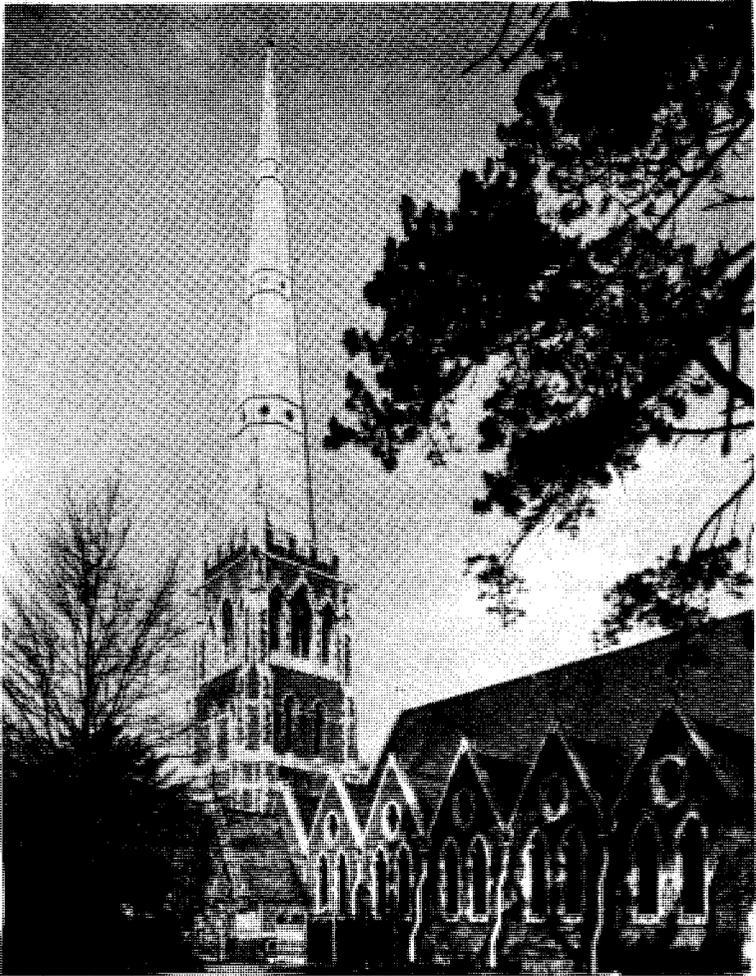


THE SPIRE



THE MAGAZINE OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

HAMPTON HILL, MIDDLESEX

January 1975

St. James's Church, Hampton Hill

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SUNDAY SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Holy Communion	Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.
Holy Communion	First Sundays in month and Festivals	12.10 p.m.
PARISH COMMUNION	Every Sunday	9.30 a.m.
	On most Fourth Sundays also Family & Parade Service	9.30 a.m.
Parish Breakfast	Every Sunday in Wayside	10.35 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOLS (except in holiday periods):		
Infants'	Every Sunday except Fourth in Wayside	11.15 a.m.
Junior	Every Sunday except Fourth in Wayside	9.20 a.m.
Rectory	Every Sunday in Rectory School	2.30 p.m.
Infant Baptism	After due notice, at Parish Communion or on Fourth Sundays	9.30 a.m. 4.00 p.m.
A Service in Laurel Dene is held every Sunday, and led by members of different Churches as arranged		5.15 p.m.
EVENSONG	Every Sunday	6.30 p.m.
Young People's Fellowship	Every Sunday in Wayside	8.00 p.m.

WEEK-DAY SERVICES AND MEETINGS

As announced: See under 'Dates to Note'.

