

**The Parish Magazine of
Whitchurch-on-Thames
and Whitchurch Hill**



September 2001

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A letter from the Reverend Father Peter Jefford

Dear People of the Parish,

At every age in life there is always something to interest us, so that when you are a small child you are not yet into Harley Davidson motor cycles or Honda Gold Wings. But you do have an interest in confectionery, and sweets to a small child are a very big reward. I can remember, with my twin, such things as 'Five Boys' chocolate bars but when we were a little older along came a tin of Quality Street—a tin of assorted chocolates and sweets. I can remember such a tin today and the image on it. Perhaps you also can? For what it showed was the time past and it showed some of the Quality in that Quality Street. Perhaps set in the year of 1812, there was the handsome soldier in his uniform, looking so very smart and Regimental, and with him on his arm was the handsome lady with her pretty dress, bonnet and parasol. And of course they were both walking down that street with its simple name.

QUALITY STREET

Today as I write it is the feast day of St James, the brother of St John, Wednesday July 25th. One day the mother of these two disciples asked for some real preferential treatment from our Lord, to have great places in the Kingdom for her sons. But Our Lord replied to this request with a challenge and they both replied to this challenge with the words "We are able", or, as we say today "I can hack it". Did they then have the real quality in their lives that Our Lord was looking for? And the answer is "Yes", for St John gave us his peerless gospel and his superb life, both for the Faith. But St James also did as well for he became a fearless Apostle and stood steadfast for the Faith, and in the end became the Church's very first Martyr. St James was put to

death by the edge of the sword on the order of Herod Agrippa in the year AD44 to stem the growth of the Church.

QUALITY STREET

I can remember in my Squadron of the Hussars in Cyrenaica just as the war had not long ended that we had as a Squadron Leader, a real Disciplinarian Major, who really gave us a tough time. But we each knew in the Squadron that if any of us were lost in the desert not only would he at once come to look for us but, most important of all, he would find us and bring us back safely.

QUALITY STREET

For a few years I flew with an RAF Squadron, once a week every few weeks. I so well remember flying with Captains of the aircraft who were Poles or Czechs and these were brave and intrepid men. But I did in the end stay with the same Captain called Frank. Not only was he a very good pilot but you always knew, even when flying through storms, that his hands were some of the best in the Royal air Force. What skill he had.

In the early Church the Church underwent terrible persecution in all manner of ways, all the way from Turkey to Rome. But what kept it going in the end were not banners or slogans or little jingles but the quality of the lives of the people who were the Church, who believed that faith was all and as a consequence would risk their lives for the Faith. From St James onwards.

Today we are yet again being challenged by the disbelief of the people in this nation and also demonstrably by the challenge of probity in public life. In short, life in quality Street has rapidly gone down hill in the last 40 years and the signs are so visible to us all. For Quality Street is now full of graffiti, litter and burnt out cars. But the way

forward, I believe, is to go back to the qualities of the past that once did change the world for good.

For there must surely be something better than LUCK, LITIGATION AND LOTTERY.

For we cannot have a better way forward until there are more better lives, until people believe there is more to life than self, shopping, payouts and consumerism.

And always in the end it is up to me.

It is up to me to play my part and to take a full part in our world of challenge today. For all our challenges in the end are always shared challenges, in the name of Our Lord.

With my best wishes to you all.

Peter Jefford

STOP PRESS

***Due to the unprecedented rainfall
throughout this year the annual
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
at Hardwick House
has been
CANCELLED
because the field access road is impassable
and the fields are still waterlogged.***

***Sir Julian and Lady Elizabeth Rose very much regret
having to do this but hope to host another form of
entertainment on behalf of the parish—to be announced.***

Mothers' Union

Before our meeting in June we very much enjoyed a Soup and Ploughman's Lunch together at Abbots Lodge. Everyone contributed food and payment for the lunch boosted our funds considerably. This was a 'first' which we hope to repeat. Afterwards we had a riveting talk illustrated with slides from Mollie Clark who had been with the Leprosy Mission in Bhutan for 18 years. Questions continued until she left after tea!

We were joined at our July meeting by members from Henley and Greys and Felicity Randall, our Oxford Diocesan President, told us all sorts of interesting facts about the M.U. which helped us appreciate afresh the breadth of the Society to which we belong.

August was a lighthearted meeting at the Fookes' home sharing different experiences in our lives.

We don't have an official meeting in September but once again anyone who would like to go is welcome at 12 Oakdene for a 'cuppa' and a chat. Our Prayer Group meets on Thursday, September 13th. at Lower Hitch, Joy Whitehead's home. at 2.30.

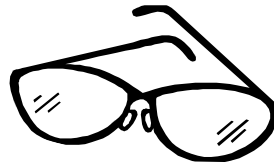
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NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

On August 12th at St John's, Jack William Hine, the son of Kevin William Hine and Charlotte Louise Hearne of Chicane, Hill Bottom Road, Whitchurch Hill.

