

## THE REMEMBRANCE DAY WELCOME SERVICE

It was very appropriate that at the Welcome Service on Remembrance Sunday we should be thinking of the resolutions embodied in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which try to plan to make the world a better place to live in. The Adoption of this Declaration was in December 1948, three years after the end of World War II.

Part of the Preamble starts:- "the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". And the Articles, 30 of them, go on to enumerate these rights and freedoms. They start:

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Our service concentrated on what one can do in practical terms, and was led by Janet Robinson.

The words family and brotherhood were emphasized in the service by Janet's quoting from the speaker from the Teddington Baptist Church, who at our recent Vigil, had spoken most movingly on the need for hospitality for Overseas Students. Foreign students come to this country and so often are never invited into our homes. We do not get to know them and they do not get to know us; what wasted opportunities.

Contacts by correspondence to young people overseas was another way in which brotherhood and relationships could be maintained, and Helen Taylor read a moving letter from a small boy in India writing to his Teddington Methodist sponsor who was paying £52 a year for his education through Action in Distress.

My contribution was to talk of the Amnesty involvement of the Justice and Peace Group at St. Francis de Sales Church, Hampton Hill. This group sends postcards to political prisoners, often detained indefinitely and unjustly, and also writes to Governments concerning the treatment of these detained and imprisoned men and women. In 1977 Amnesty dealt with 116 countries which were acting in violation of human rights, most of them serious. (In the accompanying list, it was difficult to find countries which were **not** listed; Norway, Denmark, Finland, Australia and New Zealand were among them.)

Having been a political prisoner myself in 1960 in South Africa, I spoke with feeling of the cards getting into the prison cell; these are desperately important links with the outside world, and bring the knowledge that somebody or a group of people care about the person who is shut away. Often, in these circumstances, with no contact at all outside the cell, the prisoner is fearful that he or she is forgotten. "What are my friends doing?" "Do they know I am here?" And I showed a card which I received in gaol and which I

still treasure: at the time it brought such joy and consolation: I looked and looked at the birds and flowers on the picture part of the card, and the messages brought love and hope.

Yes, I am definitely "pro" the Amnesty sending of cards!

Christians should try to do something about these issues; on a Pax Christi leaflet there are these words:

Christians must recognise . . . . that they have the chief responsibility for making the world a place of love and justice so that everyone can benefit, so that everyone has proper dignity and freedom.

(De Ecclesia 36)

Hannah Stanton.

## REPORTS

### (13) The Wayside Monday Centre

At the third AGM of the WMC on 19 October, another year of operation was discussed together with the future of the Centre. Much had been done during the year to try to make the existence of the Centre more widely known, by the use of discreet notices in a few key positions about the parish and in The Spire, in the hope that more of the anxious and unhappy and those feeling under stress or just especially lonely would get to hear about us. We are open at Wayside in St. James's Road on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) from 10.30 am to 2 pm and from 8 pm to 10 pm, and have found that, although we continue to have a good number of visitors in the daytime (and indeed have just increased the number of helpers), only very few come in the evening.

Nevertheless, even if we can be of help only occasionally, we feel it is worthwhile and have decided to continue to open our doors in welcome in the evenings as well as in the middle of the day.

We are, of course, indebted to the PCC for the regular use of Wayside: otherwise we pay our own way except for occasional special expenses such as that for the printing of pamphlets.

Last year such special expenses were covered by a grant of £10 from the PCC for which we are also grateful.

Representatives of the centre can be contacted on the telephone number given each month at the front of The Spire (979-6865).

R.E. Bridges

(Chairman of the Management Group)

## THE AFTERNOON SERVICE AT LAUREL DENE

A few weeks ago I helped at the 5.15 pm service at Laurel Dene. As most people know, these services are run on a rota basis and the "senior members" of St. James' take their turn to officiate.

However, it suddenly occurred to me that there must be many members of our congregation who have never attended these services and are perhaps unaware of their taking place.

I should like to enlighten such friends - the services are quite short and spending an hour, at the very most, would be extremely rewarding. The sense of Christian joy is very great and the residents extend a touchingly warm and grateful welcome.

On Sunday morning, November 12, in his sermon at the 9.30 am service, the vicar mentioned the spirit shining from the faces of the old,

reminding us that only our bodies need deteriorate ... our spirits can remain forever young. A visit to Laurel Dene proves this point without question something the young "senior members" of the congregation can find very inspiring.

