

Judging by coverage in the national press, we could easily be forgiven for thinking that the Bishops at the Lambeth Conference spent three weeks discussing the single issue of homosexuality. They didn't! As a taster of some of their discussions, here are some snippets from the press releases on the Anglican Communion Internet Website - after all, the Gospel is for high, middle and low tech alike.

Born to debt: three bishops tell of living and dying in debt

Bishop Bernard Malango of Northern Zambia (central Africa) says: "Today many of the rural poor are lucky if they have one meal a day. The extended family system that ensured the welfare of all the community is breaking down as people struggle to survive. It is estimated that every child born in Zambia inherits a debt of £450. One result of this debt is the rise in the number of street children who come to the cities to beg. "Bishop Malango's diocese has set up a feeding programme for these children, some of whom are as young as five. But such programmes do not address the cause of the problem. Bishop Malango called for a fresh beginning: cancellation of the debt so that people in Zambia have breathing space.

"We are not asking for debt forgiveness; we are asking for justice. We are asking the creditors to repent, and debt cancellation would be a symbol of that repentance," says Archbishop Alberto Ramento of the Philippine Independent Church. To the ordinary people of the Philippines this indebtedness means "huge amounts of money are allocated to servicing the debts", he said. "Money and resources that could have been used for education, health and social services to alleviate the desperate conditions of our poor peasants are being siphoned off to pay the debts. Developing countries are fighting a war. We are fighting to live with dignity and we cannot win this war because we do not have the power to win it on the streets of Manila alone. But it can be won in the streets of London and Washington by those who have the power."

Lambeth takes conservative stance on human sexuality

In a session Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey called "difficult and painful", the Lambeth Conference approved a statement on sexuality that rejects homosexual practice as "incompatible with Scripture". The resolution commits the church to "listen to the experience of homosexual people" and calls homosexuals " full members of the Body of Christ". It also condemns "irrational fear of homosexuals". However, conservative views prevailed in requiring "abstinence" for anyone not married. The resolution also states that the Conference "cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same-sex unions, nor the ordination of those involved in such unions." The final vote was overwhelmingly in favour of the amended resolution, with 526 bishops voting in favour to only 70 voting against. Forty-five bishops abstained. Bishop Peter Adebiyi of Owo (Nigeria) had called any condoning of homosexuality "evangelical suicide". Bishop Catherine Roskam of New York (USA) asserted that "to condemn homosexuality in the form it has been condemned is evangelistic suicide in my region."

Concern for globalisation

Bishop Rowan Williams of Monmouth (Wales) said the Church had struggled to understand and respond to the "disturbing and often tragic developments we call globalisation". The forces of globalisation render it "more and more imperative that we are resolute in sharing resources" among the members of the Communion, he said, including not only a transfer of resources from the so-called 'haves' to 'have-nots' but also a willingness to receive and learn from each other. The "globalisation" of information has enormous implications for such areas as inter-faith relations, he said. The fact that Christians and Muslims in all parts of the world have instant access to information which affects them "means that a matter of Christian-Muslim relations is never simply a local matter, whether in Birmingham or Khartoum".

The conference identified the task of "every bishop, diocese and congregation to share in and show the love of God in Jesus Christ by worship, by the proclamation to everyone of the gospel of salvation through Christ, through the announcing of good news to the poor and the continuing effort to witness to God's kingdom and God's justice in act and word."

Lambeth Conference calls for Jerusalem as shared capital

The Lambeth Conference affirmed that Jerusalem should be the capital city of both Israel and an independent Palestinian state with free access for Christians, Jews and Muslims. Bishop-coadjutor Riah Hanna EI-Assal in Jerusalem introduced the resolution by comparing Palestinians to the Samaritan who was left by the side of the road, robbed of everything including his homeland. He said Christians who visit the Holy Land too often simply bypass the Palestinians as they visit the shrines.

