

'Corporate worship is a necessary part of the full Christian life. For we are members of a fellowship, united one with another in the Body of Christ. We share a corporate life. And this corporate life must receive recognition in that highest side of our activities, in which our spirits reach out towards God in prayer and worship.

'But while uniting in Public Worship, we still retain our individuality. We do not all think alike; we have among us people of varied temperaments and varied habits. We are not all educated in the same way or to the same degree. Our heredity and our traditions cover the widest possible range of variation; we exhibit all types of human nature and human prejudice; we have different environments and are conscious of different needs.

'Now Public Worship must be such that all can join in it and such that all people of good will can find in it a real approach of the soul to God

'A book of Public Worship or Common Prayer will not, therefore, be like a book of private devotion, which a man may choose or reject according to his personal preferences. It must be suitable for all to use, and in its acceptance will call for patience, broadmindedness, toleration, and wisdom.'

This rather long quotation comes from a book which I discovered I had on my shelves when I began the long job of deciding what we could possibly afford to take with us to Peterborough. I have no idea where it came from. It is a book not written just before the ASB was published or even before Series 1, 2 or 3, but just before the publication of the '1928 Prayer Book'! Indeed it was written in May 1927, before the House of Commons rejected it and it became technically illegal!

What struck me immediately was that there would be no hope of the author's ideals being achieved without the interference of the Holy Spirit. And I use the word 'interference' deliberately. And yet over the years all manner of people came to treasure the Revised Prayer Book of 1928.

We in a parish are exactly the same as those described in the country at large; we have all manner of differences of ideas, opinions, prejudices; and these are likely to surface during the coming interregnum. Nobody knows at this stage how long it will be until my successor is appointed. So we shall need the intervention or interference of the Holy Spirit in large measure if we are to survive not only intact but as the People of God in this place worshipping and praying together regularly, faithfully and in good heart.

I am glad that the final services at which Susan and I will be present are taking place on Pentecost. For it reminds us powerfully of the strength that the Holy Spirit gave to the first disciples in their bewilderment and fear. It is hard for us to imagine just how bewildered and terrified they were. We only know the second part of the story. We shall be leaving you all with excitement, yes, but also with much unknown in front of us. You will be staying here also with much that is unknown ahead.

Perhaps we can all use the words of a well-known Pentecost Hymn:

Heal our wounds; our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stain of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Nicholas Chubb

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

The evening service was a nicely judged mixture of worship in song, readings, dialogue and prayer. There were lively hymns - 'Make Way' and 'You are the King of Glory' - which were new to us but which, after a practice run through by Paul and Margaret Revis, we sang with gusto; the rendering of the Hallelujah Chorus from 'The Messiah' by a choir under Olive Hayward was really beautiful and the Children's Choir, led by the guitars of Pam Atkinson and Bridget Fairbairn, looked and sounded delightful as they gave us 'Donkey Riding', 'Jesus, I Love You' and 'Hallelujah' with devout simplicity.

Nicholas spoke the part of Jesus in St. Matthew's account of Palm Sunday while Leslie Mortimer supplied the narrative. Margaret Taylor read poetry to us, G.K. Chesterton's 'The Donkey' being especially moving, read on this particular day.

Alan challenged Nicholas in an impromptu dialogue with some searching questions on the Relevance of a Faith for Today. Nicholas not only survived but came through with flying colours, although he described his ordeal as a species of mediaeval torture.

After the offertory and prayers a very satisfying and well thought out service ended to rousing 'Hosannas'. Thank you to everyone concerned for the care and many rehearsals which must have been put in to reach such a rewarding result.

Margery Orton

Agape and Communion for Maundy Thursday

As I entered our church a little before 8pm on this Thursday, I was filled with anticipatory pleasure for what I was sure would be a sincere and uplifting service, and so it was.

It was a repeat of last year's service but whereas then there were only about a dozen worshippers, this time there were, I think, about 30 or more. Maybe next year we shall get up to 50.

Once more we sat in chairs around the chancel steps with the altar rails removed, close together as a family, and when we came to give the Peace, I found I was calling all my neighbours by their christian names as they were all my friends.

