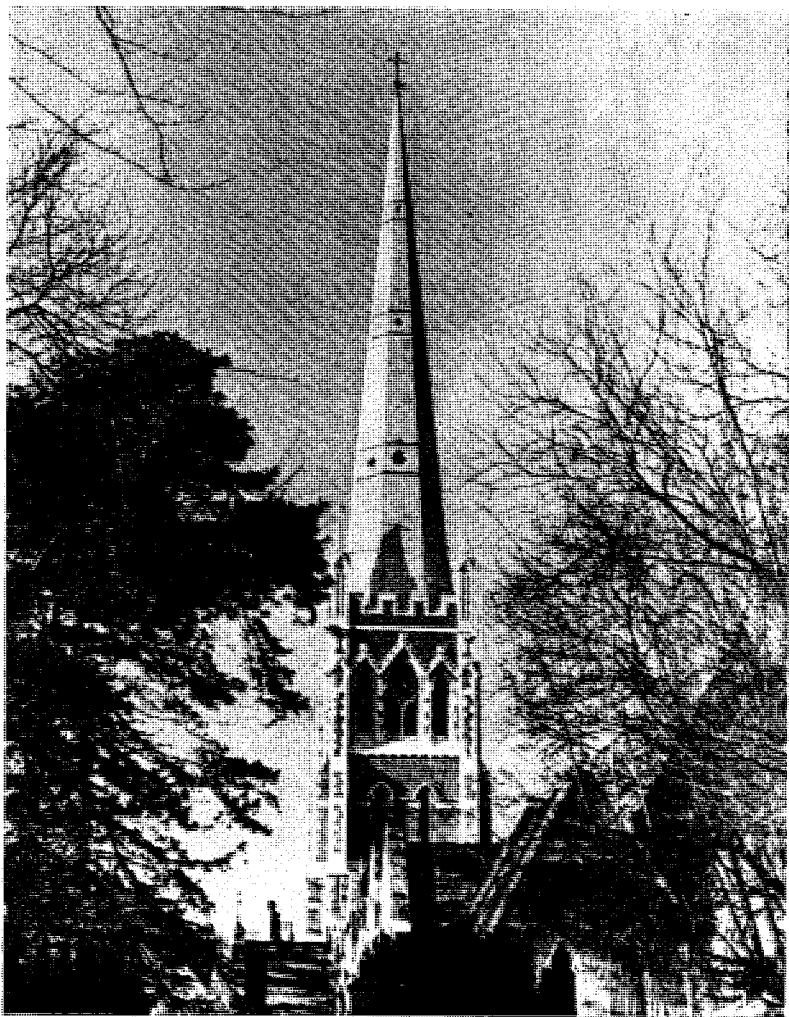


THE SPIRE



THE MAGAZINE OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
HAMPTON HILL, MIDDLESEX

JANUARY 1969

St. James's Church, Hampton Hill.

CHURCH OFFICERS

VICAR

The Rev. R. H. Brunt, B.A., A K.C., The Vicarage, St. James's Road. 01-979 2069

CHURCHWARDENS

Mr. G. I. Robinson, 36, St. James's Road. 01-979 2426

Mr. L. Rockliffe, 40, Gloucester Road, Teddington. 01-977 4909

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER

Mr. R. J. C. Dafforne, 7, Blandford Road, Teddington. 01-977 3439

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Secretary: Miss O. M. Wright, 15 School Road.

Treasurer: Mr. G. I. Robinson, 36, St. James's Road. 01-979 2426

SOCIAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Mr. R. M. Brooks, 81, Park Road 01-979 1983

CHURCH OFFICER FOR BOOKINGS OF HALL AND WAYSIDE

Mr. R. E. Bridges, 19, St. James's Road. 01-979 6865

SUPERVISORS OF WAYSIDE

Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Gostling, 21, St. James's Road. 01-979 3748

MAGAZINE SECRETARY & TREASURER

Mr. F. E. Peel, 34, Burton's Road. 01-977 7368.

PRESS & PUBLICITY OFFICER

Mrs. D. E. Warwick, 52 Park Road. 01-979 7004.

ORGANISER FOR CHURCH FLOWERS

Mrs. L. Mills, 40, Oldfield Road, Hampton, 01-979 6626, who will be pleased to hear from people willing to arrange flowers for any particular Sunday.

CHURCHYARD GUARDIAN

Mr. R. M. Brooks, 81, Park Road 01-979-1983

DEANERY WEL-CARE WORKER

Miss D. M. Kemp, 15, Bulstrode Road, Hounslow. HOU. 3594.

SECRETARY OF BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Miss Ann Stuart, 64, Windmill Road.

SUNDAY SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Holy Communion	Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.
Holy Communion	First Sundays in month and		
		Festivals	12.10 p.m.
THE PARISH COMMUNION		Every Sunday	9.30 a.m.
(Followed by Parish Breakfast — coffee and rolls — at Wayside				10.40 a.m.)
Family & Parade Service	Fourth Sundays	9.30 a.m.
Holy Baptism	Fourth Sundays	4.00 p.m.
		and at Parish Communion by arrangement (14 days' notice to be given)		
Evensong	Every Sunday	6.30 p.m.
Young People's Fellowship	Every Sunday in Wayside	8.00 p.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOLS:				
Nursery and Infants'	Every Sunday except Fourth		
		in Wayside	9.45 a.m.
Junior and Senior	Every Sunday except Fourth		
		in Church	11.00 a.m.
Rectory	Every Sunday in Rectory		
		School	2.30 p.m.

Services are also held frequently in Laurel Dene which members of the congregation are asked to support. Dates given in the body of this magazine. Any alterations to the above pattern which may occur from time to time will also be noted there, as well as details of week-day services and organisations.

CHRISTMAS

by Richard Harries

Father Christmas arrives by red saloon,
The brightly polished chromium
Reflecting his cotton wool beard,
And dyed sack-like cloak.
He gives a false-teeth smile,
To the million little faces,
The million shining eyes,
And the million outstretched hands.
With a growing sincerity,
The tape recorder voice,
Speaks in a double bass,
Showing shallow interest in the million blurred children.
Have you been a good boy ?
Yes, I strangled my mother last week,
And stabbed my father yesterday.
Father Christmas gives him a plastic gun.
For every present received,
A pound note is placed in his fat hand.
The cash registers play their happy tunes,
And the manager's face glows.
The time has come for the grand parade,
Father Christmas soars through the neon streets,
To give thanks.
To a ten foot plastic candle.
A little distance away from the rest,
Stands a boy with no coat,
His hair is long,
And his teeth decayed.
He has no money to lovingly caress,
All he feels is the dirty water,
Through the hole in his shoe,
As he walks along the grey, hard pavement.
He passes the wrecked car,
With its expressionless passengers
Hanging from it with smashed and bloody faces,
Reeking of alcohol.
He looks at the waving man,
Who hides his face with a piece of wool,
And remembers that his mother died
In a cold, damp room.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
The words thunder in his brain.
The face of his mother
Appears in the glowing light.
How he hated humanity,
With its immorality and glossy facade,
They were so religious, but money was their God,
Christmas to them was a grand showing of riches.
He looked in through a shimmering window,
The cathode ray tube was working overtime,
A church service appeared.
And all the people vanished.

He ran and ran,
 Till the outline of the black town
 Was miles away.
 Years gone by.
 Sand poured away,
 Time came and disappeared,
 The boy was now a man,
 Still running.
 The wood was still and silent,
 As he rushed by the solid trees,
 The smoke rose from a small log cabin,
 Drawing him like a magnet to it.
 An old man appeared in the doorway,
 Happy Christmas he smiled.
 Happy Christmas returned the man.
 For him, time has started all over again.
 The city with its neon lights and money making tunes
 Had crumbled away,
 A shining light had appeared in his eyes,
 And the meaning of Christmas had emerged.
 In a little log cabin,
 He had found truth and sincerity,
 With an old man and a simple dinner
 He now realised why a babe was born in a stable.

(The boys of Teddington County School were asked at short notice to compose a poem on Christmas in an American setting or with an American or modern theme, for inclusion in the School Carol Service. Richard's poem was considered the best, and accordingly read. It was also read—not by its author, for he was far too modest—at the Mothers' Union Christmas Entertainment, where it made a deep impression and Richard has been persuaded to allow us to include it here.—Ed.).

THE LOCAL HOUSING TRUST

The Richmond-upon-Thames Churches Housing Trust Ltd., has just bought its first property, a substantial house in East Sheen now being converted into four flatlets. Negotiations are under way for other houses. From the number of enquiries received by the Trust for accommodation, it is clear that there is a real need for this kind of housing, especially for the elderly or handicapped.

Suitable houses are not easy to find in this area and the Trust would very much appreciate being told of any properties coming, or shortly coming, on to the market. The earlier the Trust receives information the better chance it has of making a successful offer. The Trust would also like to know of any elderly people living alone who might be willing to sell their house to the Trust on condition they retain a flat in the house when it has been converted.

Efforts are being made to spread the Trust's activities into all parts of the Borough, especially on the Middlesex side of the river. People interested in helping to provide homes for those living in unsatisfactory conditions are needed to publicize the work of the Trust and to stimulate support within their own community. Offers of help would be welcomed.

