

THE PRAYER MEETING

Prayer is the life blood of the Christian because through prayer we come to a deeper knowledge and love of the Lord. It is often being said that there is a deep and widespread need among people of very different backgrounds to experience prayer, and that because the Church does not cater for this need they will seek to fulfil it elsewhere. Many now practise Transcendental Meditation and other eastern methods. There is an unhealthy interest in the occult. Some find partial satisfaction in drugs.

During Lent, a group of us met not only to talk about prayer, but to pray. None of us was an expert but all felt enriched by the experience and we all found a new quality in stillness and silence. Following this there was a move to continue in some way and on August 1 a group met and continues to meet on Thursdays at fortnightly intervals. It is to be known as a prayer meeting, not as a prayer group, because the idea of a group implies membership and we have none. Whilst we hope that a nucleus will come as regularly as possible, we are quite open to those who will only come occasionally and irregularly.

Perhaps the term "prayer meeting" is a little forbidding, suggesting an earnest solemnity, but don't be put off by it. We shall see that prayer can be joyful, that humour is not excluded. Prayer is an experience, and the experience of group prayer can have a profound effect on our private prayer.

Don't be shy of coming. You won't be asked to do anything, but your presence would strengthen the group. All we ask is that when you do come you do so in complete openness to whatever the Holy Spirit may have in store for that meeting. This is something that none of us can anticipate, and the only item fixed beforehand is the Bible passage which is known to only one person. The Holy Spirit does the rest. Don't say that this isn't for you and then pass on to the next article. You won't know unless you've been.

S.D.H.

THE CHURCHYARD

A little while ago the B.B.C. quoted from some local paper reporting on the sad state of neglect of a churchyard. This was mainly due to the fact that there had been hardly any recent burials and thus there were no surviving families to take care of the graves, they said. And some "voluntary bodies" were needed to remedy the situation. - They might just have been referring to Hampton Hill.

About a year after my last article on our churchyard I still feel strongly that we ought to try harder to keep it looking nice and to help that small team of dedicated people who spend a considerable part of their spare time working very hard in the churchyard. Some families do still look after the graves of relatives. And quite a few volunteers care for little corners dotted around the area. In some cases these are children who have taken on some graves and look after them conscientiously, even stocking them with plants from their own gardens.

Unfortunately all these individual efforts are rather like drops in the ocean. The scattered islands of cultivation tend to disappear in the overall sea of grass. A fresh start is needed. A concerted effort by more "voluntary bodies" to wage a lasting battle against the green engulfment. I know it has

all been tried before. I would also miss the enjoyable common struggle of the bi-annual mass-attack. (But I am not optimistic enough to believe that these social gatherings with shears and wheelbarrows should ever become unnecessary).

I would just like to have another go. Let's try and organise a continuous campaign with noticeable results all the year round. This is my suggestion: Why not concentrate on the newest part of the churchyard by the gate to St. James's Avenue? That is where most tidy islands are situated anyway. All those people who do one grave at the moment, could try to take on a group of three or four (or more) instead. That would go some way towards joining up those individual islands. And the space in between, starting near the paths, for visual effect, could be taken over by other people, or groups of people or organisations. The P.C.C. and all committees could adopt a small area. Likewise the Tuesday Club, the Mothers' Union, the Y.P.F., the choir etc. Rather like Guildford Cathedral, where separate organisations subscribed to various parts of the church building.

A plan of the churchyard exists, volunteers could mark their area down, and with some guidance we could arrive at some pleasing results. Willing helpers should contact Mr. Leatherdale (or telephone me for any comments).

It would be nice to think that also non-church organisations, like for instance the Hampton Hill Association could be enlisted to help. Through the Community Care Group we might find some volunteers who would be happy to fill in some gaps and thus help to make the churchyard a pleasant open space that could be enjoyed by the community of Hampton Hill.

Hilde Bucknell.

CELEBRATING ORDINATION

We will all rejoice with Raymond Draper as he is made a deacon in Sheffield Cathedral on September 22. We have known and loved him as he grew up amongst us, playing an ever-increasing part in the family life of our parish until the strenuous years at university, in industry and finally at the theological college absorbed most of his energies. But always he maintained his links with us, and strengthened them by his marriage to another of our keen young Christians, Gillian Howard. Now he is about to begin his full-time ministry in the Church. At the same time our friend and neighbour, Father Leonard Gillam, looks back on the completion of 51 years of such ministry. We are invited to join with the parishioners whom he has served so faithfully for 36 years as he celebrates a Mass of Thanksgiving in the presence of the Bishop of Kensington to mark the great occasion of the golden jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood. This will be on Friday September 20 at 7.30 p.m., and the special preacher will be Canon Edwyn Young, Chaplain of the Savoy Chapel.