THE CHURCH IN 1975

Reeling under the impact of inflation? The ravages of inflation are indeed making themselves felt in no uncertain way. For instance, in December the Diocesan Estimates for the following year are sent to every parish. This time they came as a bombshell. If the work of the Church in the Diocese of London is not to grind to a halt, an increase in the total Common Fund apportionment of approximately 50% is required for 1975. In the light of this the parishes are assessed on the basis of their income over the last three years, the percentage asked for steadily rising. Our apportionment for the Common Fund was £578 in 1973, £789 in 1974 (already paid in full, as we have always done), and now in 1975 we are asked for £1387. In addition, there are obligatory payments not yet included in the Common Fund for Wel-Care and the Training of Ordination Candidates (though the question now to be faced is: what is the point of training men for the ministry if, when trained, there is no money available to pay them adequately and they have to seek full-time secular employment?). We have not yet received our assessment for these, but it should be about another £200. Then there are the great agencies of ministry and mission, compassion and care, rehabilitation and renewal, teaching and healing, which are also hard-hit by inflation and need our increased support more than ever - Christian Aid, USPG, CMS, the Church Army, the Church of England Children's Society (we had not realised the enormous extent of this society's continually expanding work and how dependent it is upon the generosity of churchpeople until this was made clear to us on Stewardship Sunday), and many more. We would hope to give at least £600 for these. Then there are our own local needs and everyday expenses which are also increasing at an alarming rate. With all the calls made on us last year, including heavy expenditure on the tower and clock, we just made ends meet by using up all our reserves, and so we start 1975 with no deposits and an empty purse, facing a truly daunting situation - BUT IN GOOD HEART!

Rediscovering the power of the Holy Spirit? One reason why the Church in this parish faces the New Year in good heart and with great hope is because we are beginning to make this rediscovery in many ways and various forms. But, like the Church as a whole, we still have a very long way to go. Dr. John Taylor, the new Bishop of Winchester, in his great book, 'The Go-Between God', writes "while we piously repeat the traditional assertion that without the Holy Spirit we can get nowhere in the Christian mission, we seem to press on notwithstanding with our man-made programmes. I have not heard recently of committee-business adjourned because those present were still awaiting the arrival of the Spirit of God. I have known projects abandoned for lack of funds, but not for lack of the gifts of the Spirit. Provided the human resources are adequate we take the spiritual for granted. In fact we have only the haziest idea of what we mean by resources other than human wealth, human skill and human character".

Of course we need money, we need the giving of human time and abilities, the exercise of human initiative; we need the best in human personality, intelligence and character. But we also need, and need supremely, in and through them, directing their use, enhancing the human spirit in all its heights and depths, the gifts, the guidance, the inspiration and the power of the Holy Spirit.

A few years ago it was popular to say 'the world is the agenda'. The Church exists for the world, and the needs of the world, close at hand and far away, are

many, pressing and obvious. They form the agenda ; let the Church get on with the job of meeting them. Today we are learning to say 'let the Holy Spirit write the agenda'. The needs are more pressing and obvious than ever, and time seems to be running out, but we realise that we must choose, we cannot hope to tackle them all. Or rather we must let the Holy Spirit choose for us. We could easily draw up a list of twenty or more spheres of social concern of seemingly equal urgency and importance in which we feel we should be operating. But if we do, we spread ourselves and our resources too thinly to be really effective in any one, and the result is anxiety and overstrain. But if we let Him, the Holy Spirit has a way of reordering our priorities as He thinks best, selecting the tasks that are right for us at this particular time, and giving us the wisdom and strength to discharge them in a way that brings the greatest benefit to all. So may we in 1975 be increasingly open to the Holy Spirit, and go ahead along the ways down which He wants to lead us.

TEACH-INS AND STUDY GROUPS

Those on the Second Isaiah held in Advent were very relevant and enlightening, though not many people took advantage of the good fare offered. The attendance at Evensong has been very low for some time now, with those in the chancel often outnumbering those in the nave, but usually there are a few more present when we have a teach-in or a discussion. The next will be on Sundays February 2 and 9, when we hope to get down to a consideration in depth of some aspects of the Series 3 Communion Service. It may well be that two sessions are not sufficient to do this adequately, and if there is sufficient interest more could be arranged. Then shortly after Easter we intend to have one on Mysticism, another subject about which there is an awakening concern today.

The Hampton and Sunbury Council of Churches has decided that there should be no large central meetings this Lent, but that we should gather in small groups in one another's houses, to meet once a week for six weeks studying the Epistle to the Ephesians according to an excellent outline provided by Bible Reading Fellowship, giving special attention to these topics : God's Plan of Unity, Unity with God, Unity with Each Other, Unity in Church Life, Unity in Social Life, Unity in Family and Business Life. In the Hampton/Hampton Hill area the idea is that each of the five Churches should find two leaders and two homes for the meetings, so that there will be ten groups in all with about ten participants in each.