Margaret Lawrance

**HARVEST THOUGHTS – 1**

A car with a hole in the silencer slowly spluttered past the Church as the first hymn filtered through the pale evening sunlight, and on this afternoon Hampton Hill brought back memories of Harvest Festivals in the country, where a church full of people, surrounded by sheaves of corn, baskets of fruit and piles of vegetables, sang cheerfully to the staccato accompaniment of tractors still bringing in the harvest.

Keats' description of Autumn is, of course, unrivalled:

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosomfriend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch eves run;  
To blend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel. to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease;  
For Summer has o'erbrimmed their clammy cells."

While the spirit of Autumn is the same in town and country, the fruit takes a different form. In Hampton Hill there were piles of canned food in place of the more conventional "fruit of the soil". The sentiments were the same. It was a time to thank God for what He had given and to remember the needs of His Church. What an appropriate time to look forward to Christian Stewardship which would shortly be re-launched at the Parish Supper!

Michael Bunce

**HARVEST THOUGHTS – 2**

What do we celebrate at Harvest?

A well-rehearsed dramatic reading with this title presented at the Welcome Service reviewed all the obvious gifts as well as sentiments, thoughts and attitudes towards problems of our world that are inspired by Christian thinking. I suppose the list cannot be exhaustive – but it was extensive enough to give a fair summing-up of harvest as meaning everything bestowed on us by God.

How did we celebrate our Harvest?

As mentioned elsewhere, by lovingly decorating our church and bringing gifts which were later distributed to elderly or needy people within the parish; (Do we reach the right people or do we inadvertently leave out some who would very much appreciate being included? Hints would be welcome.) We also celebrated by having a special service, and by a very special tea in church afterwards. We had ingeniously-filled baps which were very tasty indeed, and pretty cakes all of which went like the latter's famous hot counterparts. It was a lovely opportunity to chat to many friends.

Incidentally it was the first time we had had this tea in church instead of a sit-down meal in the hall. The organisers would appreciate comments as to which is more popular. Why don't you write in? "View from the Pew" is the place where your comments will be published.

## VIEW FROM THE PEW

Did you enjoy the service last Sunday, or were you bored? Were the hymns to your liking?

Did the sermon reach your heart — or only your head?

Do you really want to go to church — or is it just a comfortable habit?

The congregation in the Anglican Church plays a relatively passive role in the various services, although, in theory at least, the Holy Spirit is working away underneath.

The Sunday Services are central to our communal religious life, but attitudes and responses to these regular events are a private and individual affair. Might it not be beneficial from time to time to share our thoughts, feelings, revelations even, with the rest of the family (the Church family that is)? Most of us have a long way to go to become real Christians, we need all the help we can get — especially from our own community.

To provide an opportunity for this sharing The Spire is going to run a new column called "View From The Pew" for thoughts, likes, dislikes, inspirations or whatever, about the services and other events in St. James's. If you've something to share with the rest of us — two lines or two pages — this is your chance. If you are a little bit shy your contributions can be printed anonymously, provided you let the editor know your name.

The first article follows, let's have a few more for next month.

### Remembrance Day Service

A sunny morning, making the church light and welcoming. Bill Robinson handing out poppies on arrival.

I knew all the hymns (for once), so had a good sing.

The vicar's sermon held my interest, particularly the thought of living on borrowed time — if only I could always remember that my life (and everyone else's) is a gift from God, and be thankful for it. Simple in theory — but how hard to achieve in practice! So try again — less selfishness — fewer complaints — more humility — much more care for others.

P.A.L.

## CHILDREN IN CHURCH

I understand that sometimes our young mothers are put off from bringing their toddlers and babies to church by overhearing a chance remark about someone who was 'put off by their fidgeting'. Well, of course they fidget or even grizzle, would they be normal if they didn't? Surely the ideal would be to have children look forward to going to church on Sunday, but how can they if they are expected to sit quietly in their pew for an hour? By the time they are old enough for Sunday School they will probably understand better and maybe want to act more like the 'grown-ups'

Please bring your babies and toddlers and let them find their way around it is their church too. Some young families find it easier not to arrive

until about 10 am, which is just after the sermon. If they are left alone they are usually quiet, unless they decide to chase each other; it's trying to restrain them that often causes the trouble.

There are books and soft toys on the shelves in the children's corner, so if the little ones know where they are they can help themselves when they want to.

I have no doubt there are people who disagree with this, but personally I would love to see more children trip up to the altar rail with their parents each Sunday, and they won't come unless the Mums really feel they are wanted. Under-fives will cause a disturbance, they do at home; so why should the Church's family be different?