Nicholas gave us a talk to be remembered: 'Ye call me Master and Lord, and ye say well for so I am.' 'If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought

to wash one another's feet.' And this is the meaning and message of Maundy, the celebration of the Last Supper, and so we were given a light supper of tiny sausages and sandwiches.

Then in preparation for the Eucharist Nicholas explained that we would ourselves break a loaf as Jesus would have broken bread at the last Supper. We then stood around the table and the loaf was passed in a dish for each of us to break off a piece. It was so real and meaningful.

This service does highlight the whole experience of Communion, never habitual or common place, but for this occasion so very, very special.

I came away floating above the earth.

Alison Thompson

Good Friday's Children's Service

It was a delight to see so many of the children of the neighbourhood putting across so clearly and enthusiastically, in narrative and song, music and movement, the story of Good Friday leading to the joy of the resurrection - and putting the message across to a large and appreciative audience. We are very fortunate that gifted teachers like Pam Atkinson and Bridget Fairbairn and their helpers are happy to give so much of their time to the 'workshops' which occupy and instruct so many children and culminate in such offerings as this (together, on this occasion, with an array of splendid collages which had been produced by the children and were to be seen in church over Easter). Many thanks.

Ron Bridges

United Service for Good Friday

On an unexpectedly fine morning a United Service for Good Friday was held outside Sainsbury's Supermarket in Hampton. There was an excellent response in terms of numbers of people attending, between 80 and 100, and the short service was led by Rev. David Vanstone from All Saints' Church, Hampton. There was no address but some very appropriate readings had been chosen for the occasion. Perhaps some form of amplification might have been useful here, because it was very difficult to hear what was being read which seemed a pity when such a large crowd had gathered. By contrast the hymn singing seemed very well supported and the hymns chosen were all very well-known so that any passer-by who wished to could have joined in. Whether any one actually did so it is difficult to say; certainly there were plenty of people about, some of whom showed some interest in the proceedings and others of whom studiously avoided showing any interest whatsoever. Nevertheless as a site for some sort of Christian Witness the spot chosen on this occasion seemed to be a good choice and will surely be used for such a purpose again Some of the participating Churches had paraded with their Banners or a Cross, a very fitting reminder of what Good Friday is all about.

Helen Taylor

Ascension Day

As is our custom there will be a service of Holy Communion, with Hymns at 8.00pm on Ascension Day, 12th May. It is a 'Red Letter Day' often overlooked but it tells of the sovereignty of God over the world and is a Festival which has much to say to us at the moment.

PENTECOST, SUNDAY 22nd MAY

Services:

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm A Service for Pentecost:

**'He's Alive' with Liturgical Dancing
Presentation to Nicholas and Susan**

Presentation to Nicholas and Susan

The evening Pentecost Service will be Nicholas and Susan's last service at St. James's, so we do hope everyone will make a special effort to come and celebrate their ministry among us and give them a good send off to their new venture in Peterborough. A presentation will be made to them and light refreshments will be available.

Ann Douglas

Many people in St. James's parish know Ann Douglas (or Ann Stewart as she was then). She still has a relative living here, Mrs. Dorothy White of Myrtle Road, and since she was in the Y.P.F. all sorts of people are her friends. She went to Windmill Road Primary School and is godparent to several children living here and her children are 'godparented' by others still here.

Ann is being ordained Deacon in St. Alban's Cathedral on 3rd July this year. She has been training at Oakhill Theological College and while finding it challenging and stimulating feels that the foundations of her Faith were laid at St. James's in her childhood and youth.

So please remember Ann in your prayers and also her husband Graham and their two children Fiona (aged 12) and Zoe (aged 10). 3rd July will be a great day for them all. She describes the whole exercise as 'an adventure with the Lord greater than anything previously attempted'.

Christian Stewardship and the Stewardship Committee

What is Christian Stewardship, and how should the Stewardship Committee further it in this Parish? When the Committee met after our successful campaign last year, our newly elected chairman, Moya Smith, asked us all to consider these questions carefully. Moya would like us to be clear about our task, which of course must be agreed by the PCC.

