer, Christian Aid
14 St. Matthias, Apostle
17 10.30am - 1pm YOUNG CHURCH SHOE SHINE in the High Street
7.30pm CONCERT: ENTENTE CORDIALE Organ Fund
18 PENTECOST
19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury 988
21 8.00pm Women's Forum. Church Music Today - Talk
25 TRINITY SUNDAY
26 Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury 605. Bank Holiday
27 The Venerable Bede, Priest, Monk of Jarrow 735
29 Corpus Christi, Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of
Holy Communion
31 Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

COPY DATE FOR JUNE MAGAZINE: 12 MAY



*Please contact
Margaret Taylor
0181 977 1342
if you would be
willing to open
your garden*