

October sees the local Church programme beginning in earnest for the winter months. Although these things have received notice in the shape of full page advertisements it is worthwhile spelling them out.

The first course is one put out by the Hampton Council of Churches, and has been arranged to make available to us the central beliefs of some of the great faiths of the world. So we begin with Judaism, then include Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism. The final talk will be by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, who was prevented last year by ill health at the last moment from addressing us. It is most important that we know what other people believe, not only for its own sake, but also so that we can be sympathetic to other people's viewpoints and know what is distinctive about Christianity. It is so easy for us to slip into non-thinking acceptance of the tradition into which we have been born and brought up without knowing *why* we believe what we believe. It is also very easy to condemn out of hand those traditions of which, to be honest, most of us know very little or nothing. World religions do not establish themselves by accident. (These talks happen at Percy Road Methodist Church).

Interwoven with these is a set of talks on practical Christianity and that other set of ideas about which most of us know little or nothing, or worse still, tend to ignore. These talks on "a chance to look with Christian eyes at facts and faith in an unfair world" will look at how we can, as Christians, and *because* we are Christians, share our good material fortune with the vastly larger proportion of the world's population which has not enough to eat. Can we, ought we, to do anything? If so, how can we do anything? This puts the onus on us to find out and not just to sit back. These talks, discussions, information evenings will be held at St. Peter and St. Paul, Teddington on various Thursdays, and have been organised by the Hampton Deanery Synod for Lay Training.

One final thought this month. Has the decision by the Minister of the Environment to override the wishes of local people and a Government Inspector, to allow the go ahead for a new Sainsbury's at St. Clare Nurseries given anyone food for thought in the proper use of power, which has been mentioned in the last two editions of the Spire?

Nicholas Chubb

"As the sun rises in the morning, shines into thy house, if thou dost but open the windows, so God, the unsleeping King, will shine in upon the soul which unfolds itself to Him; for God, like the sun above us, is ready to enter within each one of us, if we open unto Him".

St. John of the Cross

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM

We are now a little nearer the heart of the matter although there is still much to be found out. In his letter to one of the protesters (who subsequently resigned his Orders) the Archbishop of York wrote "I shall ask him 'Do you believe the doctrine of the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it?' I have every reason to believe that he will be able to answer this question affirmatively in complete good faith I see no valid ground for asking Professor Jenkins to make more declarations than the Church has seen fit to prescribe". He also asks the question "Does the Church of England require its clergy to profess belief not only in the Catholic Creeds, but also in a particular interpretation of them?"

This is really the issue, it seems to me. What we can never see is how our present positions, beliefs, interpretations and knowledge have *evolved* and *increased* over the centuries. The simplest form of the Gospel in the New Testament is "Jesus is Lord". (Romans 10 v. 9 - 10). If that were all that were required how much easier things would be. But in a world where Christians feel threatened by secularism and by the encroaching of other faiths we need to know more. Furthermore it is the legacy of Western thinking to want to put our philosophies into pigeon-holes. In my experience there are always some misfits; letters and parcels are too awkward or too big for the boxes.

It is true that many of our present bishops do not hold a point of view which is cut-and-dried in the expression of their faith, but this is probably because they are all the time working out their own positions and would not want to be considered holding stagnant beliefs. There is of course a difference between firmness and stagnation which causes tension. But then we ought always to be growing ourselves and that is a painful process.

Nicholas Chubb

IN PRAISE OF EVENSONG

Have you never been to Evensong?
Do you occasionally come to Evensong?
If you belong to the first group I suggest you try it!
It is a lovely service and very peaceful and you would surely find something in the service.
If you belong to the second group, you know the service
so it does not have to be recommended.
It would be splendid to have a few more there each week.
It is a good way to end the day, so if some of us could, or would, come occasionally how good it would be.
The choir is always there, in full strength, singing well.
The Clergy and Readers give of their best,
The atmosphere is warm with the love and praise of God
so come and be another member of the congregation.

Extract from the August edition of "The Net" the Parish Magazine of St. Peter's-in-Thanel. I thought this was very appropriate to our own St. James's Church.