Information about houses, enquiries about the Trust and offers of

help should be sent or telephoned to the Secretary, 15 Sheen Gate Gardens, London, S.W.14 (Mrs. Kinchin Smith) Tel.: 876 5301.

THE TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club has now completed its trial run. About two dozen people have attended the meetings, the first of which was reported in an earlier magazine. Since then we have had a report on the Hampton Hill Emergency Help Scheme by the organiser, Mr. Williams. Cards have been distributed throughout the district giving two telephone numbers which are manned night and day. On the reverse side of the card is printed S.O.S., and if this is displayed in a window, a warden will call. The organisers are rather disappointed that help has not been more frequently requested, as they feel that some people may be struggling with difficulties when a helping hand might make all the difference.

A talk on the services offered by an Estate Agent was given by Mr. Wright, of Martin, Gale and Wright, who stepped in at very short notice and proved to be an instructive and interesting speaker. He answered a wide selection of queries from both vendors' and buyers' points of view.

Our next meeting will be on January 14, when we will hold a general meeting and decide on our future plans.

K.B.

WAYSIDE — AN APPRECIATION

Those of us who use the amenities of Wayside regularly are delighted with the improvements which have been taking place lately. The initial decoration of the main room was a tremendous improvement, and the installation of the storage heaters in the two meeting rooms and the kitchen has meant that people are able to shed their coats on entering, and be comfortably warm.

Now the smaller room has been decorated professionally it looks very attractive. But our thanks are due to the band of volunteers who recently, in their own time, redecorated the main room and the hall. Their efforts really are much appreciated.

A gentleman was seen one recent Sunday to be 'measuring-up' in the kitchen, and the back-room girls are eagerly awaiting improvements in this area, to match up to the appearance of the public rooms.

THE PARISH BREAKFAST

The idea of meeting, after Parish Communion each Sunday morning, for an informal chat over hot coffee and rolls is now an established part of our church life. It is a pleasure to spend ten or twenty minutes relaxing before going home to begin preparations for Sunday lunch.

Apart from providing the opportunity of meeting one another, and introducing newcomers, it has been found that we have begun to **MAKE MONEY!** For almost two years we have been self-sufficient, due in part to judicious shopping-around for groceries, making our own marmalade, and of course the contributions given by many of those who join us on Sunday mornings. Incidentally, no one is asked to pay, so no one need feel embarrassment over the financial aspect.

We find that we now have £9 in accumulated funds, and the

Church Council decided that this money should be added to the other monies to be sent to Christian Aid to help alleviate the famine in Biafra and Nigeria.

J.B.

TO THE YOUNG

May I, as one who is older, make an appeal to the "young" of this church?

Because you are young you may more easily understand the disappointments, irritations and frustrations of yourselves in growing up. It is important that in your day and age you should appreciate and evaluate them. Are the disappointments, irritations and frustrations obstacles which are steps to a higher human life once they are climbed, or are they stumbling blocks which may cause a subsidence in your progress? Consider a quote from an intelligent member of our land: "Mob violence, sit-down strikes, passive resistance to authority, are all denials of democracy mob action is the refuge of the unintelligent and can put in jeopardy the one guardian of the liberty of future generations—democracy."

Therefore it is all important to reason your discontents and to find out from where they arise and truly assess the fault. Then it can be shouted from the rooftops once it is articulate. Help yourselves and all of us by expressing what you feel truly. This is really difficult but you can do it.

I have heard derogatory remarks about the march of Sunday, October 27, "a damp squib" and worse. If out of this great march could come clarification of thought and an urge to really help the world, including Viet Nam, then the parade of youth would be an outstanding success and would be written so in our History books.

AILSA McILWRAITH.

Correspondence on this would be welcomed.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

During the past month news has come from two former members. Mrs. Uden, now living in Bromley, has resumed work as a Civil Servant, Ann has finished training at St. Christopher's and has taken her first post as a children's nurse. Mrs. Button is now living in Chard, Somerset, and seems to have taken a new lease of life — to judge from the excursions she has taken with her daughter to Sidmouth and other nearby beauty spots. Both ladies wish to be remembered to the branch.

As a result of the Overseas meeting in St. Mary's new hall at Hampton, which Mrs. Scott was unable to address owing to illness, Mrs. Bonfield, Deanery O.S. Rep., has sent the sum of £1-4-6 to the Overseas Fund, this was the amount in hand after expenses had been paid. Incidentally, we were green with envy when we saw the "Dream Kitchen" which has been installed — all Mod. cons. laid on!

I.V.R.

THE SCOUT GROUP

On Sunday, September 29, our Group was well represented at the Sponsored Walk organised by the District in aid of the Fund for Thalidomide Children. Akela, our Scout Leader, and one parent together with 15 Cub Scouts and 3 Scouts spent an interesting day

discovering the beauties of Windsor Great Park. As a result of their efforts the sum of £55 has been handed in to the District.