"The principle solutions must be to conclude a meaningful and just peace between Israel and the Palestinians", Bishop-elect Riah said. The peace must include "a right of return to their lands for the Palestinian refugees ... address human rights and inequalities ... encourage investment in higher education, infrastructure and job creation projects ... and develop a more expansive partnership within the world-wide Body of Christ between the church communities you represent and us, the indigenous Christians. The point is, of course, that the Gospel - both as message and medium - must have a direct impact on every part of our lives if it is truly to be Good News. Maybe the world won't change overnight as a result of the deliberations of 800 bishops meeting in Canterbury, but if part of the Body of Christ has truly listened and learnt from each other then the Kingdom of God has come near! And that is our calling - to interpret anew in every generation and situation the story of the Good News. We can truly begin that by listening to and learning from each other's stories.

Brian Leathard

WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT? The return of the "Nurture Group"

The Nurture Group will reconvene in the hall at 8 p.m. on Thursday 10th September, and meet fortnightly from then. If you lose count, phone me, or look for the notice on the Sunday sheet.

We will use some Old Testament study as a framework, but will be prepared to stray into *whichever fields those who come want.*



Everyone is welcome, whatever stage they feel they are at on the Christian journey. There is no-one who has nothing to learn from others - it is the sharing, not the knowledge that is important.

Unless we get very sidetracked, I am hoping to be able to share some of what I have been learning at college. I will be prepared to talk a bit about the Hebrew Old Testament so that we can see some of the limitations of the English translations, including the jokes (though ancient Hebrew humour isn't exactly like modern British humour!) puns and euphemisms. We might look at how the text came to be as it is.

Please don't be put off if this sounds too academic. This is intended for everyone and any person attending the group can (and I hope, will) contribute to the direction the group takes. If in doubt, talk to me, or just come and try it out!

If there is anyone who needs transport, or who could provide transport, please also contact me.

Ruth Mills 977 5165



REPORT BACK FROM THE PCC

The PCC met on Thursday 16th July. The following is a precis of the main items of discussion.

1. There was further discussion of the possible appointment of a Deacon in our parish. If Bishop Michael is able to appoint somebody, they would become resident in June 1999. The Deacon's stipend would be covered, but we would be responsible for finding and funding a house. Half of the capital outlay may be provided by the Diocese and Church Commissioners in the form of a loan, repayable at a low interest rate. Our Treasurer stated that the annual cost would have a greater impact than capital outlay. The Finance Committee will put together a plan to fund the project, so that the PCC meeting in September has facts for coming to a decision. This is a project with great potential for outreach and for strengthening our commitment to our parish. But we need to be of a common mind, so please do talk about it and ask questions.

2. There were group discussions of the Bridge Report which has proposed revisions to the Synodical Government of the Church of England. The Report proposes change at all four levels of church government: PCC, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. The report was generally felt to be too prescriptive and there was also a feeling that better communication was needed rather than reorganisation.

3. The proposal for glass doors for the west porch was briefly discussed, but the PCC is still awaiting a price. A Prayer Corner has been created to the right of the vestry, with some bequest money being used to purchase an icon and candlestick. Be sure to take a look at it and to use it.

4. Two events of interest to our parish were reported on. One was the Kensington Area Millennium Roadshow, at which the Bishop of Kensington's tour bus was on display. The Bishop's new officer for evangelism was commissioned at the end of the evening. The other was the service at St. Paul's Cathedral on 12th July during which a covenant was signed between the London Diocese and the Anglican Church in Mozambique and Angola.

If you would like to express your view on any of the above matters or anything else the PCC is discussing, or you would like to make sure something is put on the agenda for a future meeting, please speak to a member before our next meeting on 17^{th} September. Minutes of all PCC meetings are at the back of the church for you to read - ask a sidesman.

ANSWERS TO RE EXAM QUESTIONS:

The tenth leopard when he saw he had lost his spots went back to say thank you.

The first book of the Bible is called Genius.

