

The 1992/3 prospectus for the Richmond Adult and Community College has recently landed on our doormat. Flicking through it, not only did I learn just how much was on offer at Clifden, Parkshott, Rectory and other sites - I also realised that there were huge chunks of skills, experience, courses and subjects of which I was totally ignorant. What a temptation to enrol in Plyometrics, Tai Chi Ch'uan, Seamanship and Navigation, Aromatherapy, French Polishing, Sugar Craft or Belly Dancing.

Then my rational mind re-asserted itself. Come on, Brian, when are you ever even going to get round to French (Intermediate) or Motor Car Maintenance, let alone something more exotic. So I tried again, 'No' I argued with myself - 'I don't want to go over to Parkshott, Tuesday mornings are not possible, this course is rather expensive or that clashes with something else - anyway everyone else is bound to know far more about it than me'. I guess I probably won't enrol for anything in the end (although I'm still thinking about one or two) for all the reasons we use to justify not putting ourselves into new situations.

What is true for the Adult College is true in church too. I have often heard people say 'Oh really I just know the basics' or 'Keep it simple, Vicar' or 'Sometime I must get round to learning something about the bible'. All of us need to grow, to journey along the path of faith; none of us has arrived at perfection or complete understanding. Furthermore growing in the faith, living our lives in the pattern of Jesus of Nazareth is not the same as knowing about religion in general or Christianity in particular.

But we do need building blocks, we need to piece together experience, knowledge, reflection, tradition, insights which will help us to grow if we are open to them. In this magazine you will find details of some of the building blocks which are on offer at St. James's. Housegroups in which to talk and listen, to mull over, to argue, to share experiences to be accepted. Prayer groups - to find and give support. The St. Giles Lecture Series or 'The Bible', a Hampton Council of Churches Lecture, and much more.

If you are interested just turn up or, drop in. If you are a little shy speak to me or ring me. If you are inquisitive, ask. If you need transport all you need to do is to say so.

Plyometrics, Belly Dancing, Aromatherapy and French Polishing aren't at the moment in our parish prospectus - but much else is.

Housegroups

As from the week beginning 14 September the various Housegroups will re-commence their meetings. All are fortnightly, some are during the day, others meet in the evenings. Each meeting lasts for about 1½ hours. A list will appear in church



for people to sign - please put your name on the list even if you are already a member of a group. The details are:

Day	Leader	Venue	Time	Present Subject
Mon.	Alan Taylor	68 Park Road	8pm	Nehemiah
Tues.	Andrew Bye	54 Fulwell Road	8pm	To be announced
Wed.	Hannah Stanton	30 Burtons Road	10.30am	St. John's Gospel
Wed.	Helen Taylor	68 Park Road	10.30am	The Lord's Prayer
Thur.	Terry Baldwin	4 Byron Close	8pm	The Parables

There is also the Julian Group for prayer and healing led by Margery Orton which meets at 30 St. James's Road. Now that there is a Service of Prayer for Healing in church on the third Sunday of each month, the Julian Group is to meet once monthly, at 2.30 pm, on the first Tuesday of each month.

Anyone may join a group. Don't feel shy, come along and meet other people and discover more about the Christian faith and what it means to them and to you.

Helen Taylor

St. Giles-in-the-Fields Bible School

Eight Bishops, representing the broad spectrum of Anglican thought, are to give their views on how the scriptures should be regarded and used in this year's lecture series at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. Their lectures are to be delivered on eight successive Monday evenings at 7 pm., starting on 5 October. The church is near to Tottenham Court Road tube station. There are no fees or collections - all that is necessary is that you register beforehand. If you are interested, please contact our Vicar.

This Annual Bible School has been run for 21 years, during which there have been over 25,000 attendances by members of all denominations.

Welcare News

Many will remember David Roos who came to speak to us a year or two ago, and will be delighted to hear that, after a long spell of sick leave, he has gradually returned to full-time duties with Richmond Welcare. They have had to say goodbye to Anne Valkenburg who had been working with them as a social worker. Jennifer Allen has joined the team as a permanent member of staff.

During the past year it has become more and more obvious that the clients cannot manage to live on the present level of Income Support. Except in one or two cases, Welcare has had to apply for help from charities to pay bills which the clients find are beyond their budget, especially with a growing child who needs clothing and good food. Welcare try to raise money to help with small grants but cannot hope to cover electricity, gas and water bills. Welcare are thankful that there are charities in the borough who are willing to help in this way; without them Welcare do not know how their families would cope.

On 12 September, a stall is to be held at the Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival to boost the funds. Good second-hand toys, and also books, plants and cakes, are needed to sell, and also help on the day. Please ring Gaynor on 891 5018 if you can help. Also, extra collectors are always needed for the Princess Elizabeth Day Appeal (on 3 October).