APPROACHING ORDINATION

After three years' training I can still hardly believe it is true that I am to begin work in the parish as a curate in September. The parish is everything we had ever hoped for. It is a working-class parish of 14,000 in Sheffield. It is part of a group-ministry which works the Manor Estate of 42,000 people in the South East part of the city. The estate was built in the 1920's and 30's and is almost entirely composed of council property. Most of the men work in the steel mills or coal mines. Traditionally, amongst this group, at least since the

Industrial Revolution, the Christian Gospel and Christian Church has made little headway. So the local church has a gigantic task - to evangelise a group, to baptise a culture that has for 150 years been moving away from the Christian Church. To join with the local Christian community in this task is a great joy and privilege. After spending the last week in the parish helping with a Children's Mission we are very conscious that this task, like the task glimpsed by Zechariah, will not be completed by might or power - but only by God's Spirit. Numerically and financially St. Swithun's is not strong - so here it is God, or nothing. Christ will commend himself by the witness of his people, in the power of his Spirit. Who can hope for anything better than this?

For all your encouragement during our training, for your prayers, gifts and good wishes we are both most grateful. These have meant so much to us during our time in Cambridge. As we make our home amongst another Christian community in Sheffield, we shall remember you all, with thanksgiving.

Raymond Draper.

LADIES' CHOIR

It has been decided to hold our ladies' afternoon "choir" on the second and fourth MONDAY of each month at 2.30 p.m. in Wayside. Our first meeting will be on Monday, September 23, and if you like to sing do come and join us.

HARVEST SUPPER

This will be on Thursday October 10 and will cost 45p. Do please get your tickets early as they are always in great demand and obviously have to be limited; they will be available from the ladies of the Social Committee.

For those of you who have not been to one of these happy functions, perhaps you would like to know that this consists of a good, substantial, cold meal followed by a one-act play given by our talented drama group - an evening many hate to miss!

WASTEPAPER COLLECTION

St. James's Church has now accepted responsibility for the operation of the wastepaper salvage scheme. Four collections have already been made and everyone agrees that we should continue the scheme.

Although the original object was to salvage paper for re-cycling, we are raising a considerable amount of money which is being given to local charities and community projects.

The Properties Committee has been asked to look after the collection for the present but later on we might need to form another small committee to decide how we should allocate the profits. We are fortunate in living in a public-spirited neighbourhood and to be supported by so many people both in the St. James's area and outside.

At our last collection on August 17 Wayside was used as our depot and this time tea was served during a brief respite - a welcome innovation! As usual the lorry was filled to full capacity and we were delighted with the amount collected.

The next collection will be on September 28.

D.E.N.

FOLK DANCE

A folk dance, also known as a "barn dance", "square dance" or "country dance" is a very lively occasion, as those who came to the last dance arranged by the Social Committ will have discovered.

The annual Folk Dance Festival held at the Royal Albert Hall is well worth a visit and, at Richmond Theatre, students of the Royal Ballet School put on a display of folk dancing each year which nearly always "brings the house down". The music sets your feet tapping and the audience usually wants to join in with hand clapping as well.

Remember another folk dance is being held at St. James's Hall on September 21 - the tickets are 40p. each including refreshments.

FORMATION OF A GINGERBREAD GROUP

The members of the Hampton Hill and Hampton Community Care Group are very pleased that a Gingerbread Group is going to be started in the district. This is for the support on One-Parent Families.

A public meeting will take place at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Hall, Hampton, on Tuesday, September 17, and will be chaired by the Rev. Harry Dodd. Mrs. Margaret Bramall CBE, Director of the National Council for the One-Parent Family, will give the address, and it is hoped that this initial meeting will be well attended.

Subsequent gatherings will be planned in accordance with the wishes of the participants at the meeting.

Please make this known among friends who may wish to attend on the 17th.

Anyone wishing to help at the meeting should contact Mrs. Beryl Bolsover, 5 Courtlands Avenue, Hampton. 979 7003.

Hannah Stanton.

Y.P.F. REACH OUT

Don't be misled by a dormant summer, beware of movement (the like of which has never been seen before) in Y.P.F. this autumn! It's reaching out - we may be visiting you if you are aged between 13 and 16. If we don't visit before the end of September, and you are interested in our activities, then please 'phone me (979 1589) or Ian Fisher (979 4893).

For seven weeks we have a very exhausting and interesting programme on Fridays and Sundays including a unique onslaught on Evensong. Look out for further information on the notice boards.

If any other information is required, contact any existing member.

Martin Edmonds.