Vera Rockliffe

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Although it is September and we are now commencing our winter programme I would like to give a brief account of our summer camps:

TROOP: 11 Scouts and 3 Leaders camped at the end of July for 4 days at Broadstone Warren. A short Camp but very good. Boys went to the seaside, swimming, golf and climbing.

BROWN PACK: Very successful Camp at Perry Wood near East Grinstead. 16 Cubs including 4 from Gold attended. Various activities including a day at the seaside.

GOLD PACK: On 31st August 6 boys went to Polyapes for a training week-end.

BARBECUE: About 100 turned up on 7th September for the Barbecue on The Triangle and after the hot dogs had been served the parents moved into the Hut where Valerie Parkinson gave a detailed account of all our financial commitments. It was emphasised how necessary it was for parents to support all our fund-raising events and give personal help whenever possible.

The G.S.L. then welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and said how pleased he was to report that we now had a complete Group.

He then introduced Colin Hucklesby who has agreed to take over as Venture Scout Leader. This is a mixed Group of boys and girls aged between 16 and 20 and need not have been Scouts or Guides.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Jumble Sale	—	29th September	—	Parish Hall
Table Sale	—	13th October	—	Parish Hall
Bonfire Party	—	3rd November	—	The Triangle
Camelot Bazaar	—	24th November	—	Parish Hall

Doris Childs

"Calling all 16 year olds; looking for adventure and fun:

A brand new Venture Scout Unit has begun".

Phone 979 7268 or 979 9473 for further information.

A. Martin

SERVICE BY THE SEA

In the past I have written about various churches and services that I have attended and this year there has been another experience.

Each year during August we have a programme of activities on our beach of a few scattered holiday homes, and always there has been notified a Church Parade with time and church. Unfortunately as people have more money for cars and boats and other toys they are sometimes too busy to go to church and numbers steadily fell.

This year the Chairman and his lady had the grand idea of inviting the Vicar, the Rev. Blagden-Gamlin to come to us and this he did, and stood on the raised patio with the gentle sound of the sea behind him and his quite considerable congregation gathered in front of him in the garden with a background of marshland and Bird Sanctuary.

And then we had a very apt and appreciated service, short but so personal. Three hymns lustily sung by all present led by the Vicar with no other music, a reading by the Chairman's son from St. Mark, a sermon about the Sea of Life and some beautiful prayers with the sun warming our faces and the sea breeze gently ruffling our hair.

Afterwards we had the usual Chairman's party with lots of chat and I was able to renew my acquaintance with this Vicar of three very ancient churches.

Amazingly he said "I know you – er – Thompson, adding a little later – Alison, Hampton Hill, St. James, and this after an interval of 2 or 3 years and only an intermittant acquaintance before that.

I was filled with admiration as I'm completely hopeless at remembering names. I was glad he remembered St. James.

ST. JAMES'S DAY

On Sunday July 22nd, a beautiful summer day, we enjoyed a double celebration. It was the Sunday nearest St. James's Day (the 25th) and also the presentation to Betty Stewart in recognition of her 45 years of service as Sunday School teacher.

For the Service Nicholas used a novel theme of "buses", (we even had hymn 267, "Lord, her watch thy Church is keeping). We were reminded of the meaning of the word omnibus, "for all" and a comparison was drawn between bus journeys and the Christian life, all sorts of people getting on at different points but all going to the same destination. A colourful finale was provided by the children who, during the singing of another "bus route" hymn 270 "Trumpet of God sound High" came in miming trumpet players and waving streamers to represent tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit.

After the service a lovely tea was served on the church lawn by the Social Committee caterers and after eating the delicious food and chatting with many people we usually see so fleetingly at the Sunday services the moment arrived to make the presentations to Betty. Nicholas reminded us what she had done for the Sunday School and of the love and effort which she had put into the work. Rev. Raymond Draper had written regretting his absence and saying that it was Betty who had first stirred his interest in the Christian life. Nicholas then, on behalf of the P.C.C. presented a beautiful picture of the church, the work of Dick Waltham, and Eila a cheque on behalf of the parishioners to purchase something lasting to remember us by, whilst a beautiful spray of flowers was presented by Justine Lloyd.