I think we are all sure that stewardship is the outcome of a belief that all that we have and all our time and abilities are gifts to us from God. We are stewards of these gifts; as stewards we have a solemn responsibility to use them well. We know that stewardship is more than giving money, though money clearly is part of it.

The answer to the second question: 'How should we further stewardship in the Parish?' will define our task. Quite clearly the different members of the Committee with their different gifts and abilities, see different tasks that they feel should be tackled. There are some basic 'engine-room' tasks such as recording stewardship giving, income tax reclaims and general bookkeeping. This work is done in close collaboration with the Treasurer, and we are delighted that Hal Severn, who hopefully will be the Parish Assistant Treasurer, in the coming year has agreed to join the Committee.

But outside the 'engine-room' there are members of the Committee whose primary concern is outreach: to meet old and new parishioners and to draw them more closely into the fellowship of St. James's. This fellowship is expressed first in worship, then in service to the church. Our Church has much to give its members; above all the christian fellowship which we share.

In this outreach we welcome Ruth Mills as a co-opted member of the Committee. Ruth will help us in our search for ways in which we can help meet the needs of the Parish in the broadest sense from the talents of our members.

The Committee at present has an exciting feeling of new horizons to explore. This first article only outlines what we are thinking about now. We hope to write regularly in the Spire with news both from the engine room and from the bridge!

Dick Wilde

Co-incidence?

While Gordon Wilson was in New Zealand recently he met the Bishop of South Auckland named Godfrey Wilson. While they were talking it transpired that both had served their first curacies at the same parish in Sheffield (St. George with St. Stephen), Gordon 1944-47, Godfrey 1954-57. When the Bishop took a photograph out of his album of the Church where he was married, guess what? St. James's, Hampton Hill!

We are delighted that Gordon and Jean are back with us safe and sound after visiting family and friends and that they could be with us on Easter Day a week earlier than planned.

Christian Aid Week



SHARING IN GOD'S WORLD

**UNITED SERVICE
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
16.30 on 15th MAY**

Unity in Community

As a finale to the drama 'Who on Earth are You?' (the Lent Course sponsored by 'Not Strangers But Pilgrims'), an ecumenical service was held in our church on the Sunday after Easter for all those who had taken part in the Lent Groups. Well over a hundred people came on a bright, sunny afternoon and heard Nicholas speak about not labelling people using pre-conceived ideas about them but always looking at each person as an individual. The man lying injured in the gutter might well have thought that the Samaritan coming along the road was not going to help him - but look how wrong he was.

There had been some criticism of the material used for the course but again Nicholas reminded us that whatever was used had to be suitable for the whole country and for people at all sorts of levels. We might think that we were among the high-flyers but among us there are very many who are still grappling with the fundamentals of the Christian faith, so five stories from St. Luke's Gospel might not be such a bad place to start.

Many people stayed for a cup of tea after the service and there were favourable comments on the music and singing (again ecumenical). Several suggestions were made about future co-operation between the churches and the need to understand each other's beliefs and liturgy in greater depth, and the Hampton Council of Churches will be looking at these in the near future.

CHRISTIAN AID HAS since last year been drawing on the interest in share-owning to promote thoughts about equal shares in the Earth's resources. 'The poor haven't a share in the world' is the theme for publicity during Christian Aid Week this month.

Director Michael Taylor says both vision and realism are needed if the shares are to be more even. He says:

'The world's resources are very unevenly distributed. Some have far too much, many too little, and staggeringly large numbers hardly anything at all.

'The real share issue is about a world where nobody owns the resources God has given to us all to use and to share, and where we take joint responsibility for seeing they are carefully used and equitably distributed...'

Helen Taylor

Lambeth Conference 1988

Every ten years it has been the custom of the Anglican Church to gather together its Bishops from round the world for a long consultation and discussion. The idea came from the Church in Canada after a Synod in 1865. The first Conference was held in 1867. It was felt that there was a need to meet in order to discuss issues of common concern including the doctrine of the Church at a time when 'heresy' was being preached in South Africa by Bishop Colenso. He was challenging the traditional interpretations of Scripture.

Over the years since then the Conference has increased in size (only 76 Bishops attended the first conference). This year there will be Bishops from every Province in every Continent and the number of attenders will be in the hundreds. Of course it has been made a lot easier for people to travel by air; but many dioceses will be straining their budgets to the limit to send their one Bishop.

What will be discussed? Probably the most worthwhile conversations will be unscripted and unplanned as the leaders get to know each other. But almost certainly the ordination of women to the priesthood will be high on the Agenda since more and more Provinces have done this. When will the first woman Bishop be appointed? Will this break up and divide the Anglican Communion? Closely allied with this is the matter of Authority. Who actually decides what we believe and do? Is it the Diocesan Bishop? or the Archbishop of the Province or the Archbishop of Canterbury? Or is it the Church assembled in all its Synods? Or is it up to the individual? And is it up to the individual Diocese or Province to make agreements across denominational boundaries? If the Church in America or Australia does one thing, how does this affect the Church in England which is the origin if not the centre of the Anglican Communion? And Vice Versa.

We can be sure that the meetings will catch the eyes and ears of the media. Keep tuned in and you will find that the Church has much to say to Society to-day.

Nicholas Chubb

Hay-on-Wye Festival

Mark and Janet Robinson have drawn our attention to this Festival of Literature and the Arts which is the first of its kind to be organised in Hay. It takes place from 26th-30th May and the programme includes such items as the Welsh National Opera's production of Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo, several one-man shows, poetry workshops, meet-the-author sessions, many other musical attractions and some exhibitions. As most of the venues in Hay are small, tickets are expected to go quite quickly. Anyone interested should contact the Robinsons for further information: Tel: 04973 254.

Leave Off!

The Minister announced...

*'There will be an Adam and Eve Social
in the hall next Thursday. starts 8 p.m.
Leaves off midnight.'*

MANY THANKS for MULTIPLE VISION

World Vision - The 24-hour Fast

The 24-hour fast is already saving lives.

The effort of everyone concerned has been a great success both locally and nationwide. At the time of writing this we have raised £689.38p but there is still quite a lot of money to come in. Nationwide it is thought that last year's figure of £600,000 will have been doubled.

Funds have already been released and wheat and barley seed to the value of £150,000 is being sent to Ethiopia to take advantage of the current rainfall.

Many thanks to all those who took part and who sponsored others. It was a marvellous effort; well done everyone!

The final total will be put on the church notice board. I will also be able to give more information about where the money is being sent if anyone wants to know.

Margaret Revis

Tele-vision - the Large Screen

Thanks to the generosity of many people we can now announce that we have raised the £700 which we asked for to purchase the equipment to show Video Cassettes in Church. Now we must use that special TV set and the special screen to maximum advantage; expect to find that during the coming months you will be asked to view as well as to listen and sing. What will we be doing in church next?!!

Parish Vision - Magazine Appeal

Envelopes containing £449.30 have so far been returned to the Vicarage as a result of the recent Magazine Appeal. We would like to thank all of you who have contributed in this way. Together with Advertising Revenue so conscientiously collected by Alwyne Loyd we are well on our way to being self-financing once again. But if you haven't yet contributed please don't hold back. The cost of the Spire is rising by 5% this year so we shall need all you can manage plus a little bit more!

Regular Vision - Stewardship Giving

The above appeals have been very successful notwithstanding the regular financial support of the church by many through stewardship. The total pledged giving for the first quarter of last year was £4229 - this year it was £5759. Unfortunately one cannot expect the year's total to be four times this amount, as the figure for the first quarter is generally larger than that for other quarters.

Ron Bridges

St. James's Drama Group

St. James's Drama Group was formed in 1952 as the result of the interest aroused by the performance of a Nativity Play at Christmas 1951 (initiated by the 'new Vicar', Rev. Rupert Brunt). From 1952-56 we were a very active group in the Parish. In the late fifties and early sixties many of our members took part in productions of the Hampton Council of Churches' Drama Group. For ten years we provided the entertainments for the Harvest Supper - many may still remember these efforts.