Each New Day

One of the blessings of the Christian faith is that each new day can herald a new beginning in Christ. For myself, I fall so far short of what I would do and be that I need to make fresh efforts each day, often each hour, to strive to live my life as I believe God wants me to live it. What would life be like if we did not have the backing of God - the immense love of God? To whom would I turn when everyone else had given up on me and I had given up on myself?

Often I feel as if I take two steps forward only to slide back three. Sometimes I feel that I have not made any progress at all on my spiritual journey and have even lost all conviction I had when I first gave myself to God. I think of seeing through a glass darkly and then one day seeing face to face.

I look back on my life and know that it is in times of greatest need that God has sought me out especially if I have turned my back upon him. Something in me knows that I can depend upon him, that he will not fail me. He reaches into my life like rays of golden sunshine to flood the dark areas and reach my innermost being. I do not pretend to understand my personal suffering but I do hope and believe that one day all will be revealed, that I will be a better person because of it and that I will find it possible to offer it up in the spirit of thanksgiving. For today in my struggle I need to place myself in his presence, to listen to his voice, to be still and know that he alone is God. I do not travel alone but he travels with me and carries me when I cannot walk. He is my best friend and loves me for what I am and for what I would be.

‘Lord Jesus Christ, help me to look at myself as I really am - and as you see me. Then show me yourself, so that I see as much of your glory as my eyes can bear and then, give me your Spirit, day by day, so that I live more and more like you, and love more and more like you. Amen.’

Janet Jeffries

Crèche

From 13 September for a trial period of six months, there will be a crèche for under 3's in the vestry during the 9.30 am Sunday Parish Communion services (not the informal Family Services).

Parents who wish to use the crèche are asked to bring their children to the vestry during the first hymn.

If you are willing to help in the crèche on a rota basis, please see me or Beryl Bye.

Susan Blay



Bishop Wand School

Bishop Wand Church of England Secondary School aims to provide a distinctively Christian education for its pupils. It was opened in 1969 and is designed to serve the Borough of Spelthorne and parts of the London Boroughs of Richmond and Hounslow. The school offers an education based on Christian principles and we work in close collaboration with thirty local parishes including your own. We try to uphold Christian standards in respect of hard work, behaviour and morals. We take religious Education, and the daily Assembly, seriously and we want our pupils to feel they belong to a Christian community. The Governors employ a full-time Chaplain who is available for counselling and who is able to make home visits.

Bishop Wand is a comprehensive school for pupils aged 11 to 18 and caters for all abilities.

If you and your family are already active in the life of your church you will probably be particularly interested in this sort of education for your child - but all who sincerely want their children to be educated in a Christian environment are encouraged to apply.

You are invited to visit the school for one of our two Open Evenings for prospective pupils and their parents on Wednesday 30 September and Tuesday 6 October starting at 7pm.

Visits at other times can be arranged by contacting the school office on 0932 787537.

Women's Forum

We have been meeting twice a month now for nearly a year. Following the closure of the Mothers' Union at the end of last year it was felt that there was a need for a wider group within the Church, meeting on a regular basis to strengthen our faith, stimulate our minds and help us to play our part in the life and work of the Church. Before making too many decisions it was decided to have an exploratory year, having a variety of speakers, talks and discussions to see how people responded.

The meetings are held at Wayside on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.30 and the third Wednesday at 8 pm. As a sample of the meetings so far - Wendy Baker talked about her work as Headteacher at Archdeacon Cambridge School, Margaret Lawrence talked about the Citizens Advice Bureaux, Ruth Mills led a discussion on cancer treatments and Betty Stewart talked about her work at Springfield Hospital. We had a discussion on Sunday Trading and an illustrated talk on the renovations at Hampton Court Palace.

The September meetings are: 2nd 2.30 pm Betty Stewart
16th 8.00 pm John and Jill Denton talking about the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution

On Sunday 11 October at 11 am in church we shall hold our Annual Meeting to discuss the future.

With the recent closure of the Tuesday Club as well, I am sure there is a need for such a Forum. I have found the meetings stimulating and very interesting. I have particularly enjoyed hearing about the work of our own members whether full-time or voluntary and feel there is a great potential here for the future.

If you haven't been then do come along to the September meetings and especially on SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER when we look forward to putting the Women's Forum on a sound footing for the future.

Janet Nunn

Fitness Friends

Over twenty years ago (1970) Pat and Eila, with friends from St. James's church, started a Keep Fit class in our old Hall. In spite of various ups and downs - including the closing of the old Hall, and a temporary banishment from our parish to All Saints - we have continued to meet regularly, and now we have come full circle and are back in the Stanton Hall in the Greenwood Centre.

Our 'workout' is gentle, non-aerobic, non-competitive, and fun, suitable for all ages, and as we make a new start in the new hall, we have a new name - 'Fitness Friends'.