In her reply Betty said that the Sunday School work had been a great joy and not just a duty. Raymond has also written to her that "she had made the Christian life sound such fun". She had done it all with great pleasure and had found it a great outlet during the last difficult years of looking after her mother. Looking to the future she would now be able to join regularly in the whole of the Family Communion Service and to be involved in other aspects of Parish life. Another pleasure would be to be able to go away for a weekend occasionally; but the chief reason for ending her Sunday School teaching was that she felt it was the RIGHT time and would offer an opening to others with new ideas to take over.

Jean Western

The Vicar has received a letter of thanks from Betty Stewart in which she tells how she intends to spend her gift of money. Nicholas pinned this letter on the Church Noticeboard but as many people do not seem to have read it we will reproduce it in our next issue.

THE CHOIR

"In quires and places where they sing" — so sayeth the 1662 rubric why? The Oxford Dictionary says a choir is a "band of singers performing or leading in a Church Service". Musicians who visit St. James are always impressed with our organ (there really are a lot of antiquated and small worn-out organs around the countryside, trying to do their little and ancient best to lead their choirs and congregations at worship), but are really puzzled about the lack of choir. I played a large looking organ in the Midlands whilst on holiday — but soon discovered that it had little power. I thought, however, that the Choir was a great help to the congregation at the Sunday morning service — we weren't left to flounder in at the start of the service music — and lots of the congregation were "non singers".

Another angle — most choirmen of today were choir-boys of "yesterday" — some Choir ladies too (though not till recently have we women had the opportunity to sing in Church Choirs — except in some churches where contraltos were welcomed). We have a Family Service — so it is nice to have Family space in the Choir Stalls — and saves having to fetch "junior" after Choir practice on dark nights. Why not come too? Some ability to read music in the Adult Sections is advisable — otherwise it becomes very hard going — and rather a burden on your neighbours too! If your child can sing (and almost all can) — give him/her an opportunity to give service to the Church, as well as improve musical skills. As we all know — everything improves with practice.

I attended a session on Church Music whilst at the "Three Choirs' Festival". Lionel Dakers of the Royal School of Church Music (to which our Church is affiliated) spoke repeatedly about the recent changes to A.S.B. — and always assumed there was a choir (if one could be had) to lead the congregation — and most new musical settings of the Service assume this too.

Olive Hayward

When the Parish Communion Service was introduced at St. James's over twenty years ago, there was a feeling that here was a new beginning — a fresh start. One of the chief innovations at this service was the bringing forward of the altar to the top of the chancel steps and of the priest now facing the congregation instead of having his back to it up in the chancel. There was therefore a much closer feeling between the priest and the congregation and it was felt that to have a choir now behind the priest was entirely inappropriate and unnecessary. The congregational singing at St. James' has always been very good so a choir in the new setting seemed superfluous and encouraged a division between those 'up the front' and the rest of us.

Recently the chancel level has been carried forward further into the body of the Church so that the choir are now even further from the congregation than they were before and since the introduction of the evening celebration of Holy Communion began over a year ago the number of people attending an evening service has not notably increased — choir or not.

There are various practical problems attached to having a choir in the morning service which are not insurmountable but ought to be considered.

- 1) Have the present choir members been asked how they would feel about singing at two services every Sunday?
- 2) Are we thinking in terms of a traditional Church Choir i.e. in the choir stalls, robed, etc?
- 3) What about a non-robed choir sitting in the body of the church? Pros and cons for this e.g. No contact with Choirmaster/mistress?
- 4) What about a choir for special occasions only, or say once a month?
- 5) If we have two different choirs how is the practice to be organised?
- 6) Are we going to have children in the choir? What about the Sunday School?
- 7) Will people also be willing to sing at weddings – of which there are an increasing number?
- 8) If we do have a choir in the morning, the evening choir may disappear, will Evensong go the same way? Numbers attending Evensong vary between 10 - 16 on average.
- 9) At present most of the effort put in by the choir and choirmistress go largely unrecognised because the bulk of the congregation are at the morning service. Some people do not know that we even have a choir!

