

Hello and Welcome! Yes, this is the monthly parish magazine of your Parish Church, St. James's, Hampton Hill. Usually we deliver about 800 copies of The Spire every month, free of charge, to people who live and work in our parish - and some from far beyond the parish. However this month and next we are also delivering copies to many homes which do not usually receive The Spire. So if you are thinking, 'I didn't ask for this' or 'Why has this come to me?', this is the answer: **You are a parishioner of St. James's** and we want to tell you about ourselves and our community. And I promise you, there are no strings attached.

Actually, there may be no strings, but there are many ties which bind us together in our parish - being neighbours, our schools and shops, our common concern for the place we live in and its facilities. From many parts of the parish, and beyond, the spire at St. James's is visible and acts as a reminder that we are home, if we are coming up the M3, along the Uxbridge Road or even landing at Heathrow.

On another level the spire also reminds us that St. James's is a place for everyone in our community. Maybe it is in your wedding or baptism photographs, maybe it is where you have a child at nursery school, in the Brownies or even a place you have had a birthday party.

At your Parish Church we want to assure you through this Spire Magazine, as well as through the spire you see every day, that the church is here for you. It is a place where people gather to worship God and commit themselves to trying to live out their faith in their Monday to Saturday lives just as much as on a Sunday. Many of those people may, unknown to you, be your friends, neighbours or colleagues.

So please accept this copy of The Spire, and next month's, with our compliments. And don't just look at the spire, pop in, introduce yourselves. We can guarantee you a warm welcome. Many activities are centred on St. James's, but the centre of St. James's is the Body of Christ in this place, the people, like you, who want to explore, follow, or start again in the way Jesus lived, and to do that where we live in Hampton Hill.

Brian Leathard

RICHMOND REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

(Support for victims of war and oppression)

A SERVICE TO MARK REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

will be held at

ST. MAGDALENE CHURCH, RICHMOND

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 6.30-8P.M.



MINI BAZAAR



in the Church Hall



SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

11-2



COFFEE

HOME-MADE LUNCHES

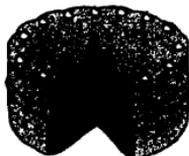
CAKES



BOOKS

JAMS & PRESERVES

CARDS



CHAPLAINCY ASSISTANTS

Kingston Hospital is seeking to recruit, train and authorise some more Chaplaincy Assistants. They work with the Chaplains in ministry to patients, relatives and staff. Chaplaincy Assistants are asked to commit themselves to visiting the hospital for one session (about three hours) each week. Visits are confined to a specified area which is mutually acceptable to the hospital and the Chaplaincy Assistant.

Initial informal exploratory interviews with potential trainees will take place in November/December, followed by a training period of 10 sessions on a weekday evening.

For further information, please contact the Chaplain, Alec Griffiths, at Kingston Hospital on 546 7711 ext 2429.

NURTURE GROUP

The Nurture Group was formed to enable members of our congregation, whatever their doubts and reservations, to explore and discuss their Christian faith. Under Brian's guidance the group members have been able to express frankly their own insights, beliefs and difficulties in a completely relaxed and friendly way. We differ, we respect each other's differences and we learn from each other. Needless to say, we would welcome new members for their own contributions. The group meets on alternate Thursdays at 8p.m. in the hall.

Dick Wilde

Thank You

to all who supported our
Harvest Thanksgiving

'Namasthe India'

Our Harvest Supper and Harvest Offerings raised

£1055

This will enable **Christian Aid's** Partners in India

To run **2** Village Nursery Schools for **two** years while mothers learn to read and write and other skills

and

To plant **800** Fruit Tree Saplings to provide income and environmental protection for tribal peoples

and

To immunize **3000** children against the most common childhood diseases.

The Indian Greeting 'Namasthe' means 'I see God in You',
may God indeed be seen in both Giver & Recipient.

'Namasthe India' 'Namasthe Hampton Hill'

CHILDREN IN CHURCH



"He loves a good book!"

I think it is great we have so many young people in church. People say that they come to St. James's because the church is so welcoming to the young, both in the church and in the hall. Obviously we don't want to change that. I have never heard any say that they feel banished to the North aisle. I certainly don't. I would not want to see a creche re-introduced as that did make you feel banished. Some practical suggestions to reduce the noise but maintain the atmosphere:

- Appoint someone to be in charge of the toys. Remove the noisy ones and provide lots of paper and pens for drawing.
- Re- arrange the seating in the North aisle to have wider rows so that very young children can play at parents' feet and fill in the play area which does tend to generate most of the noise.
- If we retain the play area, it should only be for the very young. Children who can read should be encouraged to sit with parents and follow the service or entertain themselves quietly.
- More difficult to do well, but we could have Guide to Parents covering such points as location of toys, stating that children are free to wander if quiet, and requesting that crying children are removed to the hall until comforted.