Any comments?

E.V.S. (again!)

### AROUND THE SPIRE

Some people have commented on one or two printing errors in the magazine last time. One of these mistakes was that "Dick" Pearce should of course, have been Derek! We hope this didn't confuse too many of you.

Many of us will remember Brian Reep, he was an active member of the Church and moved away a few years ago to Guildford and now lives at Mayford, near Woking.. We were very pleased to hear that he and his wife, Janet, have recently had their first baby, a little boy called William Brian.

For several Saturdays recently a work-party of volunteers have been in Park Road, repairing and rebuilding the boundary wall of the church-yard. It is most appreciated by everybody and we would like to convey our thanks to all those concerned with this work, as indeed with all the voluntary maintenance-work that goes on in and around the church, often unseen and therefore unthanked.

After a long wait for his operation, Father Tom Stanton has just returned from hospital, and is now back home with his sister Hannah. We hope he makes a rapid recovery and we look forward to seeing him amongst us again very soon.

### FIREWORKS PARTY

Saturday November 4 was to be an enjoyable evening for both us and our children. When we arrived at Laurel Dene I was whisked away into the darkness of the trees and shown a large box. To me it contained enough explosives to blow up Parliament, but as was explained they were not to be let off all at once! During the day the set pieces had been erected and were ready.

At 6.30 sharp the first piece was lit and was followed by about half an hour of Oooos and Aaahs, together with somebody being chased by a Roman Candle that had a mind of its own.

As the last piece burst into life wishing all a "Good Night", we all headed for the food. The members of the Social Committee had been preparing jacket potatoes and hot soup. I was then presented with my two children who told me all about the fireworks they thought I had missed. Pam meanwhile was helping to feed the '5000' and from the looks on their faces, the food was most welcome and warming.

When all had eaten their fill we cleared up and set off home. My little lad told me again that I must go to see the fireworks next year.

Jim Drewett

## YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

**"Priority of Priorities — Save a Baby", Campaign by the Spastics Society**  
**"Human Error" — could you live with that tag hanging over your head?**

We were shown a film about handicapped children on Thursday morning at Wayside. As we sat around with our lively, healthy children playing or sitting on our laps drinking their orange squash and eating biscuits, we watched some very sad and awful situations about babies and children who came into the world labelled "handicapped".

Apart from detailed statistics, which personally I'm not very good at absorbing, the parts of the film which really brought home the heartbreak and awfulness to me was the shot of the hospital room with a large white sheet-covered area where children lolled uncommunicatively around, and in particular a very beautiful little blonde girl with hair splayed over the sheet, and sad, staring eyes gazing emptily into space, almost completely void of life. This made me hold my 2-year old close to me and thank God for her sheer love of life!

Also, there was a father relating the incidents leading up to his wife's giving birth to a son, who through inadequate and insufficient equipment in the delivery-room, had suffered severe brain damage. This child died shortly before his first birthday. Seeing a photograph of him just before that time, clutching a toy, but with the "vacant" expression in his eyes, made quite a lump in my throat.

The appalling fact is that government expenditure is to be cut back in this field. With a shameful record of the highest infant mortality rate in Europe, which has increased in recent years, rather than vastly improved as is the case in countries like France and Sweden, I would have thought that more money should be spent on building and equipping intensive-care units in our maternity hospitals throughout the country, It was emphasized how with proper intensive care for seriously ill babies, not only could their lives be saved, but a healthy life could be assured. France has proved that similar positive results are obtained by increased expenditure on behalf of the welfare and confidence of the mother-to-be.

If you feel as I do and want something to be done about it, please sign the "Save a Baby" petition by the Spastics Society to make the government think again, hopefully, about "cutting back" on this vital field — the health and happiness of our children.

Yvonne Nairn

## THE "PLATOON" ATTACK

It was hardly a mass attack on the leaves on Saturday November 18, rather a victory for a determined twenty-five strong platoon. Most of the activity took place in the morning in an effort to beat the weather. Some demons for punishment turned up again in the afternoon with small reinforcements and the clearance was substantial.

It was rather a case of "the same old faces in the same old places" but it was heartening to welcome at least three and a half new volunteers to the platoon — come again do, your churchyard has need of you!

In spite of the undeniably hard work, which, however, can be done at your own pace, there is a great sense of real camaraderie in working together out of doors and stopping for coffee (a.m.) or tea (p.m.) and a chat. This year,

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two of the best and hard-working mates I've ever had must have been under ten, they were both cubs and a credit to their pack (and also to their mums and dads).

Why don't YOU join us next time and when the Vicar reads out the notice or you see it blazoned outside the church, let it be a MASS attack by the addition of all your presences. The oldest helper last Saturday was over seventy, the youngest about seven – so the age allowance is flexible enough for nearly all of us to find a place in it.

A passing thought – and not so passing on Saturday: Wouldn't it be **luvverly** if everyone whose doggy friend uses the amenities of the churchyard would turn up in person to cleanse their pets' own particular parking place!  
Platoon member, name and number available

### CAROL SINGING

Last year our carol singing round the parish was led for the first time by brass instrumentalists: we were a large party and with their help made quite an impression and greatly enjoyed ourselves. The instrumentalists were members of the Richmond Youth Band, and we are very pleased that they are to join us again this year – on Thursday 21 December. We shall meet, as we did last year, at the Parish Hall in School Road at 7.15 pm, and after straining our lungs in various parts of the parish for 1½ to 2 hours, we shall return there for the customary hot drinks (or squash) and mince pies.

Would anyone wishing to volunteer to make some mince pies for the occasion (they will be paid for the ingredients) please get in touch with Mrs. Severn (Tel: 979-1954)?

We do hope that those living in the areas where we sing will come out and join us. As usual, we shall not be setting out to collect money but only to bring the joyful Christmas message out into the parish and, in so doing, to spread it amongst ourselves.

R.E.B.

### YOUNG FAMILY SERVICE AT CHRISTMAS

This year we are holding THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE in our church on Sunday, December 24 at 4.30 pm.

This Service is essentially a family affair, and as evidenced in our church last year, every growing in popularity.

The aim of the Church of England Children's Society who first introduced the Christingle Service into this Country, is for one to be held in every Parish, and thus help their large family of unwanted, homeless, needy and handicapped children.

It is based on the old Moravian custom when families gathered to welcome the coming of the Christ-child. The children were given a special Christingle Orange in return for their gifts of food for the poorer families in the Parish – and by the light of the candles alone they sung their favourite carols.

The Orange represents the World, the candle – the Light of the World, the fruit and nuts – the fruits of the earth, and the red ribbon – the Blood of Christ.

Doris Childs

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christian festival of Christmas lasts for forty days, and in the middle of that period, on the evening of Saturday 13 January, we are to have our Fancy Dress Party in the Parish Hall as usual. There will be a mixture of games and dancing for all the family and, of course, refreshments.

We hope as many as possible will come in fancy dress but as the theme is to be "Foreign Bodies" and as we live in a very cosmopolitan world you will no doubt pass muster in almost anything!

Our loss last year was rather bigger than usual, and so unfortunately the tickets will have to be a little more expensive this year at 75p for adults and 40p for those who are 16 years or under. They are available from members of the Social Committee.

R.E.B.

## STEWARDSHIP SUPPER

The supper, held on Thursday November 2 in the Parish Hall, was a very happy and relaxed introduction to our Stewardship Campaign. We were welcomed by the Vicar and ushered into the Hall in stentorian voice by Bill Robinson, to be shown to our tables to join our hostesses and supper companions.

Delicious home-cooked food was passed round by the Guides and it was difficult to decide which was more delightful – the food, or the waitresses! The plates of appetising cold savouries were followed by equally splendid and varied dishes of cakes – truly we have good and imaginative cooks in the congregation of St. James. After coffee, the Guides vanished promptly to what we hoped was a good snack after their hard work; I hope they realised how much we enjoyed having them with us.

The speeches were short and to the point: the relevance of stewardship was underlined by Gp. Capt. Ridsdale who has been responsible for the running of the campaign, and Mr. Brunt also spoke. (I think we all agreed with Alan Taylor's introduction – we are indeed fortunate to have such a vicar.) The evening drew to a close with the general chat that usually ends friendly occasions, and we saw several 'visitors' and 'visitees' making arrangements to meet and discuss their commitments.

The success of the evening, planned to the last detail and splendidly organised, was consolidated by the efforts of the supper committee under Eila Severn and Margaret Leatherdale. Everything went smoothly from beginning to end and I think we would all like to say thank you to the organisers, to those who did the cooking and, of course, to the Guides who served the food so efficiently. May this evening have been the prelude to a successful campaign.

M.T.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD (5)

We were considering last month whether the Sixth Commandment could be held before us as a clear and unambiguous word of the Lord valid for all times and situations, prohibiting every kind of killing, and settling once and for all such issues as the rightness or wrongness of war, Pacifism, Capital Punishment (Judicial Murder?), and so on. Some Christians have indeed taken it in this way, but we felt that this was an oversimplification, and that it was impossible to give it such power and scope. But let us now briefly acknowledge



some of its undoubted positive aspects and the advances in religious and ethical thinking associated with it.

It came at a time when killings of all kinds were rife, and the exaction of vengeance was deemed to be a sacred duty. The family or clan which had lost an active member had lost a valuable asset, and those who had caused the harm must be made to pay and suffer for it. The natural feeling was the desire to get far more than your own back – ‘let us make sure we kill at least four of them for the one of us: that will teach them a lesson’. The limitation of revenge was a great step forward – you are now allowed to exact only ‘life for life, eye for eye, tooth for thooth . . .’ (Exodus c.21, v.24). And now the principle of ‘life for life’ is being challenged by the Sixth Commandment. For the first time, murder is being regarded as a moral transgression, not just a natural privilege of normal human life, to be paid for in various ways. Reverence for life is growing and with it a deepening sense of guilt even for unwitting harm – so that a man must put a parapet along the flat roof of his house, to avert the guilt that would otherwise be his if anyone fell from it (Deuteronomy c.22, v.8). It also now begins to dawn upon men for the first time that motive and inner intention matter, and not only the outward act; so that one has to take into account not only the harm done but the harm intended. Slowly people begin to see that killing a man by accident when the head flies off your axe is not in the same category as killing him because you desire to possess his wife. What though the Pentateuch definition of murder is narrow? The important thing is to get murder defined at all, and under God’s pressure and guidance the definition will become less and less narrow, and along this and many other roads the way is being prepared for the grace and truth which would come through Jesus Christ.

*(to be continued)*

**CHEMISTS’ ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA**

December

- 17 F.G. Martin, 28B Priory Road, Hampton
- 24 D.G. Martin, 122 High Street, Teddington
- 31 F.G. Martin, 3 Station Approach, Hampton

Christmas Day

Boots, 66 Broad Street, Teddington

Boxing Day

D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington

(Rota for the New Year not yet to hand)

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

### December

- 13 07.30 Holy Communion; 13.30 Prayer Meeting (75 St. James's Ave.)
- 14 10.30 Young Families' Group: 'How to make Christmas Decorations' (W)
- 19 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 20 EVE OF ST. THOMAS: 19.15 Holy Communion
- 21 19.15 Parish Carol Singing (starting off from outside the Parish Hall in School Road)
- 24 Fourth Sunday in Advent: Meeting arrangements as usual,
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: 16.30 Family Christingle Service (offerings for the Church of England Children's Society); 23.45 Midnight Eucharist (all non-pledged offerings at this service and on Christmas Day for Christian Aid)
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY: Holy Communion at 08.00 and 12.10; Family and Parish Communion at 09.30, followed by refreshments in church
- 26 ST. STEPHEN'S DAY: 10.00 Holy Communion
- 27 ST. JOHN'S DAY: 10.00 Holy Communion at Laurel Dene; 19.15 Holy Communion in church
- 28 INNOCENTS' DAY: 19.15 Holy Communion
- 31 First Sunday after Christmas: 08.00 Holy Communion; 09.30 Parish Communion followed by Parish Breakfast; 11.15 Family Service and Nativity play devised and presented by members of the Sunday School; 16.30 Carols by Candlelight – a Festival Service for all

### January

- 1 THE NAMING OF JESUS: 19.15 Holy Communion
- 2 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 3 14.30 Mothers' Union: Branch Christmas Meeting (W)
- 4 10.30 Young Families' Group: Pram Service followed by Christmas Party
- 5 EVE OF THE EPIPHANY: 19.15 Holy Communion
- 6 15.00 Old People's Christmas Party (Hall)
- 10 07.30 Holy Communion; 13.30 Prayer Meeting (75 St. James's Ave.)
- 13 19.15 Parish Christmas Party (Hall)

The Catechumenate continues to meet every Wednesday at 10.00 and Saturday at 19.00.

## BAPTISMS

### November

- 12 Matthew James Laughton, 58 Rectory Grove  
Brad Robinson, 1 Albert Court, Albert Drive, Southfields

## INTERMENT

### November

- 2 Katherine Annie Anthony, 26A Northwood Gardens, North Greenford  
(interment of ashes in Garden of Rest)