FEAST OF THE KINGDOM

This was the theme given to the service held on Sunday July 12th when the Diocese of London welcomed bishops from the Worldwide Anglican Communion during World Church Weekend. Following the procession of bishops, while the first hymn was being sung, representatives from many countries presented large baskets of fruit round the altar. All the fruit had been donated by the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers and the baskets lent by the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

The service was based on the story of those invited to the Feast, Luke 14 18 - 23. There was plenty of congregational participation, dramatic readings and an action hymn before the Bishop of Lebombo preached the sermon, the message of which we were invited to share. The culmination of the service was the signing of a covenant between the Dioceses of London, Lebombo, Niassa and the Archdeaconry of Angola.

As the signing of the Covenant was completed, a loud drumming played by the percussion group of Brekete roused everyone! A great feeling of celebration filled the Cathedral. It was indeed a great service of sharing.

Jean Wilson



SCOUT GROUP NEWS

By the time you read this we will have started back, with the long summer break behind us. Therefore, unsurprisingly enough, we haven't any new news particularly, so I thought I'd give you a brief review of various , things.



Obviously our major highlight of

the year was the opening of our new HQ. Although a year ago the building was looking good and ready, for one reason and another we couldn't actually start meeting there until January. We have now settled in and started to put the hall to good use. All our camp gear has been retrieved from various garages and collected under one roof and it's amazing what we've found that was thought lost. Our kitchen is nicely fitted out (with the exception of an electric cooker, any offers?) and has already been used by the Cubs, making sweets for Mothering Sunday.

John Nielsen has an office and the Ventures have customised their room, with pool table and music facilities. Both the Scouts and Cubs have put the grounds to good use, with last-night cookouts. The building has been designed with facilities for the disabled.

It has also proved a good meeting place for the leaders in the wee small hours, when the alarm was set off two nights running by a spider, of all things!

As for staffing changes, with my moving up to Scout leader, Suzannah Swanton has taken over as Beaver Scout leader, ably assisted by Sarah Clay and our newest recruit Margaret Ansell.

Our last major group event was Borough Camp at Walton Firs campsite one weekend in June (no snow this time!). Not so much of a traditional style of camp this, more of a good fun weekend for the Cubs, Scouts and Ventures, with various sporting knockout competitions and loads of activities, ranging from archery to assault courses. Our group ran 'Prussic Climbing', the sort of thing you see James Bond doing, scaling heights on a single rope, climbing by moving foot loops up the rope. We even invested two Scouts at the top!! It was an extremely tiring weekend for the leaders, but even so it was great fun and we shall be joining in again next year.

Finally a few fun and fund raising dates for your diaries, all to be held at the Triangle, please contact any leader or myself for further details.

1.	17 th October	- Quiz night, get your teams together now.
2.	30 th October	- a Race night, watch those horses fly
3.	14 th November	- our Christmas Bazaar, a special evening event is planned, watch this space for details.
4.	28 th November	- Family Disco.
5.	30 th January	- Jumble Sale.
	•	Paul Fitchett 941 7186

MILLENNIUM UPDATE

In last month's magazine Brian outlined the New Start initiative which is being promoted by Churches Together in England to mark the millennium. Most people are now also aware of the Jubilee 2000 campaign aimed at the cancellation of the unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries. There are, however, a number of other Christian initiatives linked to the millennium which will gain greater prominence in the coming months.

Fanfare for a New Generation: a Christian charity with an emphasis on sharing the faith with outsiders. They are challenging churches to prepare themselves for newcomers and visitors, particularly on New Millennium Sunday (2nd January 2000), and challenging those in the community who may have drifted away from church to go back and make a new start, spiritually, in the new millennium. They are planning a multi-media celebration on the first Sunday of the new millennium, linked by satellite to simultaneous festivals in key cities across the UK and worldwide.

Y2000: a campaign promoting the wearing of a Y lapel badge, designed to encourage enquiries. The 'Y' is supposedly an ancient Christian symbol representing the Trinity. But it should also prompt such questions as 'Why the millennium?' 'Why did the birth of one man 2000 years ago change our calendars - and our lives?'

