

THE SPIRE



THE MAGAZINE OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

HAMPTON HILL, MIDDLESEX

JANUARY 1973

St. James's Church, Hampton Hill

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979 2069.

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THE MAGAZINE

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Mrs. J. Evans and Mrs. P. Aylward, 15 Bulstrode Road, Hounslow. 570 3594.

SUNDAY SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Holy Communion	Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.
Holy Communion	First Sundays in month and Festivals	12.10 p.m.
PARISH COMMUNION	Every Sunday	9.30 a.m.
	On most Fourth Sundays also	
	Family & Parade Service	9.30 a.m.
Parish Breakfast	Every Sunday in Wayside	10.35 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOLS (except in holiday periods):		
Infants'	Every Sunday except Fourth in Wayside	11.15 a.m.
Junior	Every Sunday except Fourth in Church	11.00 a.m.
Rectory	Every Sunday in Rectory School	2.30 p.m.
Infant Baptism	After due notice, at Parish Communion	9.30 a.m.
	or on Fourth Sundays	4.00 p.m.
A Service in Laurel Dene is held every Sunday, and led by members of different Churches as arranged		5.15 p.m.
EVENSONG	Every Sunday	6.30 p.m.
Young People's Fellowship	Every Sunday in Wayside	8.00 p.m.

THE SPIRE 1973

Our printers have asked us to fit in with their new schedule, whereby all parish magazines for which they are responsible will be sent out in time for the fourth Sunday of every month. So this magazine which you are now reading — though to provide continuity it may still bear the stamp of January on its cover — is really in effect the February issue. This changeover came unexpectedly, and it has not given us much time for adjustment, so the dates of, and news about, forthcoming events in February and early March may not be fully covered — but everything should be all right next month.

The Editorial Board, who produce this magazine under increasing difficulties each month, and often receive much criticism about the finished product, would welcome new members. Several of the existing group are ready to resign as soon as replacements can be found. We would be glad if some of our persistent critics would come forward in this way, because they may well be able to do a much better job than we have — but they too must be prepared to be criticised in their turn, and to receive more kicks than ha'pence. The need to spread the load and to incorporate more talent will become acute in May, when we are due to get the magazine printed locally by a printer who will not handle the inset, therefore we must try to include more news and views beyond the parish pump limits, as it seems that few of our readers take a weekly Church newspaper, and the inset is their main or only source of information about the wider Church.

CHRISTMASTIDE 1972-3.

Our Christmas worship and activities were as joyful and colourful as ever, and if, with the backing of many liturgiologists, we believe that the Christmas season is not just 'the twelve days of Christmas', but the **forty** days (as of Lent and Easter) and extends to the Festival of Candlemas on February 2, then they are far from over yet. The trouble is, of course, that year by year we are under increasing pressure to begin to anticipate Christmas and to start celebrating it prematurely. Though we resist as firmly as we can, and try to give Advent a proper look-in, certain exceptions have to be made. One such is school carol-services, which ideally should be held after the Christmas holidays, but this would be almost impossible to arrange. This year we invited the Hampton Hill Junior School to hold their service in our church: the invitation was gladly accepted, and on the Monday before Christmas it was good to see the church packed with children and their parents, and the carols were sung with great gusto and zest. To make room for everybody, members of the Properties Committee buckled to after Parish Breakfast on the day before, and cleared the north aisle (which had become the church's store-room, as well as the workshop of the organ builders) and then did as much cleaning as possible. The work on the organ has spread more dirt and debris through the church

than usual, and our small band of regular cleaners (who took over on a voluntary basis when we discarded the professionals on grounds of expense and lack of value for money some years ago) are severely strained to keep things in decent order (see separate article later in this magazine). But as a result of the combined efforts of several small bands of people — and the usual generous gift and erection of a magnificent lighted Christmas tree by Mr. and Mrs. Thompson — the church was clean, beautiful and gay when the Christmas services began.

Before this on the Wednesday, we had gone round the parish with an enthusiastic group which swelled to over fifty, including people of nearly every age from 5 to 75. We had police permission to collect, but this was not our main purpose — which was to wish everybody a happy Christmas and bring some Christmas melody to ear and heart — but we accepted gifts spontaneously given, and so over £5 went to the Mayor's Christmas Fund. The night was bitterly cold, and brisk walks between the stops were barely sufficient to get the blood flowing freely again, so the hot mince-pies and the coffee laced with a dash of whisky after nearly 2 hours of exposure were more than doubly welcome.

Last year Miss Betty Stewart introduced the Christingle service to the parish, and it was very successful. This year, with her cooperation, the Liturgical Committee developed it into a Crib and Carol Service, especially designed for families with young children, at 3.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. After the crib had been set up and the figures placed in position, nearly fifty children processed round the darkened church with their candle-bearing oranges reminding everybody of Christ the Light of the world, while many parents sang lustily in their pews. Then came the carol service at Laurel Dene, with the service-sheets newly-printed in large type so that the old people could read the lessons and join in all the singing. At Evensong we could muster only about half-a-dozen people, so the 'song' part was for once a misnomer, as we had thought it might be, but people came flocking in large numbers to the midnight Eucharist, and it was good to see the large number of complete families then and at the Family Communion on Christmas morning.

The poor and underprivileged of the world were not forgotten in our prayers and giving, and a cheque for £80 has just been sent to Christian Aid, of which nearly £50 came from offerings at the Christmas services.

The traditional service of Lessons and Carols was held as usual on the Sunday after Christmas. The selection of carols is not easy, if a balance is to be preserved between the well-loved and familiar and the new and perhaps strange, between congregational participation and choir expertise. The general consensus was that our organist had succeeded very well., and we were all able to give and receive richly and fully.

And so on into 1973 — the Parish Christmas Party. Again, a great family occasion, with representatives of all ages, from toddlers to swinging grandparents — and as we all did our best to follow the injunction to be colourful. it was a gay spectacle indeed.

A CHURCH ON THE MOVE

Great things are afoot in our own country and in many parts of the world. John Hughes, assistant curate in the parish of East Twickenham, has recently spent over a month in the USA, and saw something of the resurgence of new life there, especially in the parish of the Holy Redeemer, Houston. His account of what he experienced held a meeting of the Chapter spellbound: he has indeed a great tale to tell, and he has kindly agreed to come and recount it to us on Sunday evening, February 18. Be sure to be there.

ALERT IN OUR TIME

This is the splendid title that the women of New Zealand have thought up for this year's service for the Women's World Day of Prayer, which will fall on Friday March 2. The Service will be in St. Francis de Sales Church, Hampton Hill. More details about this next month.

The service form raises relevant and urgent questions which I for one, shall be glad of an opportunity to look into more deeply before the day, so I hope we can once again arrange a study group on Wednesdays, February 14, 21, 28. at the Vicarage.

It would be possible to arrange an evening meeting if people wanted this. Please let me know. C. H. B.

THE ORGAN RECITAL

The details of the organ renovation and Mr. Stanley Westcott's recital have already been described by Mr. Dafforne in a previous edition of The Spire.

The new date for the recital is Friday February 9. We hope you will help to fill the church for that occasion. (The first of many, we hope) Please be there by 8.00 p.m. and encourage friends from far and wide to come and admire our organ.

We would like to make this event financially self-supporting and although admission is free, there will be a collection at the event, and programmes, price 10p. will be available from members of the "recital committee" — Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Dafforne, Mrs. Rockliffe, Mr. Bowes-Cavanagh and Ruth Mills.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our 75th Anniversary proved to be a very happy event in the annals of the Branch. There was a full attendance of members at the Communion Service, at which Mrs. Parnell, Deanery Presiding Member joined us.

In the evening members from every Branch in the Deanery were present at our party in the Hall when we were honoured by the presence of distinguished guests, the Central President, Mrs. Varah, Diocesan President, Mrs. Dunhill and Mrs. Lankshlar, Diocesan

Secretary. It would be invidious to single out any special members for their part in making the event so successful for every member of St. James's Branch contributed in some way.

SEVENTY FIVE YEARS OLD

As this was the first social function to which I had been invited in my official capacity, I approached the hall at what I considered to be a decent interval between official starting time and not too late. I found the hall occupied by a multitude of unknown mums from branches throughout the Deanery, and someone pinned a label on to my lapel designating me "liver". Fortunately my partner, "bacon" was much better at deciphering cryptic place names than I, so we pooled our resources, but neither of us was much good at recognising advertisements without their captions. The party warmed up with a selection of games, during the course of which I was agreeably surprised to find that I managed to retain my halo longer than the vicar.

There followed a period of calm during which guests and neighbouring branches were introduced. Only St. Stephen's branch could claim seniority over St. James's, by one year. The diocesan organisation was well represented in the persons of the secretary, treasurer, and presiding member. Mrs Varah cut the delicious birthday cake, photographs were taken, and then we sat down for refreshments. Mesdames Brunt, Rockcliffe, and Young gave another performance of the sketch first presented at the Harvest Supper, and Mrs. Edmonds and Miss Girling ably filled the parts taken by non-members on the earlier occasion. The production was much appreciated by all present, and the evening concluded with Auld Lang Syne.

When the branch celebrates its centenary, it will have well digested the Willesden Report and whatever emerges from it. If the organisation then is different its main witness will still be to Christian family life, and this will be just as important then as it has been during the past seventy five years. We wish them well.

THE SCOUT GROUP

S. D. H.

The Parents' Evening held on November 15 was really well supported, the Cub-Scouts put on a variety of events, educational games, sketches performed by themselves, gym, and an excellent display of handicraft.

Although overwhelmed by moving problems Derrick and Doris Stevens, D.C. & A.D.C. for Twickenham District came along and a very pleasing ceremony took place when Cub-Scout Leader Michael Childs was presented with a Long Service Decoration to commemorate over 15 years of service to Scouting. Then Swimming Certificates were presented to 6 cubs gained at the recent District Gala. Afterwards a "Going-up" ceremony took place when Akela said goodbye to 5 of his boys and introduced them to the Troop.

On Saturday November 18 our Annual Christmas Bazaar was

held and a grand total of £280 was achieved, £60 of this was the effort of the boys selling programmes. Although there are many obstacles still to be overcome, financial and otherwise, the project of our own Headquarters for which we have been working over the past 20 years really seems in sight.

A NICE CLEAN CHURCH

For a variety of reasons, two-thirds of the original volunteers for Friday Church cleaning have by now had to give up. They have moved away from the district, they have changed the time of their work-jobs or found new ones, etc., No new ones have come forward, so the remaining third are sorely stretched. Can you help? (Ladies do not wish to have a monopoly of this job, and no discrimination is practised!)

Three people working together can get the whole thing done in half an hour: one person alone will take more than three times as long.

There is a new rota list above the sidesmen's table and you will see that the remaining stalwarts have spread themselves to cover the whole month, but if you could fill only a place that is already covered the rota could probably be changed to suit you. And also if a trio would like to take a special day. The usual time is between 9.30 and 11. on a Friday morning but there is no reason why three people should not agree to do the job on Friday afternoon or on Saturday.

NEWCOMERS' PARTY

On November 2, we were amongst thirty-three new residents of Hampton Hill to be entertained by members of St. James's at a Newcomers' Party. The effort of leaving one's fireside on a seasonably dreary, drizzly evening was well rewarded by the warmth of the welcome at Wayside. People relaxed quickly in the congenial atmosphere. Over cups of coffee, guests and hosts introduced one another, and, in no time, the room was fairly buzzing with animated conversations.

Mr. Brunt made a short but welcoming speech and explained the social purpose of these gatherings. After which, we were treated to an excellent and stimulating talk, illustrated by slides, on the history of Hampton Hill by Mrs. Margery Orton. The obvious deep interest Mrs. Orton has in her subject conveyed itself easily to her audience and her enthusiasm was infectious.

The evening was rounded off in fine style with the most delicious refreshments.

Thank you very much for your hospitality, Mr. Brunt and all who contributed to a delightful evening. Apart from the pleasure of meeting some of our new neighbours, the knowledge of the district gleaned from Mrs. Orton has added considerably to our enjoyment of exploring Hampton Hill.

NEW NEIGHBOURS

For some years now the Church has been trying to welcome newcomers to the Parish, to introduce them to each other, as well as to some of the established residents. This, of course, is the reason for the Newcomers' Parties organised by the Stewardship Committee. Unfortunately, by the time we have contacted some of our guests, they are new no longer, and the whole thing rather loses its impact.

Will any of you help us?

If some one in each road, or part of a road, would give us the address of new residents our welcome could be far more effective. We would ask you also to push through the letterbox the little Welcome Booklet, with its list of 'phone numbers for Public Services and so on — it can be invaluable to people in the first hectic days of settling in to a new home. A new issue is due in the New Year.

A scheme like this was tried before, but people were often trying to keep an eye on roads some distance from their own home, and this was difficult. If you can help us to try again, will you give your name and address to Mrs. Brooks, 81 Park Road, or the Vicar?

K. B.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

January

30 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Mr Rice — 'The Local Police' (W)

February

2 THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (Candlemass — end of the 40 days of Christmas): 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 8.30 a.m. Bishop's Visit to Chapter; 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (68, Park Road)

6 Archdeacon's Visit to Parish: 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion; 8.15 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W)

7 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Mrs. Morris — 'New Dimensions' (W)

8 8.00 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL

13 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Mrs Rockcliffe — 'Holiday Slides' (W)

18 6.30 p.m. The Reverend John Hughes preaches at Evensong, and then speaks and shows slides in church about the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Houston, Texas, and the revival taking place in the Episcopal Church in the USA. Refreshments will be served.

24 SAINT MATTHIAS'S DAY: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

25 Members of YPF lead the service at Laurel Dene at 5.15 p.m. and then lead a service of their own devising in church, instead of Evensong.

27 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Mr. Bremmer (The Mayor's mac-bearer) (W)

March

2 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Services in the Church of St. Francis de Sales at 2.30 & 8.00 p.m.

3 7.30 p.m. Grand Parish Concert & Entertainment (Hall)