Next term starts on Tuesday 15 September - so why not just turn up at 2 pm and meet us - we guarantee a warm welcome - male and female - and we can now enjoy the added luxury of a welcome 'cuppa' in the coffee shop after our efforts.

Eila Severn

After Rio

Now that the hullabaloo of the Earth Summit in Rio has died down, we are probably asking ourselves, 'What difference is it all going to make to me?' Well, not a lot, at least in the short term. It is difficult to see how decisions taken in Rio may affect our lives at all. So what can we do now, as individuals, to promote the aims of the conference, namely Conservation in all its forms. Most of us living in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames support the numerous bottle, paper and rag banks by putting the appropriate items in them and feeling that we have done at least a small something to help the environment. And we have.

The scheme introduced by Sainsbury's to pay a penny for every shopping bag we use that we have brought to the shop ourselves is commendable, and this brings me to the nub of this article. The words 'renewable resources' are often found in the conservation literature - however plastic bags, whether Sainsbury's, Tesco's or anyone else's, are not from such a source. So while we may feel good that we have actually remembered to take some of the growing pile of bags in our kitchen with us when we do the shopping, it doesn't really make a great deal of difference. It certainly does help, every bag may make several journeys instead of just one or two, and we are certainly not in sight of a plastic-bag-less society - they are very convenient, let's face it. So what do we use instead? The answer is a basket.

Some years ago my aunt lived in a lovely Suffolk house which rejoiced in the name 'Osierbeds'. Now osiers are the reeds used for thatching, basket making and furniture, and I think they would certainly qualify for the epithet 'renewable resource'. What is more, although a new basket is expensive, good ones can often be had second-hand. I bought mine recently in a junk shop in Buxton. I realise that the initial cost means having to use it for a very long time before it saves on the number of plastic bags I would have used up in the same time. But there is something very aesthetically pleasing about carrying a basket that not even an up-market Harrods plastic bag can match. But I hear you say, 'I'll never be able to carry all my shopping in one basket' which is true, but it will carry quite a lot of it, and many times we only buy a few items that certainly would fit into it. If you shop by car keep the basket in the car and use it for all those odd times when you only buy a few things, or as one of your bags when you need more than one. Let's see if we can start a return to the use of the old fashioned shopping basket.

Helen Taylor

Carnival 1992

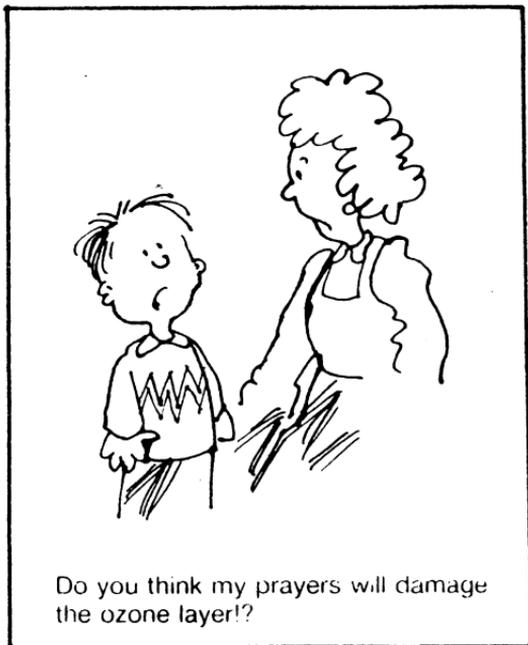
The Hampton Hill Association are pleased to tell all elderly and disabled residents that London United Buses have generously agreed to provide a FREE courtesy bus service to and from Hampton Hill and the Carnival venue in Buckingham Road on 12 September.

The service will run from the lay-by next to ATS in Uxbridge Road via Park Road, High Street, Windmill Road, Uxbridge Road, Broad Lane, Nightingale Road and Acacia Road to Buckingham Road.

The service will stop at all normal bus stops on the above route, but in addition there will be two extra pick-up and set-down points - one outside St. James's Church in Park Road and the other outside The Jolly Gardeners in Uxbridge Road. The bus will display a courtesy notice and leaflets will also be on show at all bus stops where the bus will be calling. Initially the service will commence at 1.30pm from outside Laurel Dene and thereafter will follow the above route beginning at 2.30pm from the ATS lay-by. The last bus will depart from the Carnival site at 5.30pm.

The HHA and London United Buses hope that this service will enable all those elderly and disabled residents who normally cannot visit the Carnival to enjoy one of the most memorable and exciting events in Hampton Hill's calendar.