There is no doubt that we have much untapped talent in St. James musically, as well as in many other respects, but let us be sure that these talents are used in the best way. Being the member of a choir requires a regular commitment, one or two services every Sunday, a practice every Friday evening and weddings from time to time. Before any decisions are made all these points should be considered. The only purpose in having a choir is to enhance the worship of God and to bring people closer to His Kingdom and this is the criteria by which we should evaluate this matter.

Helen Taylor

An Organ Recital by Olive Hayward, Sunday 29th July at 8pm

From a rousing beginning of that "evergreen" of the organ keyboard, J.S. Bach's magnificent Tocatta and Fugue in D minor, to a scintillating climax of Widor's symphonic-styled Tocatta in F, the church sparkled and resounded to sounds both melodious and harmonious, but also soothing and exciting.

Miss Hayward's programme was well balanced and at the same time entertaining, with the adventurous use of the obscure as well as more familiar compositions. Of particular enjoyment was her rendering of three pieces by Sir Edward Elgar, (one of which was composed specially for the organ), culminating in that powerful tonal image of majestic emotional enchantment – "Nimrod" from "Enigma Variations".

The hour slipped by all too soon, as the brilliance of Miss Hayward's playing reaffirmed the cliché of the organ being the "Master of the Instruments", but there will most likely be another recital in the Church in the near future, possibly in October. One looks forward in anticipation of another enjoyable evening.

Richard and Greta Harries

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP OUTING

This year's outing took the form of a coach trip to Dene City Farm in Mitcham. We were made most welcome, they having been forewarned of the arrival of so many, and were able to look round in comfort. It was dry underfoot and the sun shone. The children seemed most impressed and amazed to see so many different animals at once, and pony rides were very popular.

A nearby park provided a super picnic area, with a play-ground as an added bonus. By mid-afternoon we were heading for home, full of stories of sheep, ducklings and other assorted farmyard animals.

Debbie Nunn

AROUND THE SPIRE

Every week we have been very pleased to see Charles Belcher among us, whose great age, cheerful disposition and old world courteousness have given the rest of us much pleasure. The time has now come for him to go into an old people's home so we shall not be seeing him so much walking about Hampton Hill. We wish him happiness in his new home — Gifford Lodge, on Twickenham Green and we know that visitors will always be welcome.

Mrs. Russell, who lives in Laurel Dene, and Miss Laurie Brown have not been well for some time and as both of them have been regular attenders at the Parish Communion for many years their absence is felt by the rest of the congregation and we hope to see them back with us soon.

Beth Cook, for whom we have been praying for several weeks, is making a good recovery after a very bad fall and is now home again. She still has a long way to go to full health and strength but her family will be very pleased that she is home again.

A new member of St. James's family will be Baptised here very soon, Oliver Hampton, son of Hilary and Bernard Hampton who are now living near us once more. We welcome Oliver into our company and hope to see him and his family from time to time.

ARE YOU A CLOCKWORK MOUSE

As a child I had a clockwork mouse. When it was wound up it rushed off, making a great deal of noise, crashing into any object in its path until, becoming run down, its purposeless journey came to an abrupt halt.

Clockwork mice are very prevalent these days — men and women who are run down because they can't sit still and do nothing.

Many of us were brought up to believe that we mustn't waste time. It's hard for us to realise that in stillness and silence something very vital is taking place. We are in fact, renewing our strength. One of our greatest needs for the health of the whole person is to sit still and do nothing, to sit still and be nothing in the presence of God.

When we sun-bathe we don't feel the need to rush around, we just lie quietly and allow our bodies to absorb the sun's rays. Our spirits need to bask in the light of God's love so that they may be strengthened and revitalised.

Christian Herald



the bible reading fellowship

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We know that longstanding BRF members have been satisfied, but we also want new members. We have, therefore, made these new publications attractive and easy to read. We have also made them more relevant to our daily lives so each of us can establish our own pattern of devotion.

WHICH SERIES SHOULD I TAKE?

Probably DAYLIGHT which follows our present practice of providing a reading each day. Like BRIEF NOTES it will contain passages of Scripture. Former readers of AWAKE TO THE WORLD will probably use their own Bibles and we have therefore provided suggestions for additional reading.

Those who want to delve more deeply should take GUIDELINES. As well as providing ongoing commentary, the series presents the challenge of the Scriptures to daily living. No text is printed and the material is arranged in weeks, usually divided into six parts and ending with a thought-provoking commentary.