Holy Matrimony

On Saturday, August 11th, at St John's, Andrew Macdonald Spiers of 37 Grimmer Way, Woodcote to Janice Katrina Wallace of Hurst View, Whitchurch Hill.

On Sunday, September 9th, at St John's, Alexander Charles Matthews Fletcher of 72 Woodfield Way, Theale to Victoria Louise Emily Buyers of Woodside, 22 Orchard Coombe, Whitchurch Hill.

Burials

On 17th August at St John's Nora Audrey Muriel Zipinski aged 85 years, died in Battle Hospital on 5th August.

On Tuesday July 3rd 2001 Mrs E.M.Pemberton sadly passed away . Mrs Pemberton moved to Eastfield House in Whitchurch-on-Thames in 1957, and then to Little Eastfield in 1966, where she was a much loved member of the parish.

She had spent her recent years with her family in Cheddar, Somerset.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord. May light perpetual shine upon them.

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S

I hope visitors to the churchyard at St John's have seen the Living Churchyard Award that we have received from Bbont which is on the notice board in the lychgate. The award is presented to churches that manage their churchyards in an environmental way; providing, caring for and encouraging wild flowers together with wildlife in the churchyard. The Friends of St John's are particularly pleased to receive this award as we have only been looking after the churchyard for the past eighteen months.

Work continues to get the 2 acres into a managed programme of grass cutting. The formal areas have nearly been completed. The final part is to re-establish the original path from the cross in the centre of the churchyard.

Next time you pass St John's come in and see our churchyard. We think it is really becoming a pleasant peaceful place to sit. The churchyard is a public village asset and we would welcome any suggestions or comments villagers may have.

Harvey Adams



HARVEST SUPPER

Friday 5th October

7.30 for 8 p.m.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Shimon's Story Part 3

Shimon was confused. It 'did his head in', just thinking about all the things he'd seen Yeshua do. Things no one could possibly do, but Yeshua did.

Starting with the huge catch of fish, and all that water which suddenly turned into wine. He'd seen;
Blind people seeing
Lame people walking,
Dead people living
Dumb people talking.

He'd seen;
Sick people get well
Sad people get happy
Bad people get good.

He'd seen Yeshua;
Walking on water
Looking like an angel
Sleeping in a storm
Walking, eating, talking, praying, weeping, laughing, teaching.

And the stories! He'd heard about;
Lost sheep, lost sons, lost opportunities
Lazy servants, good servants, wicked servants,
Pearls and pigs and wheat and weeds and the kingdom of God.

Since Shimon met Yeshua his life had been turned around, mixed up, opened out.

It was exciting, scary, challenging, confusing, amazing, wonderful.

There was only one conclusion. Yeshua was somebody very special. He must be.... God!

And one day Yeshua asked his friends a question.

‘Who do people say I am?’ there were lots of answers to that one – a prophet, a teacher, a good man, a healer.

‘But who do you say I am?’

Shimon knew exactly what to say. ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.’ There he’d said it. That’s what his confused thinking had shown him.

‘Yes, you are blessed. God himself has shown that to you,’ Yeshua replied. ‘Now I’ll tell you something. I’m going to call you Peter, from now on. Peter means rock and you are going to be the strong firm rock that I’ll build my church on. Nothing will ever destroy it.’

Well, Shimon didn’t understand that either. But he didn’t mind being confused any more. Yeshua – God himself – was his special friend and he had a job for Shimon – or Peter – to do. Whatever it was, he’d do it. Life with Yeshua might be confusing, but it was also exciting.

(Jesus, or Yeshua, is the Son of God, and he still makes lives exciting – and confusing!)

Geraldine Witcher

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

French Visit, 28-30 April

The 38-strong French party, which arrived by coach early Saturday morning, included 15 children from 7 to 18, due to local school holidays (school holidays are staggered in France). Accommodation could have been a problem, given the greater-than-usual numbers, but happily was not. This was a result of several new families, in both parishes, coming forward to offer hospitality to the visitors.

The Goring Heath Parish Hall with its adjacent parking area, was again selected - following the successful use two years ago - as rendezvous point for the visit and the venue for a reception for the French visitors and their hosts on the Saturday evening. Guests included the chairmen of the two parish councils, Tony Hicks (Goring Heath) and Peter Minton (Whitchurch), who both made brief speeches of welcome.

The dinner party format was adopted again on the Saturday evening, bringing together two or more host families and their French guests. This made for a convivial evening and helped to ease any language problems.

On Sunday, the French visitors, with host family members, boarded the coach for a day out at Kew Gardens. Contrary to the forecast (heavy rain), the

initial light showers cleared in time for a picnic lunch in the grounds. Activities included a circuit of the gardens on the Kew Explorer bus with simultaneous translation of the commentary by Clare Smith and a tour with French-speaking guide of the Prince of Wales Glasshouse and other areas of interest.

The success of the visit was in no small measure due to the wider participation of families from the two parishes. It is hoped that this will be seen as demonstrating that the Twinning Association is not exclusive and on the contrary welcomes the involvement of any family or individual in the two parishes.