Dennis Dolan



Our Advertising Organiser

For many years now Alwyne Loyd, who has collected the 800 copies of 'The Spire' each month and organised its distribution, has also had the unenviable task of finding advertisers for it and regularly contacting them. That he has done this job extremely well is apparent from the substantial income we have had from advertising during those years which has been a major factor (along with the donations received throughout the year, but especially at the time of our Spring Appeals each year) in ensuring that the magazine is not a great burden on our parish resources. This year £935 has been received from advertising. Many thanks to Alwyne and to our advertisers.

Alwyne now feels the time has come for him to resign as Advertising Organiser - and we are pleased that Kate O'Sullivan has agreed to take this job on. Many thanks once again to Alwyne for his sterling work over such a long period, and best wishes to Kate.

We are very grateful that Alwyne is to continue for the time being with his other work for the magazine, itself a laborious task.

Jar of Grace

THANK YOU
from the children
of the world
and UNICEF

£125,000 was raised nationally by the Pennies in a Jam Jar appeal last year. As previously announced, our own effort raised over £130. On behalf of the children whose health and wellbeing have been protected by the nutrition programmes supported by that appeal, UNICEF sends heartfelt thanks to all churches who participated.

This year money raised by the Jar of Grace Campaign will be used for water programmes. 80% of the world's diseases are water related and water is a basic necessity of life. Please help again.

Around the Spire

Many of our friends are making new beginnings at this time.

At the end of July we said a sad farewell to the Dobson family. Charlie works for the DSS: his job is being moved to Leeds and the family are moving to Skipton in Yorkshire. During the ten years or so of their involvement at St. James's we have been delighted by Charlie's organ-playing on many occasions and by seeing Nicky, Sandy and Meg grow from babies to children, each with their own personality. The Sunday School has greatly benefited from Jane's expertise as a teacher, and she will be much missed there.

As the old cliché goes - our loss will be Skipton's gain. It is a lovely part of the country to live in, and as it is a favourite holiday area, we shall surely keep in contact with the Dobsons for some time to come. We wish them all Godspeed and every joy in their new home.

Their new address is:- Snay Gill Farm, Snay Gill, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 2TB (0756 793626).

Another farewell we have made recently is to Ruth Taylor, who although no longer a regular member of our congregation, still appears from time to time and is known to most people. For the past three years she has been teaching History at a Secondary School in Upminster, which she has enjoyed very much. Now however she has decided to go and teach for two years in Nairobi, Kenya. She is hoping that this will give her a chance to see something of Africa and extend her teaching experience. We wish her all the best in the new venture and look forward to hearing of her adventures when she returns.

As well as saying goodbye to people it is good to welcome others. Among those who have joined us lately are the Robottom family, David and Betty, James and Joanna, who have moved into Park Road, and Agnes.

It is very good to see Jean Wilson back with us again so soon after her hip operation, and to hear that Mary Swatland is recovering at her son's home. Please remember the sick in your prayers and those who have been bereaved.

'Everyone loves a bride' is perhaps another cliché, but Miranda Bunce looked very lovely on her wedding day and Edward the bridegroom very smart in his regimental uniform. We wish them every happiness in their future life together and hope to see them and Cassie from time to time.

From the Registers - July

Baptisms

5	Oliver James Bassett Thomas William Burton	25a Rydens Avenue, Walton 74 Park Road
19	Thomas Ivor Henry Pockett Sophie Rose Sparrow	93 High Street 7 Seymour Road

Marriages

20 Edward Noel Badger and Miranda Rebecca Bunce

Funerals

9	Kathleen Mary Bodrell	52a St. James's Avenue	Aged 53
10	Harold Frank Jarvis	16 Cross Street	Aged 86
22	Percy Songhurst (Peter) Moorey	40 Edward Road and Laurel Dene	Aged 80
28	Dorothy Lucy Robertson	91 High Street	Aged 88
31	Frances Sarah Butler	90 Pigeon Lane	Aged 77

Dates to Note

Sep.	7	14.00	Editorial Board, 68 Park Road
			The Blessed Virgin Mary
	9	20.00	Induction of The Rev. John Cleaver as Vicar of St. Mary with St. Alban, Teddington
	12		Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival with Welcare stall
	16	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
		20.00	Women's Forum: The work of the RNLI, Wayside
	19		Parish Ramble



	21		St. Mark the Apostle
	29		St. Michael with All Angels
	30	20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road, Teddington
		19.00	Open Evening at Bishop Wand School, Sunbury
Oct.	1		Bishop of London visits Deanery
		20.00	Deanery Service and Supper with the Bishop of Lond, All Saints' Church, Twickenham
	3		Harvest Supper, St. Francis de Sales' Church Hall
	4	09.30	Harvest Festival Children's Eucharist

Advance Notices

Oct.	6	19.00	Open Evening at Bishop Wand School, Sunbury
	11	20.00	Women's Forum A.G.M., Church
	15	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	18		St. Luke the Evangelist
	22	20.00	HCC Lecture by Canon John Halliburton of St. Paul's Cathedral

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