WHAT DO THEY COST?

For members of Groups (8 or more) each issue of DAYLIGHT costs 85p (£2.55 p.a.) and each issue of GUIDELINES 95p (£2.85 p.a.), or you can buy them from bookshops.

THE PRICE IS GOING UP?

A little perhaps, but then so has the quality of the content and presentation.

YOU'VE SPOKEN OF GROUPS. CAN I SUBSCRIBE PERSONALLY?

Of course you can, by sending us an annual subscription which includes a servicing and posting charge. So DAYLIGHT will cost £3.60 p.a. and GUIDELINES £3.90 p.a. delivered to your door.

CAN I SEE COPIES?

Yes certainly. Your local Group Secretary already has some.

If interested contact Mrs Janet Jeffries, 75 Ormond Crescent, HAMPTON, Middx

Tel: 0-979-7982.

A VISIT TO KENYA

I have written about the World Conference On Religion and Peace before in the Spire. We have a small multi-faith group in the UK, and are part of WCRP/Europe.

This year, in 1984, the Fourth World Assembly (WCRP IV) was held in Nairobi, from August 23rd - 31st. Previous World Assemblies have been held in Kyoto, Louvain, Princeton USA, and here we were in a new and exciting continent, Africa.

Nearly 600 of us came together from 60 countries, and from most of the world's religious traditions: Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Shinto, Sikh, Zoroastrian, and the traditional religions of Africa and North America. From our diversity of cultures and traditions we came to hear and discuss a theme of urgent common concern: — Religions for Human Dignity and World Peace.

The delegates from the UK were 10, 1 Buddhist, 2 Muslims, 1 Hindu, 1 Jew and 5 Christians, and contained 5 young people who all participated keenly. The South African delegation was headed up by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the chief speaker, and to my joy, my brother came with them. Their criticism of apartheid was outspoken and courageous.

We attended each others observances of worship: no-one who heard it will forget the sharing of a vision of life with a member of the Ojibwa nation, the Red Indian from USA, beginning —

“We recognise the creator in his creation
and for that reason everything
that has been created is sacred,
the fire and the water, and the air that we breathe are sacred
the plants and the animals, the birds and the fish are sacred”

We listened to speeches; we discussed in workshops. Our message, the Nairobi Declaration, enumerates our hopes: — Reconciliation in regional conflicts; Disarmament; Development, this was very relevant in drought swept Africa, starvation is very near; Human Rights; Peace Education.

We were encouraged by the widening awareness and public consciousness of the dangers and costs of our present world situation, and by the world-wide growth of grassroots movements expressing the determination of people everywhere for change. It was time for new strategies and priorities for peacemaking, and for renewed commitment to our work.

Hannah Stanton

FROM THE REGISTERS OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
26 August	75	101	78	46
2 Sept.	111	132	177	20
9 Sept.	91	120	152	35
Bankers Orders for August			£242	

BAPTISMS

9 September	Oliver Jay Hampton Ian William Rivers	56 Hatherop Road, Hampton 86 Fulwell Park Avenue, Twickenham
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WEDDINGS

1 September	Julian David Faircloth and Deborah Ann Page David James Campbell and Linda Christine King
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DATES TO NOTE

October

- 11 20.00 Koinonia
- 21 Last after Pentecost
Services as usual
- 23 09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 Parochial Church Council
20.00 Week of Prayer for World Peace, St. Francis de Sales
- 24 19.15 Holy Communion
19.30 Hampton Deanery Synod Talk (3) – Am I my brother's keeper
- 25 20.00 Koinonia
- 26 06.30 Holy Communion
- 28 9th Sunday before Christmas
Services as usual
N.B. Clocks change – Evensong now at 16.30
- 29 St. Simon and St. Jude
- 30 09.30 Holy Communion
- 31 20.00 Good News Group

November

- 1 All Saints
19.15 Holy Communion
- 2 06.30 Holy Communion
- 4 8th before Christmas
Services as usual
- 6 09.30 Holy Communion
- 8 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 9 06.30 Holy Communion
- 11 7th before Christmas – Remembrance
- 22 Stewardship Review (details later)