Whitchurch Hill Fete

The Twinning Association had a successful Cakes and Savouries stall at the Whitchurch Hill Fete held on **Saturday 26 May** - all produce was sold. The guess-the-weight-of-the-cake was the star attraction with over 50 entries. Many thanks to all contributors.

The Boules Evening

This annual event took place as usual at 8 Swanston Field, Whitchurch, on the evening of **Friday 13 July**. It was a fun evening for both adults and children, featuring the English lawn version of the classic French game of Pétanque.

Ian Bruce
Chairman

Pangbourne Choral Society's forthcoming 2001/2002 Season

"Seats in all voices"! Pangbourne Choral Society will be launching their 2001/2002 season on Tuesday September 11th at 7:45pm when rehearsals start for two main concerts plus once again participating in the *League of Friends of Reading Hospitals* concert of Readings and Christmas Music on December 9th.

Following last season's triple programme of ***A Baroque Christmas Concert***; their acclaimed ***"African Sanctus"*** joined by the choir of Pangbourne College; and more recently their ***Italian Opera Evening***; centre piece of their winter concert on February 9th will be ***Mozart's Requiem***.

The society would like to welcome new members - young or old - and vacancies exist in all voices, though Tenors will be made to feel particularly welcome! Find out more by visiting their web site

<http://www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk>,
e-mailing pcs@musician.org, or just turn up at one of their Tuesday evening rehearsals in the stunning Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College.

Cataclysm in France

One of the problems of living in sun-baked south-west France is the nocturnal attention one receives from the mosquitoes. Yesterday, Ann finally got around to putting up a mosquito net over the bed. All was well until five o'clock this morning when Tombstone discovered it. There was loud purring, excited prodding and finally a crash as it came down!
Love to everybody,
Richard

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**Notes on the Church
Calendar**

On the 29th September,
we've got *Michaelmas*.

Michaelmas celebrates the festival of St Michael and All Angels – for St Michael isn't just one of your everyday saints, or even one of the Apostles. St Michael is the Archangel Michael, the great prince of all the angels, and leader of the celestial armies – greater even than the Archangel Gabriel.

In religious art, he's depicted as a stern-faced but beautiful young man, winged, wearing either white or armour, and bearing a lance and shield, fighting a dragon. More important, he's the one who carries the scales to weigh the souls of the dead at the Last Judgement.

Michaelmas is one of the four English quarter-days and, traditionally, goose is eaten at this time.

Peter Mottley

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Storykeepers – what on earth are they? They are the children and leaders of a holiday club run by **All Churches Together** around Pangbourne during the week of 6th to 10th August. 44 children between the ages of five and eleven, and 13 leaders (including two wonderfully helpful teenagers) got together every morning to have fun and games and hear some of the stories about Jesus, which his ‘storykeepers’ throughout history have believed are so important. We learnt that in Rome under Nero, the Christians risked their lives to tell other people about Jesus, and in Pangbourne School we did not risk our lives, but we enjoyed keeping the stories alive! Look out for more ‘storykeepers’ events in the future.

Geraldine Witcher (ACT press officer)

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Please submit all copy for the next month’s magazine by the 20th. There have been some more production difficulties which I continue to hope will be sorted out by the next edition. Meanwhile I look forward to receiving your news, views, letters, etc.

This magazine appears in the Church section on the village web site, see: www.whitchurchonthames.com.



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Whitchurch Society Art and Craft Exhibition 2001

**Whitchurch Village Hall on Saturday 17th and
Sunday 18th November**

Do you enjoy the Art and Craft Exhibition each year?
Do you enter or do your children enter?

**If neither you nor your children have entered
before we need your help**

This year we **invite residents** (both past and present) of the whole of the **Goring Heath Parish** as well as those of **Whitchurch Parish** to enter their work in the Exhibition.

The main aim of the Exhibition is to give amateurs an opportunity to show their work. The number of entrants has been reducing over the past years. If this decline continues the Exhibition, which has been a very popular annual village event for nearly thirty years, will discontinue. I am sure there are many of you who do not want that to happen.

There is still time to start a new project. Perhaps you learned a new skill at a class last winter or if you paint, draw or take photographs you have probably been out and about this summer. Do show us what you do. It does not matter how small or how simple or even if it is not finished we would like to see your work.

If you have any new ideas regarding the exhibition or would like to be involved in setting up do contact me. We need new ideas and help in order to keep things alive.

I look forward to hearing from you or seeing
your work in the exhibition.

Let's have a bumper one this year.

Jean Spencer 0118 984 4491

Officers of the Parish

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Editor, Parish Magazine

Sue Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close
0118 984 4489 or email suematt@waitrose.com

Services for

September

2nd September, 12th Sunday after Trinity

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

9th September, 13th Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Johns	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evensong

16th September, 13th Sunday after Trinity

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

23rd September, 15th Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy communion
St John's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

30th September, 16th Sunday After Trinity

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
<i>St John's</i>	<i>10 a.m.</i>	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evensong

7th October, 17th Sunday After Trinity

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion