

FOLLOW-UP OF "THAT'S THE SPIRIT"

In July's issue of the magazine Helen Taylor wrote of the Festival of Worship entitled "That's the Spirit" which had been held in various churches in London from June 3 - 10, 1973. Members of the congregation from St. James's attended a number of the events: these included discussions, dramatic interludes, sessions and services where worship was expressed in dance, in pop sequences and poetry, and orchestral music, and other ideas leading to new forms of worship.

A number of the congregation would like to see a follow-up of this initiative at St. James's, and with this in view the Liturgical Committee have planned an experimental 3 months' period of evening services from October to December 1973, which, while retaining Evensong, will also incorporate some of the fresh ideas. The plan was taken to the P.C.C., and after lively discussion it was agreed to go ahead.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend; not, please, at the expense of the morning Communion Services which are, of course, the key services of our Sundays, but as well. We hope to think over the implications of worship, "the response of the creature to the Eternal", as Evelyn Underhill puts it, to share thoughts and companionship with the worshipping community at St. James's and to seek for the guidance of the Spirit in these fresh ideas.

The programme has not as yet been completely worked out, but below is an outline of the first 6 Sunday evenings beginning in October. In the next issue of the magazine we shall hope to be able to publish a finalised experimental programme covering the three months.

- October 7 6.30 Evensong incorporating a short discussion on "The Nature of Worship".
- October 14 6.30 Evensong. Introduction to worship expressed in dance form. (Ruth Mills)
- October 21 6.45 Combined Service at Hampton Methodist Church.
No service at St. James's.
- October 28 6.30 Evensong. Preacher: Ivor Smith Cameron, Canon-Missioner, Southwark Diocese. He has been heard by several of us, and is a dynamic speaker. The service will be followed by refreshments and discussion.
- November 4 6.30 Evensong. Teach-in. " 'He has spoken through the Prophets' - Has He? "
- November 11 6.30 Special Form of Service for Remembrance Sunday.

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THE BOOKSTALL

It is perhaps rather overdue to mention the original sterling work done by Helen and Alan Taylor in setting up the Bookstall just eight years ago. Working on a shoestring budget they carried on for 5½ years and, eventually, handing over an established and well-stocked "shop", together with a friendly contact with our chief suppliers, Richmond & District Christian Bookshop.

Since becoming responsible for the Bookstall I am much more aware of the value of such a project. It is not just a gimmick to push the sale of books, in order to make the turn-over look large; but really presents a challenge to try to assess the many differing outlooks, approaches and needs of a great variety of people and to select the books with these in mind.

Very fortunately, just as I was taking over the running of the Bookstall, I was able to go to a most interesting evening arranged by the Christian Literature Crusade, for Book Agents, from which I was able to gather some useful hints, from, among others, one of the businessmen responsible for the very extensive bookstall in St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, which, if I remember correctly, had a turnover of around £600 a year, the result of catering for the week-end congregation of doctors, nurses and medical students chiefly, in addition to the daily lunch-time ones of City workers of all types. Anyone working in that part of London might like to go to St. Helen's one lunchtime and get some more hints for me!

It would be particularly helpful to receive suggestions about the selection of books, as even the most superficial glance at a good number of books takes a considerable time. Publishers are generous with their catalogues, short reviews and lists of recent publications, but the best one can do is to select a few for closer inspection and hope that requests will be received for any books which have been overlooked. As with secular books, paperbacks are increasingly popular, for price reasons, although in several reasonably priced series, produced for children, stiff covers are still used.

Among the books which I have found very helpful are two books of prayers compiled by Michael Hollings and Etta Gullick and to give an idea of their scope I think I cannot do better than quote from the blurb on the back covers:-

"The One Who Listens" is a book which assumes that God is, and goes on from there to do two things. Firstly, it attempts to mark out a path or a few signposts for those who seek God and the what and the how of man's relationship with Him. Secondly, it fills out between the signposts some of the stepping stones or prayers used at various times by various people there are day and night prayers, prayers for moods, crises, joys, sufferings, praise and intercessions, prayers for forgiveness and opening up, prayers in time of darkness and unbelief.

"It's me, O Lord" is a book of informal prayers concerned with daily life and the situations we find there, with our moods and feelings about people, our situation in the world. The whole of life, say the authors, can be lived with God. It is the most natural thing in the world to cry out to God during the day, and for different reasons. Prayers can be made in many words, in short silences, in a single word, a glance, a sigh. Prayers may be superficial, made on a surface level or so deep as to involve our whole being.