Saturday, November 2 was the day of our annual Christmas Bazaar, and the Parish Hall was well filled when Mrs. Brunt arrived to open same. The event was organised by Hathi with help from parents, members of the Supporters' Association and the B.P. Guild, the result being about £100 to be added to our Headquarter's Building Fund.

Our Bonfire Party on Wednesday, November 6, was a "roaring" success thanks to Mr. Cook who was as usual in charge of the bonfire. In spite of there being a much larger crowd than anticipated, Mr. Lambert managed to keep control of their firework display and the ladies did an excellent job with soup and hot-dogs.

G.S.L.

THE FIREWORKS PARTY

On Guy Fawkes Night (Remember, remember, the 5th of November — in case you've forgotten the date) the Social Committee of St. James's Church, Hampton Hill, again put on what has now become their traditional annual pyrotechnic display in the grounds of Laurel Dene. Well over 200 children of all ages (including at least one grey beard) enjoyed an evening of ooh-ing and ahh-ing as rockets arched screaming overhead and ingenious set pieces illuminated the gardens with gorgeously coloured floodlighting. Sparklers were provided for the really tiny tots and the indefatigable lady helpers once more produced welcome mugs of steaming tomato soup and hot buttered baked potatoes.

This year the powers that be (presumably in the interests of safety?) refused permission for the bonfire — regarded by many in the past as the climactic high light of the entertainment — but (owing no doubt to hidden influence and wire-pulling by the Committee) the Clerk of the Weather presented us with a really fine night for the occasion.

The thanks of all who attended the display are due and hereby expressed to the hard working organisers who once more produced a highly enjoyable evening for all those lucky enough to be present.

V.M.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Jan. 14.—8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club (W).
- .. 15.—8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- .. 17.—8.00 p.m. Choir Christmas Party (W).
- .. 18-25.—WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY : details of events arranged locally listed in full on cards available from members of Church Council or bookstall table in church, and some of them mentioned under the appropriate date below.
- .. 18.—8.00 p.m. Members of the Young People's Fellowship are hosts at an open evening of Gospel Beat Music provided by the Maine Theme (Hall).
- .. 19.—6.30 p.m. Special form of modernised Evening Service, led by members of the Y.P.F.; the preacher will be the Rev. E. A. Essery, vicar of St. Paul's, Hammersmith. After the

service there will be a reception for all young people at Wayside, with a Brains Trust to answer any questions, and refreshments.

- .. 20.—8.00 p.m. Christian Unity Service at SS. Michael and George, Wilcox Road. Preacher: The Rev. W. F. Shergold, vicar of St. Mary's, Paddington Green.
- .. 21.—8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- .. 22.—DAY OF PRAYER: several churches open all day (for details see card); 7.30 p.m. the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Heenan, preaches in St. Paul's Cathedral—the Bishop of London hopes every parish will be able to send some representatives; 8.00 p.m. United Service in Teddington Baptist Church.
- .. 23.—8.00 p.m. United Service in Hampton Methodist Church (Preacher: The Rev. R. H. Brunt), followed immediately by a Christian Aid film 'World Too Many.'
- .. 24.—8.00 p.m. Open Meeting arranged by the Hampton Hill Association to discuss what is wrong with the district and how it could be put right (Hampton Hill School).
- .. 25.—THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL: 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 3.30 p.m. Old People's Christmas Party (Hall); 7.30 p.m. Evening Mass at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Francis de Sales, followed by a Social in the Hall. Speaker: The Right Reverend Mgr. L. Goulder.
- .. 26.—Members of our congregation invited to Kingston Parish Church to take part in the Sunday Half-Hour broadcast. Those who wish to do so must reach the church not later than 8.00 p.m., but as soon after 7.30 p.m. as possible would be better.
- .. 28.—8.00 Tuesday Club (W).
- .. 31.—8.15 p.m. Liturgical Committee (33, Beech Way).
- Feb. 2.—THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE: Sunday Services as usual, and at 9.30 a.m. CONFIRMATION administered by the Bishop of Kensington, and PARISH COMMUNION. (N.B.: The Infants' Sunday School will not meet to-day as the Parish Breakfast will not finish until later than usual).
- .. 7.—10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (43, Wellington Road).

BAPTISM

On December 22 :
Denise Martin, 20, Beech Way, Twickenham.

MARRIAGE

On December 21 :
David Skinner to Lorna Joan Cornwall.

CREMATION

On December 31 :
Daisy Alice Hawkins, 7, Burton's Road, aged 77 years (at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium: ashes to be interred later in the Garden of Rest in the Churchyard).