Ideally, there should be two groups meeting on every evening from Monday to Friday, so that people have the widest possible choice, but it is also important that all the Anglicans do not plump for one night and all the Methodists for another! We want each group to be as well-mixed and fully representative as possible. So that people do not feel limited to the house nearest to them, we hope to be able to provide transport to take them further afield.

The ten leaders will be introduced after the United Service at the Methodist Church on Sunday evening, January 19, and it would be good if people would immediately enrol then and there. If you can't manage that, ask at your own Church for an enrolment-form, but do not leave it too long, because Lent begins very early this year, and it is easy enough to be caught napping!

NEWS OF OUR LINKED-PARISH IN SOUTH AFRICA

This parish has helped the Rev. Tom Stanton to start a cottage industry in Njaxwa, a village in one of the very needy areas of rural South Africa. He wrote movingly about this worth while project in the June and September issues of its magazine.

Tom is a member of the Community of the Resurrection, and stays with other Mirfield Fathers at St. Peter's Priory, at the Federal Seminary at Alice in the Cape. This Anglican Community trains African, Coloured and Indian students who are preparing for the ministry. It has federated with the Methodist Church, the Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church, and all the students from these four branches of the Christian Church are trained together; a valuable and indeed unique opportunity of encouraging ecumenical understanding.

Near to the Federal Theological Seminary is the tribal college for the Xhosa people, Fort Hare University; this is Government run, and strictly supervised. The black students of Fort Hare regard the Seminary as their window on the outside world, and the Seminary has become unpopular with the South African Government for this reason. Two years ago the College requested that the Seminary buildings should be released to them, as it was said that they needed to expand. There was ample room for expansion in other directions and the Seminary Council refused to give up the premises.

On November 26, 1974 the Seminary Council was served with an expropriation order, giving the Seminary thirty days to get out.

Tom is Rector of Alice, and Priest-in-charge of the African out-station Churches. He is also in very close touch with the theological students. If the Community of the Resurrection withdraw their staff, he may be unable to stay in the district. This will be very sad both for the black and white people whom he loves so much and who love him. How tragic also for the Seminary, which with its multi-racial staff and student membership provided an excellent opportunity for the exercise of good race-relationships.

Hannah Stanton.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME FOR 1975

Social events for the New Year include the ever-popular Fancy Dress Party on Saturday, January 11 - theme this time: Sports and Pastimes, a Whist Drive in February, and a Theatre Outing in March (further details to be announced later). Mr. David Bell will be giving another of his very professional Organ Recitals in April. If you have any special event which you would like St. James's to produce please let the members of the Social Committee know. Better than that - why not join our happy group of organisers - it's great fun!

R.B.

KEEP FIT

Make 1975 your 'Tone-up' Year!

Most women do housework, walk or cycle - or maybe all three, but do these activities preserve the normal movements in all joints, tone up flabby muscles, improve posture, really help to keep your figure trim? If they do - you're lucky - but for those of us who are not so fortunate, we find that Keep Fit is the

answer.

We meet regularly to exercise our bodies following given patterns of movement to various rhythms, which give opportunity for expression.

After our one hour of Eileen Fowler style Keep Fit we leave the Hall with a general feeling of well-being, in the knowledge that we have moved parts of our body which are otherwise neglected. We also have had an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones, and shared the enjoyment of having moved to music.

If you wish to do something towards your own vitality and mobility (and age need not restrict you), come along to the Parish Hall any Tuesday from 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. to see what we do.

If this time is impossible for you, or you would like more information, - telephone either 979-1954 or 979-5629.

