

**OUR NEW VICAR AND HIS FAMILY THE REV. J. NICHOLAS CHUBB
AND HIS WIFE SUSAN WITH THEIR CHILDREN FROM LEFT
TO RIGHT ANDREW, NAOMI AND SARAH**



As we promised you last month, Mr. Chubb has very kindly sent us a photo of his family and we are very pleased to publish it here in the Spire. Most of you know by now the induction of Mr. Chubb will be on July 13, and the family are hoping to move into the Vicarage some time during the previous week. Andrew is hoping to start at university in the autumn and the two girls will be going to Bishop Wand School in September. Sarah will be in the lower sixth and Naomi in the third year. The family are keen musicians and will be continuing their studies as soon as possible. Work has now started on modernisation of the vicarage, so the summer holidays will be spent to good effect trying to get everything straight.

EASTER IMPRESSIONS

Easter is a lovely time, an emotional and awe-inspiring and yet joyful time and I was so very glad to be spending it in Hampton Hill.

For me, it started with Maunday Thursday and the quiet evening Eucharist. The service which was well attended, included the first demonstration by the newly formed group of St. James's devotional dancers. Dance was the word used and the movements were those of the dance but so quiet, controlled and beautiful, more of supplication, of a prayer without words. Accompanied by the sweetly-true voice of Mrs. Prentice supported by Margaret and Helen Lawrance it was quietly impressive and, I thought, included in just the right place in the service.

The three-hour service on Good Friday was, as usual, a time for quiet contemplation of the meaning of Christianity and the sorrow and agony of the death of Jesus. Again there was a large congregation, many staying the full three hours but those who could not, came and departed considerably and quietly not breaking the continuity of the thoughts, prayers and readings for which there had obviously been much preparation.

At the Easter Sunday Family Eucharist the church, after Lenten austerity, was beautiful with flowers and large branches of flowering trees and the organ music most inspiring. The visiting friend with me said "I think that is the best service I have ever been to – what a lovely spirit there is here". I agreed.

Of course, we all missed Rupert and Connie Brunt but the services were so sympathetically given to us by David Bonner that I am sure they would have most happy for us.

Alison Thompson

At the Maundy Service the St. James's dancers, entered to a stately setting of 'In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit' composed by Olive Hayward. The presentation came from 'The Sound of Living Waters' the theme illustrative of the heart of the Eucharist was portrayed simply and with a flowing beauty which blended well with the beautiful music. I found that the eloquent movements and soaring voices gave a poignant beauty which spoke more than many words.

Carol Tipper

For the children's service held on Good Friday morning we have become accustomed to a dramatic display of some sort – this year we had a new and welcome addition to the Sunday School's repertoire: a puppet show. They had made the puppets themselves, dressed them and suitably adapted a script which portrayed some scenes from the life of Christ. It was very well done and can I feel sure be used to good effect on future occasions.

Later during the service Betty Stewart told us a story of the bamboo plant – beautiful and tall, but who was willing to be sacrificed to serve his master's cause, so that the two halves of stem could be used as channels for water to irrigate the dry rice field.

Earlier in the week I had read an article in "The Times" about the number of simple wells being dug in Bangladesh, and sometimes lined with bamboo – which if not allowed to dry out will last for many years and is much cheaper and more readily available than copper piping, so I found Betty's story particularly apt. Jesus spoke of the "Water of Life". Although the bamboo plant clearly stood for Christ Himself who gave His life for us, we too must be channels of this water to nurture a parched earth by our spiritual gifts and by our practical

After the service the Sunday School arranged the easter garden, with supervision, which I thought looked especially pretty this year. Many thanks to all helpers and to the Sunday School children and their teachers.

Helen Taylor

On Palm Sunday evening, April 12 the St. James's Choir gave us a devotional interpretation of Stainer's CRUCIFIXION in our church. Though we have heard this work many times, the impact is still deep. Solo parts were taken by Jack Gostling (Bass), and David Taylor (Tenor) with supporting singers Gerwyn Anthony and Paul Revis — all sang with meaning and artistry. The choir were precise and gave a truly beautiful rendering. The congregation joined in the hymns.