THE WAYSIDE MONDAY CLUB

As already announced, this will re-open on September 23 (two sessions: 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.) We have not given much publicity to this venture because we wanted it to make its impact gradually

and become known on its own merits as a welcoming, friendly 'open house', where people could come and sit quietly by themselves, join in group conversation, or if they wished, have a private chat with one of the helpers about any particular problem or worry that was on their mind. The first group of twelve helpers have just completed a short course of basic training aimed at giving them greater insight into their own emotional reactions and so also into those of others, and it is hoped that another group will shortly embark on a similar course. An article by a member of the group giving his impressions of the training has recently appeared in 'Parish Matters', the weekly news-letter of the Church of St. Francis de Sales, and we reprint it as the next item below.

HELPING YOURSELF

Twelve of us have just completed a course of "training" given by an instructor from the Richmond Fellowship. The training was basically aimed at helping us to become more effective in forming constructive relationships with people in trouble, the lonely, the depressed, the worried.

I think most of us found the course profoundly stimulating and worthwhile, but in rather an unexpected way. Speaking personally it did not deepen my knowledge - it was very far from being dilute psychology for laymen - so much as increase my understanding of the nature of relationships, the nature of personal trouble, and the nature of my own limitations.

Our instructor was a wise, patient Roman Catholic priest with a gentle sense of humour, which smoothed down the inevitable frictions of a highly participatory group of people, many with strong ideas of their own. He was himself a model of the counsellor advocated by the course. This was rather different from my original idea of "the counsellor".

Solving technical problems is part of my profession, and this requires as I see it, rather positive guidance to be given to someone. "What you must/should/could/might/perhaps do is" By analogy I supposed the personal counsellor worked in something of the same way. In fact one rather surprising thing we learnt was that advice is rarely of any use to anyone with a serious personal problem. Only someone of great insensitivity would tell someone in a state of nervous collapse to "pull yourself together!" but in fact much advice, though less obviously crude, is of the same useless nature.

One might say that a basic axiom is that everyone must solve their own problems for themselves. This sounds harsh, but it is logical since each person has areas within themselves which only they can reach, and these are where the basic problems lie. The best a counsellor can do is to show someone what their problem is - to bring the trouble out and to examine it together.

How disappointingly vague and feeble it may sound! But look at it by a simile. Think of a man with a heavy hammer trying to thump home a six-inch nail in a dark room. Would you do better to give him advice, or to shine a torch on the problem?

R.W.W.

THE CHOIR

New choir members are urgently required to replace some who have recently left.

Choir practices are on Friday at 7.30 p.m. for one hour and the choir attend at one service on Sunday Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

Vacancies are:-

Boys (age 7 - 12)	4
Girls Soprano 12 - 16 only	2
Ladies Contralto (any age)	2
Men Tenor (any age)	2
Men Bass (any age)	2

The boys and girl sopranos are paid but the rest are voluntary.

R.J.C.D.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR OF OUR LINKED PARISH IN SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag 308

Alice C.P.

18 August 1974

Dear Friends in Hampton Hill,

I am most grateful for the £50 which I have received through Hannah for the project at Njwaxa. It is wonderful of you to send us your Whitsun offering.

We started work there on June 18 under the supervision of Miss Vuyo Mpumlwana, who is actually a trainee nurse and a daughter of a priest in the Transkei. Vuyo is Xhosa for Joy, and she has lived up to her name very well; during the two months they have been working she has run into various snags, but has come up smiling. Not all the people she took on turned out to be satisfactory; the accommodation she chose at first turned out to be very unsuitable; tools break and they have been constantly short of materials - food as well sometimes. But in spite of everything they have turned out a variety of leather goods - belts, purses, bags, skirts, dolls - and have sold a good number of them. Vuyo's brother, Malusi, has spent a lot of time as a commercial traveller, going round to shops in East London and Port Elizabeth with samples of our products. So far the only firm orders we have had are for belts and mail-bags, but we hope for better things. I hope that they will settle down to making larger quantities of fewer things - to order - so that we can budget better and keep people steadily employed.

There have been delays in getting the furniture made - they are still using tables and benches borrowed from the church; but it is ordered and will be mainly paid for by the R100 which I have received from you.

Again with many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Tom Stanton.

HAMPTON AREA SHELTER GROUP

We are organising a house-to-house collection in Hampton, Hampton Hill and parts of Teddington from the 5 - 12 October and we would be very grateful

for offers of help.

One million homes are classified as unfit to live in and in 1973 no fewer than 30,000 people were living in temporary accommodation.

If you would like to show your concern in a positive way by assisting in our please contact either Mrs. J. Keevil, 8 Jillian Close, Hampton, 979-3733 or Mrs. G. Sharp, 8 Barlow Road, Hampton, 979-4184.