JC2000: a project to enable every school in the UK to create their own millennium production using music and drama to apply the gospel message to the issues of today. There is to be a series of local and regional festivals, culminating in a finale event in June 2000, possibly in the Dome.

In addition a new musical has been written for the millennium called 'Hopes and Dreams' using themes of the Lord's Prayer; there is a 'Write a Prayer' competition for secondary schools sponsored by the Open Churches Trust;



St. Paul's Cathedral is running a hymn competition; Celebration 2000, also sponsored by the Open Churches Trust, is promoting the ringing of all church bells for five minutes at noon on Saturday, 1st January 2000 followed by 10 minutes of prayer; 2000 by 2000 is a community initiative looking to harness the talents of 2000 'moving spirits' to set up local millennium projects to regenerate our spiritual and physical environment.

In the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames a 'Towards 2000' Group has been established to share information and help plan and co-ordinate events to the end of 2000. It is made up of representatives of the Council, local societies, churches, amenity groups and the Chamber of Commerce.

Ideas already under way include:

- a competition launched by the mayor to design a symbol and slogan for local millennium celebrations;
- a collection by Richmond Ecoaction of videos, artwork, photos and writing, illustrating the current hopes and dreams of borough residents, to be buried in a time capsule in the year 2000;
- subject to Heritage Lottery funding, the restoration of the baroque Water Gardens in Bushy Park by the year 2000;
- a Millennium Photographic Survey of Richmond upon Thames. People are to be asked to hand in photos of their house or street to the local library to form a major archive depicting life in the borough at the turn of the millennium;
- a unique 2 year diary donated by the Public Record Office at Kew to be completed as a permanent record by borough organisations, societies and other bodies of how they are marking the millennium;
- an ecumenical service of celebration at Richmond Theatre at 1.00 p.m. on Pentecost Sunday, 11th June 2000 followed by a bring-and-share lunch on Richmond Green.

Lesley Mortimer



AN APPEAL FROM VSO

VSO, Voluntary Service Overseas, recruits and organises specialist volunteers in response to requests for help from all over the world. Our vicar, probably with many others, has had an appeal from the Director, David Green. Mr. Green is trying to meet the urgent requests from Africa and Asia for medical staff, trained nurses and doctors. Typically a doctor or nurse will help to staff or even set up a "bush clinic", where desperate people, with no other skilled help, can come for practically any injury, sickness or simple preventative medicine that may make the difference between life and death. The work is of incalculable value, not only for the immediate relief of suffering, but also to give some sort of message to the desperately needy that we, the rich nations, do care about their condition.

The appeal to us is for funding for the VSO. Mr Green writes: "... some hopes will be dashed simply through lack of funds. Can you help me ensure that a hospital in need... will receive the good news that their request for a doctor or nurse has been answered?"

If you can support this special appeal please speak to Ann Peterken (891 5862) or another member of the Charities Committee. A special fund will be set up for this particular appeal.

HARVEST APPEAL 1998: REFUGEE FAMILIES



Welcare in Hounslow need packets of rice. lentils. tins of vegetable sauces and tinned fish (e.g. tuna) for their work supporting refugee families. This year will we be collecting money to these buy

foodstuffs or the foods themselves. So please, either put your harvest contribution (cash or cheque) in the box in Church or bring these goods with you to Harvest Festival to offer in thanksgiving for all that we enjoy of God's creation.

HARVEST FESTIVAL: SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER 9.30 a.m.

WHO WILL TAKE OVER THE BOOKSTALL?!

Helen and Alan Taylor set up the bookstall in August 1965 and eventually asked me to take it on in February 1971, so you can see that it is time for someone with fresh ideas to come forward. Ĭt would be helpful if it could be someone with a knowledge of the needs of young people aged 10 and upwards, as



well as having adult needs in mind.