In conclusion here are two short prayers, one from each book. The first I find very humbling, whilst the second is half-humorous but, nevertheless very apt. "I thank thee, Lord, for knowing me better than I know myself, and for letting me know myself better than others know me. Make me, I pray, better than they suppose, and forgive me what they do not know." "Lord, your spirit blows where he wills. Give him a hint we need him here."

H.J.W.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PASSIONTIDE

The first introductory practice for senior members of the choir and the augmented choir is planned for Friday 19 October at 8 p.m. in the church, with subsequent practices on 2, 16 and 30 November, recommencing again after Christmas.

The music to be rehearsed this year is by Eric Thiman, "The Last Supper", and performance time is about 30 minutes.

I shall be pleased to order personal copies of the music in time for the first practice if requests by those interested to take part are received not later than Sunday 23 September; the price should not exceed 60p.

I look forward to your continued support in the preparation of this annual musical event contributed entirely from our own resources, but it would be helpful if those who intend to take part attend all the practices as far as possible.

R.J.C.D.

TUESDAY CLUB

Tuesday Club re-opens on September 11 with a Social. On September 25 "Ben" from the Samaritans will be coming to speak to us. The committee will look forward to meeting members again after the holiday break.

H. & H.H.O.C.C.A. DAY CENTRE

A series of initials is common usage today, but these above should be of special interest to our readers. Translated they are: Hampton & Hampton Hill Older Citizens' Centre Association.

The Day Centre for the benefit of our elderly which has been talked about for nearly four years is becoming a reality. The building is now well started on the site near Hampton Station level crossing. The foundations are completed, the floors are levelled off with concrete, it really is taking shape, at last. Great stocks of bricks and blocks, machinery, workmen, noise and activity are making an impressive show of progress.

There is likely to be an appeal on your doormat later in the year, please show your interest and do something about it. We urgently need this amenity for our older people, with the Borough Council's continued sympathetic and very practical assistance, and your own help of cash and service we will soon have the centre open, and serving meals and comfort to many that can ill afford it themselves.

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE & FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

It is some time since we had news of the H.H.O.P.W. and Forget-me-not Club. We have quite a full summer programme. The usual monthly parties at the St. James's Hall, and outings to various places.

The Club went to the Royal Festival Hall for the Kneller Hall Band concert, an occasion which is always popular. May 11 was the day we entered our Float, Cries of London, in the Whitton Carnival and came home with the Cup, which we had to relinquish after a week, as it was found that the queen, who was presenting the prizes, had made a mistake and we had to be satisfied with a plaque for 1st prize "visitors". We enjoyed especially the Coach and River trip to Guildford and along the Wey through the small locks to tea at the Boat-yard at Godalming, where we met our coach for the homeward journey. It was so nice and peaceful away from the busy roads. Then there were the outings to Bexhill and Southsea - both very much enjoyed.

Violet Day was July 8 and the amount raised £161. Many thanks to everyone who bought a violet.

Also in July, the Forget-me-not Club were again invited by the Vicar and Mrs. Brunt to what has become our Annual Garden Party, at the Vicarage.

Always busy, Mrs. Brunt was preparing to go to Africa, the following day, at short notice. I'm sure she wished us further, but she didn't show it, and with the Vicar, made us very welcome with a lovely tea and games on the lawn, and grand weather. We hope she has a lovely holiday.

The Forget-me-not Club is now 5 years old and so, of course, we had a birthday party - or rather two, as the elderly people from Laurel Road Flats have their own Club at the flats on Mondays, as they are unable to get to the United Reformed Church Hall, where we meet on Thursdays.

We were pleased to acknowledge the support of the U.R. Church by putting on a mystery parcels stall for them at their Summer Garden Party, when we made £10 for their funds.

One of our members - Mrs. Atkins of Park Place won 2nd prize in the Greater London Council for Old People's Welfare Essay Competition. The theme was "Shopping as I remember it". She once lived at Bracknell, before it was industrialised, and wrote about that. She is invited to tea in Russell Square with our Chairman to collect her prize.

The Autumn Fair and Carnival will be over by the time you read this! We hope that you enjoy it and that it is a success:

Then on September 22 forty of our members are going to Butlins Holiday Camp at Bognor for a weeks holiday. We hope that the weather is good and wish them a Happy Holiday.

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ACTIVITIES

The junior and beginners BADMINTON club will start again on the first Saturday in October, thanks to Mr. J. Fisher who has volunteered to run it this year. This club is open to the young and not so young who wish to learn the game and is held on Saturday evenings as available in St. James's parish hall.