Andrew Craig

As a parent of two small boys I crave peace and am extremely sensitive to noise. I can understand that people find children's noise distracting particularly if they wear hearing aids which amplify the children rather than the service. I am very happy to have found a church that welcomes my children and myself. Families need churches where children are welcome. Churches need families; the children are hopefully the congregations of the future. Parents need and indeed crave the opportunity to worship in peace too (even if they never get it!).

Small children between 6 months and 4 years are unlikely to sit or play quietly throughout a morning service. Some may be happy to look at books or draw but this should not be considered the norm for all. Noise and activity from the little ones does not always mean they want little to do with the service. It may even signal their involvement.

Parents are all too aware of the noise their children make and sensitive to the reactions of others. It seems to me that somehow perceptions need to change so that the children become part of the congregation, everyone's responsibility. Could we establish an informal honorary God-grandparenting system so that some of the older members of the congregation feel more involved with and protective towards the young people? It is possible that a three-year-old will be quiet for that nice lady (with a name) who smiles at him rather than a sea of anonymous faces.

If segregation becomes necessary I would be happy to take a turn supervising so that other parents can worship in peace. However, I would hope that other members of the congregation would also play their part.

Margaret Ansell

N.B. Wendy Baker has supplied bags of quiet toys which can be borrowed. They are kept under the table at the back of the church.

ADVENT GIVING IN 1997

A box will be available in the church from Sunday 23rd November for gifts that are suitable for children. These will be given to Welcare for their Christmas parties and ongoing needs throughout the year. All gifts should be unwrapped. Please try to contribute to this collection.

The special collections that we take in church during the four Sundays of Advent will be given to the following charities. A plate will be clearly marked at the back of the church.

30 th November	Advent 1, Christingle	Children's Society
7 th December	Advent 2, Confirmation	Archbishop's Discretionary Fund (unknown at time of writing)
14 th December	Advent 3	SPEAR (Single Person's Emergency Accommodation in Richmond)
21 st December	Advent 4	SPEAR

Please also take a look at the Charities Noticeboard to see the charities that St. James's has supported this year.

Ann Peterken

KNEELERS

Is anyone interested in sewing a tapestry picture for a kneeler for the Millennium: design your own or designs and materials can be supplied. Contact Kate O'Sullivan, Margaret Taylor or Elizabeth Gossage.



Hampton Council of Churches
is now called
CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND HAMPTON
and with great pleasure invites you to a lecture
to be given by
SIMON HUGHES MP
on
The Christian in Politics

Wednesday 3rd December 1997 8p.m.
at
Hampton Methodist Church
Admission Free. You are very welcome.

St. Mary's St. James's All Saints St. Richard's
St. Theodore's St. Francis de Sales's
Baptist Church Methodist Church United Reformed Church
Crossway Community Church



November 8th Barn Dance with Fish and Chip Supper at Teddington School.
Tickets £10.
November 12th Helpers Evening at B.M.Y.C. Teddington.
December 12th Carol Concert with Salvation Army Band at Teddington Baptist
Church, Church Road, Teddington at 7.30p.m.

Further details and tickets available from Jill Goddard 0181 287 7438

40 YEARS FOR THE GREENWOOD NURSERY SCHOOL

The 35 children of the Greenwood Nursery School, Hampton Hill, had a party in July to celebrate the nursery school's 40th year. The familiar activities were put away for the day and out came balloons, party hats (hand made by the children of course), birthday cake, crisps and a bouncy castle. Two of the founder members, Molly Saunders and Barbara Withers came along to join in the fun and cut the cake.

The challenge began in October 1956 with a series of talks given to the St. James's Young Wives Group by a child psychologist - Miss Beatrix Tudor-Hart. These talks emphasised the importance of nursery education, the need for young children to mix with other children and the benefits of creative play. No facility existed in the area, so a small group of the Young Wives decided to take action.

The idea was educationally ahead of its time and so the founding committee faced a sea of bureaucratic red tape. "Many people said we were mad" remembers Molly Saunders. The nursery school, formerly St. James's Nursery School, first opened for business in March 1957 with the playleaders own 12 children. Within a year the number of children at the school had doubled, despite a measles epidemic which swept through the nursery weeks after it had opened.

Despite having to re-locate while the old school hall was demolished and the Greenwood Centre was built, the nursery school maintained its character and determination to survive. When the school returned "home" it changed its name to the Greenwood Nursery School and is firmly established in the heart of Hampton Hill community life.

A recent "glowing" OFSTED report endorsed the success of the nursery school in providing an educational and happy environment for pre-school children to develop their knowledge and independence.

Thank you to Molly and Barbara and the staff of today and "yesterday" who have continued through the years to make the nursery school such a happy and safe place.