CARING FOR CHILDREN

It seemed very fitting that the preacher at Evensong on Stewardship Sunday should be the Rev. B.A.J. Durden from the Church of England Children's Society, which is one of the charities helped by our stewardship scheme. The Children's Society has an annual budget of £2½ million entirely provided by voluntary donations and is able to help about 5000 children each year. Some of the money is given as small weekly grants to families short of money to enable the family to stay together in their own home, this being a policy of the Society. The Society, through adoption, finds new homes with members of the Church of England for children with no parents of their own, not only for normal healthy children, but also for those who are hard to place because of their age, colour, or a mental or physical handicap. Children who cannot be adopted are cared for either in foster homes or in special homes or nurseries. We were also told of the **desperate need for more foster parents** (perhaps some-one in this parish has room for a homeless child!) We were surprised to find that the traditional home has virtually disappeared and the Society, moving with the times, provides day nurseries for pre-school children, hostels for unsupported mothers and their babies, special centres for children with special problems such as the handicapped, diabetic and maladjusted. After the service we were able to continue the discussion and see photographs of the children. It was disappointing to hear that even in these days of the welfare state their work is nevertheless increasing, but interesting to know that our money is being well spent.

A.K.

(Another striking fact that impressed some of us was that the Society employs eighty six full-time social workers, who give children in care constant personal attention, if necessary for year after year, often travelling long distances to keep in regular touch. - Ed.)

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The "Wave of Prayer" centres on London and Sierra Leone from January 11 to 15. In both Dioceses the branches will try to work together to keep a con-

tinuous vigil through the day-time. The time allocated to St. James's to take their part is 2.40 - 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, January 11. Not the most convenient time for most of us but try to come to the Vestry if you possibly can so that we really can have something like corporate prayer for that short time. If you can't come then please try to keep the time wherever you happen to be. We have various needs in our own Diocese and maybe many of those of Sierra Leone are different, but one thing we all need is the Power of God in our everyday lives and all branches need to be offered as channels for the Grace of God to the life of the world.

The next Branch Meeting will be on **Monday**, February 3, and is going to be of special importance. The speaker will be Mrs. Rachel Nugee, the Diocesan President, and her subject will be the Aims and Objects in our new Charter. Those who met Mrs. Nugee at St. Alban's last year or who saw her in the B.B.C's "Discipline" programme, will know that this is bound to be an interesting and lively afternoon. We have been poised ready to start on a programme of 'New Dimensions' and trying to think out what it should mean while, we awaited the Royal assent to the Charter to give us the go ahead. Now that we have it this meeting will be our start. We have invited other local branches to join us and hope that anyone in St. James's who is interested in what M.U. is about will join us. We have arranged to have a 'creche' for the afternoon.

C.H.B.

GROWTH IN THE SPIRIT

We hear a great deal today about the Holy Spirit's 'breaking-through' into human lives, at a definite point in time, and making everything different, everything new. It can be a crisis-experience: a person is at the end of his tether perhaps, conscious only of his utter impotence and failure; or he is faced with a great decision, or a call to deeper commitment - and then God acts unmistakably, overwhelmingly, and there is liberation, exaltation, victory and peace - and often a new ability and freedom to praise God through the gift of tongues. Then the new power given is tested and tried as the person goes on to follow the guidance of the Spirit in all his activities in the months ahead, usually joining himself to others who have had a similar experience. So whole parishes (Houston is now but one example among many, some not far from us) and colleges, groups of professional and business-men, have been transformed and raised from mediocrity to a new, confident, purposeful and joyful style of living.

One danger here is that those who have had such dramatic experiences may make the mistake of thinking that they are the norm for everyone else, and divisiveness and conflict may enter the Christian community. Or those who cannot point to such moments may feel that they are inferior, second-class Christians, and seek in unwise ways an experience which if God wants them to have it will come in His own good time.

As well as 'break-through' there is another model - that of 'gradual growth', from being babes in Christ to spiritual maturity in growing likeness to God. There will of course be crises too - especially in spiritual as in physical adolescence - but usually not so dramatic as with those who belong mainly to the former category. Here Christian life consists mainly of 'walking in the

'Spirit', a steady step-by-step progress, rather than sudden mighty leaps and bounds, or being caught up and propelled through the air.