Many thanks to the choir mistress, Olive Hayward, who has so competently trained the choir and accompanied at the organ.

Dilys Melville

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

On Thursday, April 2 the Young Families Group held a Pram Service on the theme of Mothering Sunday. The committee had worked hard in previous weeks to make fluffy chickens for the children and Pam Atkinson and Debbie Nunn made a large mother hen. The subject of the address, given by Hannah Stanton was The Mother Church and us her children, as shown by the mother hen and her chickens.

Refreshments were served after the service by members of the Mothers Union and included a delicious Simnel Cake baked by Hilde Bucknell.

Thank you to Liz Sharman for playing the organ.

Penny Hennessy

WELCOME SERVICE FOR PENTECOST

On Whitsunday June 7 you are invited to a Welcome Service at 4.30pm. These informal services of very varying format are now only held on very few special occasions during the year.

MAGAZINE APPEAL

We acknowledge with many thanks donations received since the last issue. We are most grateful, not only for the money, but for the appreciation of The Spire which the donations express.

THANKYOU: Mrs. Freemantle, Mr. & Mrs. R. Bridges, Mr. S.C. Collins, Mrs. H. Bucknell, Mrs. E.J. Lay, L.E. Lawrence, Mrs. P.M. Greenslade, Mrs. J. Martin, Mrs. J. Hewitt, Mrs. E.M. Snow, Miss D. Butt, Mr. P.R. Cowee, Mrs. M. Wigginton, Mrs. K. Holmes, Mrs. C. Robinson, Anonymous (small buff envelope), Mrs. D. Casey, Mr. & Mrs. S. Heaford, Mrs. A. Hamilton, G. & D. Page, J. Jewel, M. & G. Martin, Mrs. R. Gould, Mrs. F. Ferran, C.G. Atkins, K.J. Newman, Mrs. J. Soutar, Miss B. Williams, G.R. Brittan, M.S. Savage, Mrs. E. Sedgwick, Mrs. F. Moses, R. Wilde, Mrs. K. Clayton, Barbara M. ?Bailey of 1 Queens Rd., M. Williamson, Mr. & Mrs. L. Doughty, Mrs. V.C. ?Hawie of 32A St. James' Ave., Mrs. Lelliott, Misses S. & A. Thompspon, Mrs. Williams, Mr. T. Baldwin, Mrs. P. Martin, N. Jardin, Mrs. M. French, Miss L. & M. Browne, Mrs. C. McCarthy, Anonymous, Mrs. G.P. Sparshott, Miss H. Denney, Miss J. Western, U.D. & B. Pearce.

M. Orton

PRAYER

The Hampton Council of Churches' meetings on 'Prayer' were brought to a triumphant conclusion by Dr Martin Israel whose deep spirituality moved all who heard his address. Dr Israel, a full-time pathologist and a part-time priest is well-known as a writer on religious themes, and as a retreat conductor. Martin Nathanael, whom we have come to know and appreciate since Rupert left us, had his pre-ordination retreat with Dr Israel and we can now understand how deep an impression this must have made.

Talking of prayer, Martin Israel described its power as we confront God, we take on a shadow of the divine image and we can be transfigured, and the world transfigured if we 'live and move and have our being' in Christ. Sadly, though, we approach God most closely through sorrow or when tragedy strikes; Dr Israel used as an example the Prodigal Son who 'came to himself' and in his despair was led back to his father, through the Holy Spirit. Other speakers had described prayer as the Holy Spirit within us communing with God through us, and Dr Israel spoke of Christians praying *to* the Father, *through* the Son and *moved* by the Holy Spirit. We can approach God the Father only through the Son, with the Holy Spirit leading us into truth, and when our sins are forgiven, the spirit is strengthened. Of intercession, Dr Israel used the image of the magnifying glass – the rays of the Holy Spirit pass through our love and concern, and through our awakened will, as through the glass and so concentrate on the love of God.

But, Dr Israel stressed, we can come to intercession only when we have been cleansed by the Spirit – we must be made perfect by the power of prayer, so that we become people whom God can use, channels through which the Spirit can flow, as Rupert also often said.