But now only three of our original group remain in the area, and as no one seems anxious to revive the Group it was deemed best to close down.

In accordance with our Constitution, we have divided the funds in our Deposit Account at Barclay's Bank between the large-screen T.V. which the Church is buying and Teddington Memorial Hospital; each has received a cheque for £61.50. Mrs. Pam Bryant, Chairman of the League of Friends of T.M.H. 'appreciates this support' and asks me 'to pass on sincere thanks to every one concerned. This donation will be put towards our Appeal Fund for a new General Practitioner Unit and Day Rooms, work on which is to commence at the end of June.'

When I recall how the group started with no funds at all, only charged a minimal membership fee, and was dependent on our efforts to raise cash by holding Socials, parties, Bring & Buy Sales, hiring our costumes and our apron stage to other clubs, and making profits from our performances, I am amazed that we have been able to give away so much, especially as, over the years, we gave generously to Church funds. We had great fun together; and we were fortunate to have had as producers three ladies now deceased - Mmes. Whitton and Crabb, and Miss Doris Rogers, all of whom gave of their time and talents and taught us a great deal.

Isabel V. Rockcliffe, Chairman

Teddington Memorial Hospital

The League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital held their A.G.M. on 28th March in the hall of Christ Church. It was well attended, and conducted in a most cheerful and encouraging way by Mrs. Pam Bryant who gave us a good and thorough resumé of the past year's endeavours and triumphs.

So much is going on in this much loved hospital, the most recent achievement being the improvement in the X-ray Department. I have not seen it yet and I hope that I will not as a patient, but I must try to see what has happened to it.

Mrs. Bryant, in her speech, read a letter from Nicholas apologising for his absence. The tone of his letter and the way in which it was read to us demonstrated the happy position he has created at the hospital, and, as Pam said, he will be greatly missed, especially by her as she had received much help from him.

Then she showed us her award from the Rotarians which she was wearing so proudly and which was so well deserved. Altogether it was a happy and cheerful evening with our minds fixed on the next development.

Alison Thompson

Around the Spire

A young couple who have been worshipping with us for a few weeks now will be getting married as this magazine comes out. Carol and Andrew French live at Walton Lodge and we send them all our best wishes for the wedding and for their future life together, and we hope that we shall continue to see them among us.

Edna Shackleton has recently had a major operation in West Middlesex Hospital and still has further treatment to follow. She had some setbacks immediately after the operation but is now making progress. Before the next round of treatment starts she will be at home for a while. Many people have been thinking and praying for Edna so let us continue in this and we wish her a rapid recovery and hope to see her again very soon.

Marion Nevill's husband, Jim, has also been in hospital recently; we send him and Marion all our best wishes, and may we always remember those who are ill, and those who care for them, in our prayers.

St. James's Women's Tuesday Club

(Meetings at Wayside, St. James's Road, at 8pm.)

- 10 May ... Mrs. J. Sedge - Chertsey Museum (with slides)
- 24 May ... Bon Appetit!
- 7 June ... Annual General Meeting
- 21 June ... Mrs. Carlsehn - talk on Glassware
- 5 July ... Mr. S. Bunce - second talk on USA and Canada (with slides)
- 19 July ... Summer Supper

From the Registers

Baptisms

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|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| March 27 | Thomas Andrew Piercey | 13 Lindsay Road |
| April 10 | Thomas Edward Willis | 2 Albert Road |

Dates to Note

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|------|----|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| May | 4 | 20.00 | P.C.C. |
| | 9 | 20.00 | P.C.C. with Archdeacon and Patron of the Living |
| | 11 | 20.00 | Liturgical Committee |
| | 12 | 20.00 | Holy Communion for ASCENSION DAY |
| | 15 | 16.30 | United Service for Christian Aid Week at All Saints' Church |
| | 18 | 20.00 | Area Synod |
| | 20 | | Scout Group A.G.M. |
| | 22 | | PENTECOST (See Advertisement) |
| July | 24 | | Celebration of St. James's Day |

Copy Date for June issue: 15th May