WE WISH YOU MANY MORE HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

For further details please call Liz McBride the nursery school leader on 0181 979 8416.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

WORDSEARCH:

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

MOSES

ADAM

RUTH

NAOMI

JACOB

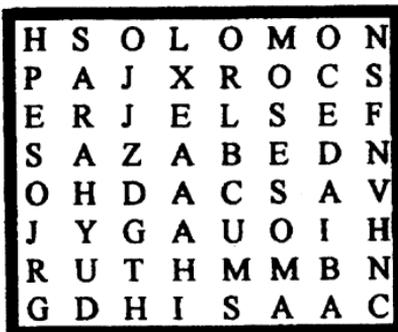
SARAH

LEAH

JOSEPH

ISAAC

SOLOMON



ROD, KALINA AND
GRACE HODGKINSON
have moved to:
Summerease,
23 Finches Park Road,
Lindfield,
West Sussex RH16 2DA
Tel: 01444 483125

SCOUT GROUP NEWS



Flexible person, with an enthusiastic outlook. Hours are one per week, Friday nights from 6-7p.m. Pay rates on a sliding scale, starting at nothing, rising to absolutely no more at all, after however long you fancy. Benefits include a free uniform, free training, 24 6-8 year olds to look up to you (and severely test your hearing) and a front row seat at Church once a month! Seriously though, my employer, BT, has decided to change my hours, meaning that I will still be in the middle of London at 6p.m. and might have a little difficulty being back in Hampton

Hill for Beavers at 6p.m. On a personal level, I am extremely upset at having to give up, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Beavers (most of the time at any rate!) and feel cheated of my investment of time and work.

Unfortunately the bad news doesn't stop there either. Our Scout leader, Greg Martin, has decided to call it a day too. Greg has been in Scouting for 20 years, man and boy and we all wish him well with his retirement. As ever though, you never really retire from this calling (a bit like the clergy perhaps?), Greg will not be severing his ties with the group, but will still be in the background, dishing out advice to the prospective new Scout leader. There at least, every cloud has a silver lining; yes, yours truly is looking at Scouts (not a pretty sight!) and from what I've seen so far they're exactly the same as Beavers, just a bit bigger.

On to other news now, the tube quiz was won by Mrs. Coates (a Beaver mum I'm happy to say) with an amazing 95 correct answers. My commiserations to our runner up, just pipped at the post, having scored 94. Thanks to all who took part.

On a Saturday in October we were invited to have a look at the progress on our new H.Q. First impressions are that it's huge, but that was only because none of the internal walls had been built. It really does look impressive (look out for the big, blue roof as you walk down Eastbank Road) and I know we're all looking forward to taking possession. The builders are more or less on target and, we're happy to say, within budget. Hopefully it will be ours near the end of November, but we don't expect to start making full use of it till the new year. Many people have expressed an interest in how they could help with the building and the powers that be have decided to run "Buy a Brick". The bricks are £5 each and the purchasers name(s) would be recorded in a special book. Further information available from any leader.

Our Christmas Bazaar will be held at The United Reformed Church on Saturday 8th November. Start time of 10a.m., come and have a browse and a cup of tea.

Paul Fitchett 941 7186



The Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich covers the whole of the County of Suffolk and has a Diocesan Bishop and a Suffragan Bishop. The Joint Benefice of

Pakenham, Norton and Tostock is in the Ixworth Deanery which has about thirty churches in all. Most of the churches are small, perhaps thatched, possibly without electricity, very few with either water or toilets and often outside the main village. The congregations are often only in single figures, but the love and devotion of the people that do attend these ancient village churches is quite admirable.

The little village churches are often only a mile or so apart, and each one is a gem. Each year there is a sponsored cycle ride in September for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Alan and I, Ruth, Danny and Joshua took part for the first time this year on a beautiful day, if a little windy. We visited thirty churches, not all Anglican, and covered about thirty miles.

On 4th October, Alan was licensed at the Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds as a Reader to the Diocese, which means that his ministry will not be restricted to our own Benefice but he may be called on to take a service wherever the need arises (an itinerant preacher in effect!) Thank you to those who signed a card for Alan and those who sent good wishes.

Retired clergy and Readers are very important members of the ministry team in country areas as without this extra help many churches would only have a service very occasionally.

We have now seen a whole year round in Suffolk. Thank you to all the people who have managed to visit us, and to those who haven't, you are always welcome. The Parish Outing in July was a great success and one we hope we will be able to repeat. Love and best wishes to you all.

Helen Taylor

OLIVE HAYWARD - A TRIBUTE

Many of the congregation at St. James's will remember Olive Hayward, who for many years was organist and choirmaster at this Church. She wrote her own composition of music for the Sung Eucharist which was performed for a long while at our Parish Communion.