Then we came to the central point of the meditation: Martin Israel's title was 'Prayer in Gethsemane' and he spoke movingly of the agony in the garden. *Here* was the real torture of Jesus, the mental far outstripped the physical anguish. Others were crucified daily for petty offences, two other men were so executed with Jesus Himself but nobody else, either before, or since has endured comparable mental suffering and pain. Some of us who know depression and spiritual desolation may perhaps realise to some slight extent what Jesus endured in the garden. Here, and alone, deserted by His friends, He fought single-handed against all the evil in the universe, concentrated on Him, He felt all the pain of the world how He must have been tempted to give in, to rest from the struggle! But He withstood the deepest psychic stress, and left His ordeal victorious. When we ourselves suffer mentally or physically, we know that Christ has passed through more bitter sorrows and that His love and strength are always available for our support, but He suffered entirely alone.

All the speakers, in their different ways have moved and stirred us; we remember with gratitude particularly the life-enhancing Fr. Benedict Ramsdeen, who gave a splendid address about the Orthodox Church and its devotion to the mysteries and majesty of the Risen Lord. We thank them all, the Hampton Council of Churches for planning the series and the Methodist Church for their warm hospitality.

Margaret Taylor

WHAT IS MEDITATION?

"Go outside, return into yourself; the Truth dwells in the inner man" (Saint Augustine). Through the practice of meditation the soul is brought to stillness and rest, firstly, within itself, and secondly, within the mystery of the Godhead. Meditation, then, is an inward spiritual way taking us beyond mere belief (or doubt) in a God who is separate and remote, and opening out to us the wonder of the Presence of God as we become "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

To practice meditation, therefore, is to affirm our high calling; to rise to "the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ" (Eph. 4:13) and to shine with his glory in the surrounding darkness.

One of the great mystics, John of Ruysbroeck, used ecstatic language to point to the *end* of this work which is nothing else than a return to our *beginning*, in eternity:

"The bosom of the Father is our ground and origin, in which we begin our being and our life. And from our proper ground, that is, from the Father and from all that lives in Him, there shines forth an eternal brightness, which is the birth of the Son. All who are raised up above their creaturely condition into a God-seeing life are one with this Divine brightness. By means of this inborn light they are transfigured and behold God and all things, without distinction, in a simple seeing. And this is the most noble contemplation to which one can attain in this life; for in it, a man best remains master of himself and free. And at each loving introversion he may grow in nobility of life beyond anything that we are able to understand."

The beginner, of course, will not reach such heights every time he goes into meditation. Nevertheless, with each "loving introversion" if he works carefully and single-mindedly, he gradually dispels "the cloud of un-knowing" which comes between himself and his Beloved; at the same time, some of the "inborn light" begins to pervade his outward being, and the divine attributes of peace, bliss, freedom, knowledge, insight and so on retain a sense of God's universal presence in the midst of the multiplicity of activities and responsibilities.

Meditation (or contemplative prayer) is not just for a spiritual elite, but for everyone, including those who think that they have "no time to spare"! For the meditative way provides one with a core of inner stillness with which to face the demands of life.

Through meditation the "eyes of the heart" are opened and the intuitive understanding awakened. But it is not a soft option; like all worthy things, it requires faith, dedication and conscious application. According to the author of "The Cloud of Unknowing", it is WORK.

For all who may be interested, I will be presenting an introductory course on Christian meditation towards the end of May. Entitled "Walk in the Spirit", each session will take place at All Saints Church, The Avenue, Hampton, at 8pm on successive Wednesdays.

Designed as an introduction to the varied and rich treasures of Christian spirituality, each session will also provide an opportunity, under guidance, for the practice and experience of spiritual disciplines.

Fuller details will be available nearer the time, either from myself (tel. 979.8916) or from Hilde Bucknell (tel. 979 3529).

You are invited to join "the WORK"

CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATIVE MEDITATION

For the Christian, contemplative meditation begins, continues and ends in God.