KEEP FIT resumed on Tuesday 4 September at 2 p.m. and is held every week at that time in the parish hall for anyone who may be interested. 10p per hour of agony!

Don't forget the HARVEST SUPPER and entertainment on September 27. Tickets 35p. They are always in demand so don't wait any longer, it may already be too late.

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KESWICK 1973

During the week July 14 - 21 the small Lakeland town of Keswick was invaded for the annual Convention of Evangelical Christians - as happens every year. Christians of all denominations gathered in the big marquees for Bible Studies, missionary meetings and to hear Speakers from various parts of the world. During the week there were special meetings for the "younger people" (those under 30 years of age) held in the smaller marquee, and these were tremendously well attended. Several people I spoke to expressed surprise at the number of youngsters who had come to the Convention this year.

Both the Leader of the Bible Studies and the main Speaker at the Young People's meetings took as their theme John 14 - 17, which, as we came to realise, contains a summary of Christian discipleship. In spite of the wet weather there was a really warm atmosphere in the marquees as about 2,000 Christians joined in fellowship together, and it was quite common for the

sound of hymns and choruses to be heard as people waited for meetings to start.

The highlight of the Convention, as always, was the Communion Service on the Friday night, when the main marquee was packed to overflowing. It was an amazing sight to see people queuing to get in about half an hour before the service started, and wonderful to experience the joy and power of the Holy Spirit during the service.

Not only was there fellowship in the marquees but also in the house-parties, camps, etc. arranged for people wishing to attend the Convention. On looking back, the main impression is of a tremendously uplifting and beneficial week, combining all the pleasures and beauty to be found in the Lake District with real spiritual refreshment.

G.M.G.

THE SCOUT CAMP

The Scouts held a successful summer camp again this year, with 20 of them camping at Downe (near Biggin Hill, Kent) from July 21 to July 28. These 20 boys were in 4 patrols, and each patrol cooked for themselves on open fires, under the supervision of the leaders. The weather was not so hot as we had come to expect from previous camps, but it certainly did not interfere with any of the activities. Full use was made of the swimming pool, and many miles covered on our hikes.

The Scouts were disappointed that they could not stay longer, and are already planning next year's summer camp.

C.S. Mulberry
(Scout Leader).

CUB CAMP

On the very wettest week-end of the Summer 20 Cubs, 4 Scouts, 2 small Brownies, together with Hathi and my 4 parent helpers descended on Normandy (in Surrey) in convoy. In spite of the heavy rain on Sunday the boys slept under canvas the whole time. On Sunday morning I held a "Cubs Own" Service in Camp and in the afternoon we went for a hike.

By Wednesday when about 70 parents and friends arrived the sun was shining and everyone was in the best of spirits. The Sports went with a swing, parents bravely participating, I wonder whether David and Joy had been practising the Piggy Back Race? ? ?

The 2 ladies had great difficulty in judging the Cakes made by the boys, the standard seems to improve every year. I heard a whisper there was sherry in the Scouts very elaborate effort and the Snowman made by the Brownies looked and tasted excellent.

During the week we visited Guildford Castle and Museum, also went Swimming twice and paid a visit to Aldershot for shopping. We also had two jolly sing-songs round the Camp Fire. I really must mention the very good stew cooked by the boys on an open fire.

Lovely weather the last 4 days meant that the Normandy "mud" had practically disappeared and everyone agreed it was a jolly good camp.

M.J. Childs
(Cub-Scout Leader)

BRING & BUY SALE FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD

Please don't forget this day of fund-raising on Friday, September 21. It will be held at 63 Park Road, Hampton Hill, and we hope people will come for:-
10.30 a.m. - Noon ... Coffee; 3.30 - 5 p.m. ... Tea; 6 - 8 p.m. ... Drinks.

There will be games and raffles. We hope for a donkey for the children to have a ride on, but, at the moment, the donkey is still hanging, rather uncomfortably, in the balance!

***** H.M.S.

CONFIRMATION GROUPS

These will get down to work at the end of September. There is still time for newcomers, old and young, to join. If interested, please get in touch with the Vicar as soon as possible. There are junior and senior groups - no upper age limit!

THE CHURCH - A living force or a Dead Duck!

Five clergymen give their views. It would seem that religion has become an irrelevancy to the vast majority of people in this country - a comfortable waiting room for the hereafter for a relatively small number of middle-class people. Some form of religious revival is taking place among young people leaving the church out. The church has to re-think its role in society.