HOLY COMMUNION ON SUNDAYS AT 8.00 A.M.

In response to a request approved by the Church Council, the Vicar undertook to try to find out the wishes of the people who came to this service in regard to the order or orders which they would prefer to be used. So over a period of five weeks members of the congregation were given an opportunity to say which of the four authorised forms they would like, and on which Sundays in the month. Some people refused to express an opinion, saying they would come whatever form of service was used, and that this was of secondary importance to them. But the majority did express their preference - most of them wanted to ring the changes between two forms of service. The final result was as follows:

1662 - 8 people wanted this, on an average of 1 Sunday a month

Series 1 - 2 people wanted this on an average of 3½ Sundays a month

Series 2 - 5 people wanted this on an average of 2.6 Sundays a month

Series 3 - 7 people wanted this on an average of 3 Sundays a month

In the light of this, the fairest way seems to use the different forms over the four or five Sundays in the month in this way:

1662 - First Sunday; Series 1 - Second Sunday; Series 2 - Third Sunday; Series 3 - Fourth and Fifth Sunday. It is proposed to begin this pattern on October 6, and then to reconsider it early in the New Year.

The Church Council felt that Series 3 had become firmly established and appreciated as the regular form for use at the Parish Communion, and was strongly against any change here. But it was also agreed that there was a need for us to go further into the meaning of liturgy, to understand the theology behind it and the reasons for the changes made in the new orders, and not judge merely on the ground of custom or personal likes and dislikes. The Liturgical Committee are keen to provide opportunities for this, but it was agreed to wait until an authoritative book on the subject is published at the end of November.

PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

There have been a number of inquiries about this, and the Vicar would like to meet all those under 18 who are interested at the Parish Breakfast on Harvest Festival Sunday, October 6, so that he may find out the most convenient times for all concerned for group-meeting; and he would be glad if older inquirers could meet him after Evensong on the same day.

DEANERY INTERCESSION LIST

September 22 SS. Philip & James, Whitton

September 29 St. Stephen, East Twickenham.

October 6 St. Mary, Hampton

October 13 All Saints,
Hampton.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

September

- 11 8.15 P.M. Justice & Peace Group (St. Francis de Sales)
12 8.00 P.M. Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
15 Infants' and Rectory Sunday School Departments reopen
16 10.30 A.M. Editorial Board (Vicarage)
17 8.00 P.M. Gingerbread Group (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton)
8.00 P.M. Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road)
18 8.00 P.M. Wayside Project: Helpers' Meeting (W)
19 8.00 P.M. Readers' Meeting (All Saints, Hampton)
20 7.30 P.M. Golden Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving (SS. Michael & George,
Fulwell)
21 SAINT MATTHEW'S DAY: 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion; 7.45 P.M. Folk
Dance (Hall)
22 5.15 P.M. Members of Y.P.F. lead service at Laurel Dene.
23 Wayside Monday Centre reopens; 2.30 P.M. Ladies' Choir begins to
meet again (W)
25 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion; 2.30 P.M. Deanery Mothers' Union: Over-
seas Meeting and Bring & Buy Sale (Hall); 8.00 P.M. Neighbourhood
Responsibility Group (United Reformed Church)
26 8.00 P.M. Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
29 MICHAELMAS: Sunday arrangements as usual. Senior members of St.
lead service at Laurel Dene at 5.15 P.M.

October

- 2 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
3 8.00 P.M. Parochial Church Council (W)
5 SHELTER: Week of collections begins
6 HARVEST THANKSGIVING SUNDAY Confirmation Candidates invited
to meet Vicar.
7 9.30 A.M. Distribution of Harvest produce; help welcomed; 2.30 P.M.
Mothers' Union Branch Meeting. Speaker: Miss Dines (W) 7.00 P.M. Dr.
William Neil begins his series of lectures (see article in Aug. issue)
9 7.30 A.M. Holy Communion
10 7.45 P.M. HARVEST SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT (Hall)
12 2.30 P.M. Mothers' Union Jumble Sale (Hall)
13 9.20 A.M. Junior Department of the Sunday School reopens.

BAPTISMS

July

- 28 Samantha Katrina Ingrid Clift, 9 The Wilderness

August

- 26 James Barry Leon Mountstephens, 11 Browning Close

BURIAL & CREMATIONS

- July 29 Henry Alfred Sheather, 93 Uxbridge Road, aged 61 years (at South-
West Middlesex Crematorium)
August 9 Ellery Clarke, Laurel Dene, aged 98 years (at South-West Middlesex
Crematorium)
30 Edith Habes, 3 Garside Close. aged 82 years.