In the beginning, God made man in His own image, after His own likeness. There is in each one of us the seed of divinity; though we have choked it with the weeds of self-assertion, God in His infinite love has won back for us through Christ the power to become His sons, and He pours down upon us the life-giving dew of His Spirit to enable the divine seed to germinate and come to fruition within us.

But how are we to co-operate with Him in realising our true potential as the sons of God and allowing Him to establish His Kingdom in our hearts and, through us, in the world? In our contemporary society, with its emphasis on efficiency and productivity, we find it hard to cease from our own activities and to place ourselves unconditionally in the loving hands of God, so that He may permeate the whole of our being and bring forth the image of His Son in us.

The method taught by the Fellowship of Meditation is essentially very simple. To prepare ourselves to wait humbly and expectantly upon God, we attend first to the externals — finding a spot where we may reasonably hope to be undisturbed and seating ourselves upright on a straight-backed chair, with our chins level, our feet firmly on the ground and our hands at rest in our laps. In this posture we can be alert without becoming tense, relaxed without being sloppy.

Interior preparation is much more demanding. Those of us who are used to discursive meditation (in which we picture some scene from the Gospels, work out its implications for our daily lives and conclude with some concrete practical resolution) generally experience great difficulty in stilling our minds and bringing them into a state of receptivity. This is where the use of Sentences is helpful.

It is our practice in our period of silent meditation to repeat to ourselves a carefully chosen Sentence which conveys some aspect of God's nature ("I am the Resurrection and the Life") or of His activity ("Behold, I make all things new"), or invites us to draw closer to Him ("Come unto Me"). These are all examples of "Primary" Sentences, in which we hear God speaking to us. We use also "secondary" Sentences, expressing our own response or deep desire — "I would come to Thee, I would learn of Thee, I would abide in Thee". Slowly and silently we repeat the Sentence to ourselves, letting God speak to us through it.

Of course distractions intrude, both from the outer world and from our restless thoughts within, but every time we bring our minds gently back to the Sentence, recognising it as the Sacrament of God's Word to us. At first we can sustain the meditation for only a very short time — two minutes, say. Gradually we learn to use longer periods, perhaps eight to ten minutes. The important thing is to persevere in regular practice, two or three times a day, even though nothing may seem to be happening. Spiritual growth, like its physical counterpart, is a slow and imperceptible process. We are required merely to be faithful stewards of God's means of grace: it is He who will give the increase.

We can, however, help each other by meeting from time to time to meditate together. There is already a local Fellowship of Meditation group at Richmond. If you would like to know more, please ring Miss Eileen Hore (01-940 9866) or Enid Long (01-894 1805) one evening after 7.30.

"THE WILD WEST SHOW"

We are again holding our Annual Fete on Saturday May 23 on the Holly Road Recreation Ground, the theme being "The Wild West".

There will be entertainment by the Cub Scouts, a Children's Fancy Dress event and a Dog Show, in addition to the usual well equipped Stalls and Side Shows.

Although as most of you know we have our own Headquarter's, the building cannot be permanently used until we have installed the most necessary amenities, Electricity and Water, the cost of which is almost prohibitive.

Please come along and support your own Scout Group and thus show your appreciation of the unlimited time freely given by the Officers and helpers to the boys of this Parish.

Michael J. Child, G.S.L.

Not only Michael Child's long standing services have been recognised by an award, as previously reported — Yvonne Childs is being awarded the Long Service Medal for her more than 15 years' work for Scouting. Both awards will be presented during the District AGM on 2 June. Our congratulations to Yvonne and Michael.

HAMPTON HILL WASTEPAPER COLLECTION (ST. JAMES'S AREA)

We much regret having to suspend our Wastepaper Collection until further notice. The price has dropped from £22 to £5 per ton and, at this price, it is not worth collecting.

There is a bad slump due to the closing of so many large paper mills and there are large stocks of paper everywhere. We are assured by our paper merchants that there will always be a market for wastepaper and they are particularly anxious to keep up their connection with us because we sort and deliver our newspaper in neat flat bundles.

As soon as the position improves we hope to re-start the collection which has been so successful in the past.