- October 4 The Church is out of date in its view on sex and marriage and discriminates against women.
Lecturer: Rev. D.B. Bennett, M.A., B.D.
Minister United Reform Church.
- October 11 Christ heals the sick. Why doesn't the Church?
Lecturer: Rev. M. Kidd.
Rector, St. George's Church, Hanworth, Mx.
- October 18 A changing society but the Church in Chains! Behind the times in an Age of Revolution!
Lecturer: Rev. B.A.R. Pearce.
Minister, Methodist Church, Hounslow.
- October 25 The Church should dispose of its accumulated wealth and use the money to alleviate poverty and suffering.
Lecturer: Rev. D. Hayward.
All Saints Church, Isleworth.
- November 1 Is there a future for the professional Ordained Minister?
Lecturer: Rev. B.H. Lewers, M.A.
Industrial Chaplain, Heathrow Airport.
- Adult Education Course arranged by Hounslow Education Committee
- Fee: 65p. Time: 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.
- Centre for Adult Education,
Hounslow Manor School,
Holloway Street,
High Street,
Hounslow. Tel: 01 572 1828 between 7 - 9 p.m.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

September

- 10 8.00 p.m. Liturgical Committee (68 Park Road).
- 11 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Social Evening (W).
- 12 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 17 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (63 Park Road);
8.00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road);
8.00 p.m. Properties Committee (81 Park Road).
- 19 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 20 8.00 p.m. Group for Welcome and Contact (60 St. James's Avenue).
- 21 SAINT MATTHEW'S DAY 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. onwards decoration of the church in preparation for the Harvest Festival - gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables and tinned produce gladly received, and help in arranging them welcomed.
3.00 p.m. Enthronement of the Bishop of London in St. Paul's Cathedral.
Bring & Buy Sale, with refreshments-and perhaps donkey-rides!- in support of NCUMC (see August issue of The Spire), with morning, afternoon and evening sessions in the garden of 63 Park Road.
- 23 HARVEST THANKSGIVING SUNDAY. Arrangements as usual for the fourth Sunday in the month, except that the administration of Infant Baptism will be on the following Sunday.
5.15 p.m. Members of YPF lead the service at Laurel Dene.
- 24 From 9.15 a.m. onwards, harvest gifts will be parcelled and distributed and helpers who can spare an hour or two will be very welcome at the church.
- 25 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Speaker from The Samaritans (W).
- 27 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. HARVEST SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT (Hall)
Make sure of your ticket by applying for one immediately - the demand always exceeds the supply!
- 29 MICHAELMAS: 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 30 4.00 p.m. Infant Baptism
5.15 p.m. Senior members of church lead service at Laurel Dene.

October

- 1 2.30 p.m. Members of the Mothers' Union entertain at the Darby & Joan Club.
- 2 11.00 a.m. until 8.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Overseas Sale at Church House, Westminster.
- 3 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. 2nd Day of Mothers' Union Overseas Sale.
- 6 AUTUMN MASS - ATTACK IN THE CHURCHYARD: an all-day, all-out effort to cut back the long grass and overgrown vegetation before the winter - a hundred volunteers needed!

Some dates to note (continued).....

October

- 7 At Evensong, an explanation of some of the new features and forms of expression which it is hoped will help to make our evening worship more meaningful, real and relevant in the months ahead.
- 9 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Miss Stone speaks on 'Your Food and You' (W).
- 10 2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: Mrs. Irene Dawson (formerly M.U. Worker in Mauritius) will speak (W).
- 14 At Evensong, an act of worship in dance and mime.
- 16 8.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Hampton & Sunbury Council of Churches (All Saints' Church, Hampton).

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BAPTISMS

July

- 29 Estelle Georgina Lee, 2A Sheffield House, Park Road.
David Nicholas Peat, 23 Ringwood Way.
Matthew Charman Richards, 20 Chandos Road, Staines.
Nicola Roberts, 5 Laurel Road.
Rennie Laura Loise Smith, The Jockey, French Street, Sunbury.
Rebecca Jane Strong, 192 Uxbridge Road.
Lisa Jane Tyrrell, 165 High Street.

MARRIAGES

August

- 4 John Henry Bentley to Ann Rosemary Harper
- 11 Harry Edwards to Denise Anne Wright

BURIAL

July

- 27 Bessie Emma Deeks, 66 Laurel Road, aged 81 years.

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