Olive was born in Devizes and her parents' home remained in her possession all her life. She returned to visit whenever she could. She went through music college and was an Associate of the Royal College of Organists. She also studied the violin and viola and played in the Richmond Orchestra, and belonged to the Teddington Choral Society. She was music teacher for many years at Newland House School in Twickenham. In her spare time she loved to travel and toured the U.K. in her camper van. I was not surprised to learn that she was one of the early passengers to fly on Concorde. She also toured Australia and visited the U.S.A.

Olive was filled with a great zest for life and when she retired she joined art classes at Adult College and took up the bassoon.

Olive died very suddenly this summer whilst on holiday in Yorkshire. As she had wished, her funeral took place at St. James's.

Rosalie Meyerowitz

GEOFFREY JOSEPH EATON

Our son-in-law Geoff passed from this life on Sunday night, 5th October, in the intensive care unit at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey.

Many in the parish will remember Geoff as the "Master of the Bells". For many years he rang the bells for matins, evensong, weddings and celebrations and kept the clock going, for at that time it required winding up manually three times a week.

We referred to him as "The boy next door" (no. 34). When he married our daughter Diana in 1965, he left her standing at the Church door while he rushed up the tower to give a joyful and resounding peal on the bells.

Words alone cannot convey the sorrow in our hearts for Diana and children Caroline, Jacqueline, Angela, Helen and Paul.

Margaret and Bill Robinson



On 4th October, the Brownies formed a guard of honour after the wedding of their Tawny Owl, Angela Horner, to Charles Wodehouse. On the same day, Katherine Robinson (Bill and Margaret's granddaughter) married Nick Lansdell at All Saints' Church, Fleet. After a stay in Brittany they will settle in Edinburgh. John and Moya Meredith Smith's elder son Gareth was married to Helen on 18th October in Carmarthen. This has been a busy time for John and Moya as their other son was also married very recently. We send all our newly-weds every good wish for their happiness.

Jean Western has asked us to mention that she is always happy to order books for the bookstall in Church.

Steve Shakes is opening a new ceramic floor and wall tiling shop in Hampton Hill which may fill the needs of home decorators.

We are very pleased to acknowledge and thank the two nieces of Catherine Jones who have made a very generous donation from Catherine's estate to purchase 100 new kneelers for St. James's Church.

We were sad to hear that Gwen NacCauley died in the Princess Alice Hospice and our deepest sympathy goes to her husband, Mac, who is himself not at all well.

This year's Harvest Supper was on an Indian theme to celebrate 50 years of India's independence. Generous donations were made at the Harvest Supper and a very long trail of 50 pence pieces was laid at the Harvest Festival service the following morning. In all over £1000 was raised to go to Christian Aid partners in India. Our very great thanks to all who worked so hard to make this Harvest Thanksgiving such a rewarding and special one.

The usual pumpkin competition was won this year by James Taylor. His entry weighed 35½ lbs; Geoffrey Bowyer's pumpkin was runner-up.



FROM THE SEPTEMBER REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 7 Luke Sinclair Ravenscroft, 9 St. James's Avenue
Nicole Louise Potter, 108 Petersfield Avenue, Staines
14 Ben Hamish Walker, Park House, 15 Burtons Road

Weddings

- 6 David Bennett and Sarah Brittan
20 Gideon Philip Withey and Jane Clifford

Funerals

- 3 Sidney Coles, 8 Wheatsheaf Lane, Fulham
15 Patricia Winterson, Flat 3, 11 Gloucester Road, Teddington
19 Olive Hayward, formerly of Winchendon Road, Teddington

DATES TO NOTE IN NOVEMBER

- 1 & 2 Parish Weekend at Wychcroft
3 8p.m. All Souls Memorial Service
5 2.30p.m. Women's Forum 'Running a Mother & Baby Hostel'
6 8p.m. Nurture Group - Growing in Faith. Church Hall. All welcome
8 Saints & Martyrs of England
9 7 Sunday before Christmas (Remembrance Sunday - Prayers will be said at the Churchyard War Memorial after Parish Communion at approx. 10.45a.m.)
10 8p.m. Parochial Church Council
11 St. Martin of Tours, 397
13 Charles Simeon, Pastor & Preacher, 1836
8p.m. Deanery Common Fund Meeting, All Saints Hampton
17 Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 687
19 8p.m. Women's Forum 'Botton village - A Special Place'
22 11a.m. - 2p.m. Mini Bazaar Church Hall
23 Richmond Arts Council Annual Service for St. Cecilia's Day 4p.m. at St. James's. All welcome
29 Day of Thanksgiving & Intercession for the Missionary Work of the Church
30 **ADVENT SUNDAY** 9.30a.m. Christingle Service

Editor's Note: Thank you for all the many contributions to this month's Spire. I am sorry that, because of space limitations, I have had to edit so many of them. I apologise if I have omitted any vital points!

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER MAGAZINE: 10TH NOVEMBER