David and Janet Nunn

VIEWS FROM THE PEW

Applause in church? Certainly it is on the occasion of a concert or organ recital. I see no reason why a church building should not be used for such functions and then applause is welcome and fitting. But if a special item of music — or any other special presentation — is offered in the context of an act of worship then I feel there should be no applause.

I noticed this year that quite a few easter cards on sale contained messages like Springtime Greetings, or Happy Easter — Happy Spring. This simple equation of Easter and spring made me quite sad. Of course spring is a happy season when one contemplates the new life bursting forth after the seeming dead of winter. Fresh green leaves and shoots are very beautiful and amazing, and one of God's deeds that deserve praise and thanksgiving. But the Resurrection of our Lord is so much more than this. His being raised to Life out of death surpasses anything that God has ordained for nature. It is totally different and much greater. It is the supreme super-natural miracle.

DUKE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND

The Church Youth Club visited this church on Sunday March 15. It was a new experience for all of us and it was indeed very different from our own church service. The church was fairly large and contained a ground floor and a gallery upstairs. There were also microphones for the use of the speaker. The actual building gave the impression that it had been recently built. We were warmly greeted at the door and we took our seats ready to begin the service. It opened with hymn singing that was led by a Mr Victor Kee. During the service we sang many hymns, most of which were new to us, listened to readings from the New Testament and then there was a sermon entitled "Saving Faith".

After the service we returned to Wayside to discuss the evening. The main feeling was that the service was rather modernised and that the building was rather large. However, many of us commented how well the message, that we should not be led astray by others who do not want to believe in God, was brought through to us during the sermon. We all felt that although we preferred our own church service, we had learnt a lot about the service of Duke Street Baptist Church and we all agreed it had been well worth while making the journey to Richmond.

Kate Gaskell

A SUNDAY EVENING VISIT

Recently the Church Youth Club (CYC) visited Amyand Park Chapel which is situated by the side of the railway at St. Margarets.

Nine children turned up outside Wayside to get in Jo Brownlee's two door Avenger to go to the chapel. We were a bit squashed and very pleased when we arrived. We arrived at about 6.30pm just in time for the service to start. The chapel had no stained glass windows and looked a bit like a Scout Hut.

The service started with a hymn and then a few prayers were said. After the prayers we had three readings. When the readings had finished, the Pastor stood up and preached a sermon on the Crucifixion of Christ. The Pastor in his sermon emphasized the words "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" many times, and by the time the sermon was over the only words that stuck in ones mind were "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" as the Pastor kept repeating them throughout the sermon. After the sermon we sang a hymn, and while we were singing the offertory was taken. We had some more prayers and then we had a final hymn. For the prayers we had no kneelers, so we had to sit on the edge of the pew.

After the service we were invited to stay for refreshments in the hall at the back of the Chapel. While we had our coffee and biscuits, there was a bookshop being erected if anybody wished to buy books. The Pastor in the notices said that there would be a meeting after coffee and biscuits but we were unable to stay as we had to get back to Wayside to discuss the service, and how it differed from our church. We had a very good discussion which lasted about an hour. Every boy and girl said what they thought of the Chapel, and most people preferred our church to the Chapel. It was a very good evening and I wish to thank Jo Brownlee on behalf of CYC for making this evening possible.

Peter Rawlings

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

I wonder how many of you have noticed the new Plaque placed on the wall of the north aisle between the two flags. This was given by the Scout Group Council in memory of George Casey, founder of the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1980

<u>GENERAL FUND - RECEIPTS</u>		
1979		
8,203	Pledged Giving	8,671
960	Other Giving and Donations	885
2,085	Refund of Tax on Deeds of Covenant	2,687
725	Other Income including Grants by Archdeacon (£1,000)	1,950
<u>£11,973</u>		<u>£14,193</u>

PAYMENTS

3,052	Repairs & Maintenance	420
1,551	Heat, Light and Insurance	1,412
1,112	Vicar, Organist, Choir, etc.	1,308
3,611	Diocesan Contribution	4,263
1,278	Donations to Charities	1,690
1,482	Magazine, Churchyard, Stewardship and Miscellaneous Expenses	1,079
<u>£12,086</u>		<u>£10,172</u>