But we must not fall into the temptation of making this an 'either - or' : either 'break-through' or 'gradual progress'. It is rather a 'both - and' : they are complementary. For most of us it is perhaps for most of the way a matter of faithful perseverance up-hill and down-dale, but always open to the Spirit and ready for the decisive break-through when it comes, and God wants to bring us quickly to a new stretch of the road. The question we have to put to ourselves is 'What is God asking of me now?', and if we are not sure of the answer, we should not hesitate to ask the prayers and advice of others, especially of those whom we recognise as freer and more mature in the Lord than we are.

(This is but the briefest outline of a very important matter which could well be the subject of several 'Teach-Ins' and followed up by long and serious consideration and discussion. Comments of readers will be welcome. - Ed.),

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

This time on our own doorstep, not at the headquarters of a great missionary society. There are indeed many such opportunities near at hand - if you doubt this and have any time to spare, just get in touch with the Community Care Group, and they will snatch it up! But we are thinking here of two specific jobs which are now vacant - that of business manager for this magazine and that of cleaning Wayside.

For years, Mr. and Mrs. Mills have worked as a team, dealing in courteous and friendly fashion as well as most efficiently with our large number of advertisers, and obtaining new ones when old ones have fallen out. Then of late Mr. Mills has been a most conscientious treasurer of the accounts, and the inevitably increasing gap between what our good supporters the advertisers pay and the amount needed to keep it going has caused him great concern. But no one could have done more than he has to keep the finances in as good a condition as possible, and we have to regard the magazine in the light of a service to the community and not a source of profit - and a service which will most likely need larger subsidies from the P.C.C., year by year, as printing and paper costs are hit by inflation just as hard as everything else is (though our new printer has served us extremely well in keeping these down to a minimum, as well as in all other respects - including particularly his reliability; the magazine has **always** been published on the agreed date!). We thank Mr. and Mrs. Mills very much for the long, loyal and painstaking service which they have given, and now ask for someone to come forward to take their place.

Mrs. Mant, who has kept Wayside spotless, is also having to give up this work. We need someone who can offer 2½ hours every week - applicants please get in touch with Mrs. Bridges, 19 St. James's Road.

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

January
19 The Lay Chairman and members of the Deanery Synod
26 The Mayor and Corporation

February
2 The Hospitals within the Deanery
9 Homes and Day-Centres for old people
16 All Saints, Hampton.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

January
13 10.30 Editorial Board (75 St. James's Avenue);
19.30 First Training-Session (41 Wellington Road)
14 18.00 Confirmation Group begins again (Vestry);
20.00 Liturgical Committee (63 Park Road)
15 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Parochial Church Council (W)
16 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
18-25 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
19 No Evensong here, but transport available from 18.20 to
take people to the UNITED SERVICE which begins at 18.45
in the Methodist Church, Percy Road.
21 20.00 Committee of the Hampton & Sunbury Council of
Churches (United Reformed Church)
22 20.00 Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road)
23 20.00 Welcome and Searching Group (28 Longford Close)
24 20.00 Meeting to prepare for Teach-In (69 St. James's Avenue)
25 CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL: 07.30 Holy Communion,
08.30 - 10.30 Waste-paper Collection (W)
27 20.00 Properties Committee (Vicarage)
29 07.30 Holy Communion
30 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St James's Avenue)

February
2 SEXAGESIMA : After shortened Evensong, TEACH-IN on 'The
Eucharist Today', followed by discussion and refreshments.
3 14.30 Mothers' Union Open Meeting : Speaker - Mrs. Nugee
(south aisle of church)
4 CANDLEMAS (end of the Forty Days of Christmas) :
07.30 and 10.00 Holy Communion.
7 20.00 Deanery Synod : Guest and Speaker - Mr. Toby
Jessel, M.P. (St. Stephen's Hall)
9 QUINQUAGESIMA : After Evensong, the second TEACH-IN
on the Eucharist.
12 ASH WEDNESDAY : 08.50 Holy Communion (St. Anne's
Chapel, LEHS); 19.45 Parish Communion; 20.30 Parochial
Church Council (W).

BURIALS

December

6

Fanny Bennett, 32 Edward Road, aged 92 years.

7

Otto William Charles Hirsch, 43 St. James's Avenue,
aged 68 years (interment of ashes in Garden of Rest)

14

Violet Marjorie Faraker, 16 Park Road, aged 76 years,
(interment of ashes in Garden of Rest)