In addition to books for children and young people, the bookstall supplies a personal choice of notes for daily Bible reading, commentaries and other material suitable for study groups, as well as Christian reading on a wide variety of subjects. A basic stock of books is bought from the three main suppliers and individual orders are also acquired.

At present the bookstall has a lending section in addition to the supply of new books for purchase. It would be an advantage to have a suggestions box for new ideas. Reviews of books read and enjoyed by any of the congregation of St. James's, which could be published in the parish magazine, would be welcome.

It is an interesting job and if anyone feels they would like to do it I should be pleased to supply the information, including the accounts, and be prepared to help for a reasonable length of time. Please do think about the future of the bookstall and speak to Brian or me if you are interested.

Jean Western

WOMEN'S FORUM

Women's Forum resumes after the Summer break on Wednesday 2nd September at 2.30 p.m with a service and tea in the Hall. The evening meeting, on Wednesday 16th September, is a talk on the "Children's Society" beginning at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome at these meetings. Our October meeting on Wednesday 21st at 7.30 p.m. is the Annual General Meeting. Do come along to that and put forward any thoughts or ideas you have regarding the Women's Forum. We shall look forward to seeing you. A new programme for the following six months will be available at that meeting.

TAIZE SERVICES

Brother Roger visited Taize in France in 1945 to help the remnants of the former enemy, the German army. He later formed a settlement of Catholic and Protestant men living the Christian celibate monastic life in peace. Nowadays visitors stay there, working and praying. They are warmly welcomed from the four corners of the world and gather each evening around the Cross and the icon of the Virgin Mary and Child. Kneeling or sitting with heads bowed they find themselves resting in the Divine Love.

We, too, are able to meet together under the Taize banner, by attending services organised by Churches Together Around Hampton. The services contain prayer and chanting and allow time for silence and togetherness. Do try to give your support to these services of shared worship.

Monday 14th September, 8 p.m. at St. James's Church, Hampton Hill. Monday 23rd November, 8.30 p.m. at St. Richards, Hanworth.



Have you decided yet how you can help at the bazaar on Saturday 21st November? If not please give urgent consideration to the matter, as time is now getting short! I know a few people have been busy making things for the bazaar for sometime, which is great, but we need more people to be involved. Please come to the meeting on Monday 21st September at 143 Burtons Road at 8 p.m. or contact Wendy Baker on 979 3654. A notice will go up in church during September with a list of stalls and other appropriate information. Please keep a look out for this. Also boxes will gradually appear in church for contributions to stalls. We will be very grateful for your help in gathering items to sell. No jumble please! Thank you very much.



JUBILEE 2000 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

A short update on where the campaign has got to after its very visible presence at the Birmingham G8 Summit last May.

Jubilee 2000 Coalition's main strategy now is to duplicate the success of the UK campaign throughout the world, with special emphasis on other creditor countries. There are aiready Jubilee 2000 campaigns in nearly 40 countries, but they are not yet as strong as the British campaign and need our support. So please make use of all your overseas contacts to pass on



information about the campaign here in the UK and to encourage your contacts to find out about the campaign in their own country and get involved. It's surprising how effective such networking can be.

The German general election on 27^{th} September presents an excellent opportunity to make debt relief an issue that the new German government cannot overlook. There will be coordinated international action in the run up to the election. Here in London there will be a rally outside the German embassy on Thursday 24^{th} September, during which ballot papers registering our votes in favour of the remission of debt for the poorest countries will be presented. Flyers and ballot papers for this event are available on the Jubilee 2000 table in the church. Please make use of them.

The collection of signatures for the Jubilee 2000 petition is as important as ever. The current world-wide total is approaching 2 million. The target is 22 million signatures to make it the world's largest petition and the hope is to present it on Saturday 19th June 1999 at the G8 Summit in Cologne. Each country is being allocated a target number of signatures and the UK's target is 3 million. We are just over a third of the way there, so please keep collecting. For those of you who would like to be better informed about campaign activity in London, please consider adding your name to the mailing list of the London Jubilee 2000 Network. This regional forum has enhanced its structure since the Birmingham Summit and is very active. Either take one of the leaflets in church or give me a call.