PARISH HALL

2,812	Income from Letting and Sundry Receipts	2,911
3,645	Less Running Expenses including Repainting	2,403
<u>£ 833</u> Dr		<u>£ 508</u>

WAYSIDE

888	Rent of Flat, Donations and Sundries	1,715
1,325	Less Running Expenses including Purchase of Furniture and Fittings	940
<u>£ 437</u> Dr		<u>£ 775</u>

PARISH MAGAZINE

886	Income from Advertisements, Transfer from General Fund and Other Income	1,152
762	Production Costs	826

A copy of the full Accounts can be obtained from The Treasurer,
Mr G I Robinson.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

MAY

- 3 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER; 9.30 Monthly Family and Parade Service; 16.30 Evensong with special organ music and hymns
- 6 14.30 MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH MEETING at Wayside
- 7 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia
- 9 14.00 MOTHERS' UNION JUMBLE SALE at Church Hall
- 10 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER; Morning services are as usual; Sunday School re-opens; 18.45 United Service for Christian Aid Week at Hampton Methodist Church
- 12 TUESDAY CLUB meets at Wayside
- 13 20.00 PRAYER MEETING AND STUDY GROUP (75 Burton's Road)
- 14 ST. MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE; 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia
- 17 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER; services are as usual
- 19 20.00 SOCIAL COMMITTEE meets
- 21 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia
- 24 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER; services are as usual
- 26 TUESDAY CLUB meets at Wayside
- 27 20.00 PRAYER MEETING AND STUDY GROUP (75 Burton's Road)
- 28 ASCENSION DAY; 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia
- 30 PARISH QUIET DAY at Ham
- 31 SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY; Services are as usual

JUNE

- 4 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia
- 7 PENTECOST - (WHITSUNDAY); 9.30 Monthly Family and Parade Service; 16.30 WELCOME SERVICE; 17.15 Service at Laurel Dene
- 9 20.00 TUESDAY CLUB meets at Wayside; 20.15 Liturgical Committee meet at 63
- 10 20.00 PRAYER MEETING AND STUDY GROUP (75 Burton's Road) (Park Road)
- 11 ST. BARNABAS THE APOSTLE; 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Koinonia
- 14 TRINITY SUNDAY; services are as usual

The Catechumenate meet every Wednesday at 20.00 and Saturday at 19.00.

As shown the Prayer and Study Group at 75 Burton's Road will meet on alternate Wednesdays unless special arrangements for a particular week are notified.

As May 4 and 25 are Bank Holidays the Wayside Monday Centre will not be open.

The Young Families Group meet on Thursday in Wayside at 10.30 am.

The Induction of the Reverend J. Nicholas Chubb will be on Monday, July 13.

BAPTISM

- April 12 Darren Michael Stapleton, 10 Hanworth Road, Hampton
Rebecca Louise Stebbings, 56 Wordsworth Road, Hampton
Nathan Lee Jones, 63 Wordsworth Road, Hampton

CREMATIONS AND BURIALS

- April 7 Winifred Mabel Thatcher, Aged 76, 14 Eastbank Road, Hampton Hill
South West Middlesex Crematorium
- 13 Burial of urn with ashes in St. James's Churchyard
- 10 Harry Muckle, Aged 70, 1 School Road, Hampton Hill
Church service and burial in St. James's Churchyard
- 14 Leonard Roland Lord, Aged 56, 41 St. James's Avenue, Hampton Hill
South West Middlesex Crematorium

CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

- May 10 Thomas, D.R., 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
- 17 Hall, H., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill
- 24 & 25 Moss, E. Ltd., 14 Broad Street, Teddington
- 31 Martin, F.G. (Chemists) Ltd., 28b Priory Road, Hampton
- June 7 Manley, D.G., 122 High Street, Teddington
- 14 Martin, F.G. (Chemists) Ltd., 3 Station Approach, Hampton