We are very happy to report some very important occasions in this edition of our magazine:

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Birge of Rectory Grove who have recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They were delighted to receive a telegram from the Queen marking the occasion and to enjoy a party with their family and friends. There were two Golden Wedding Anniversaries in August, congratulations to Ron and Roma and to Eila and Hal.

Best wishes also to Paul and Maggie who celebrate their Silver Wedding in September. We send our love to all these couples and wish them all many more happy years.

Ron and Mary Metcalfe have become grandparents again with the birth of their new grandson Jack.

We must remember in our prayers some parishioners who are ill and suffering at this time: Bill Young, Peter, Margaret, Andrew and Paula. May they recover their good health and well-being.

St. James's Day festivities went off very successfully in spite of rather uncertain weather. The picnic and bike ride were well attended and very enjoyable. At this happy time we should remember the less fortunate congregation of the United Reformed Church who are currently without a minister.

It has been noticed that our churchyard is suffering because people have allowed their dogs to foul the area and rubbish has also been dumped. This is causing great offence and it should be remembered that our churchyard is consecrated ground.

Confirmation classes will start in September for those who are to be confirmed on November 11^{th} . St. James's Church is hosting this ceremony on behalf of the Hampton parishes. Please note that anyone can attend these classes if they wish to refresh their vows of the past.

On a happy note, well done Anusha! We are so pleased you are now Deputy Head Girl at Waldegrave School.

ST JAMES'S OPEN GARDENS

Last month Margaret wrote an account of St. James' "Open Gardens". We have now collected all the money raised and we are very pleased that it totalled £252. This money will be sent. to the Christina Noble Foundation which works with street children in Ho Chi Minh City and provides emergency and long term medical care, educational training and protects from the risks of sexual and economic exploitation. Thanks again to those from St. James who opened their gardens - and to Biddie and Jeanne from St.



Mary's - and to Ruth and Judith who provided and sold many plants, and to the cake makers. Many thanks to all.

Sally, Jennifer and Kate

FROM THE JULY REGISTERS

Baptism

19 Georgia Alice Hunt, 23 Langton Close, Addlestone

Weddings

- 4 John Zawada and Genevieve Gresset
- 4 Kevin Baker and Tina Sutton
- 18 Claudio Celiberti and Lisa Bishop

Funeral

Florrie Blandford, Meadowview Nursing Home, Teddington 89

DATES TO NOTE IN SEPTEMBER

2	Women's Forum: Service and tea, 2.30 p.m.
7	St. James's Table at the White House Lunch, 12.30 - 1.30 p.m.
10	Nurture Group - Focussing on the Old Testament. Fortnightly
	8 p.m.
13	Baptismal Tea-Party 3.30 p.m. Church Hall.
14	Holy Cross Day. 8 p.m. Taize Service at St. James's.
16	Women's Forum: The Children's Society, 7.30 p.m.
21	ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
	Christmas Bazaar Meeting 8 p.m. 143 Burtons Road.
22 - 24	Kensington Episcopal Area: Clergy Residential Course.
27	Sale of Charity Christmas Cards after Parish Communion.

St. James's Parish Church Hampton Hill

Thursday 10th September 1998 8 p.m. An Evening of Opera and Song

given by Agnesa Tothova - Soprano Paul Vincent - Baritone Helena Brown - Piano

Programme to include arias from Puccini's 'Madame Butterfly' and Rossini's 'The Barber of Seville' as well as songs by Schubert, Tchaikovsky and Faure.

Admission is free. A Collection will be taken for the work of CHRISTIAN AID. Refreshments will be served during the interval.

Paul and Agnesa are the son and daughter-in-law of Twickenham MP, Vincent Cable. They are fast becoming internationally known in the concert and operatic world. Helena Brown is widely recognised as an outstanding pianist and harpsichordist.

COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE: 12TH SEPTEMBER