

## NOTES ON THE CHURCH PLATE

Most parishes with any history possess interesting and often valuable plate. Very little in England has survived the Reformation period, but many parishes have collections today of which the older pieces date from Elizabethan times. Unfortunately these are often too valuable to be kept in the parish and so are rarely used or seen. References to such articles often appear in the press when the parish wants to sell them to raise money for often urgent repairs.

I had often wondered about the origin of our rather ornate chalice and paten – with the exception of the silver and glass water cruet, the only articles of any beauty that we possess. When I mentioned to Bill that I thought of photographing these and enquiring at the Victoria and Albert Museum, he said ‘Why not take the originals?’ There is a number of silver marks on the chalice – none very clear and none recognisably English. Underneath are scratched the initials H.I.K. 1818. The paten had an English 1879 mark and maker’s initials E.C.B. I assumed the paten had been made to match the chalice. The man at the V. & A. took me into a small room near the side entrance – the museum was closed that day – armed with a book which claimed to list the plate belonging to all the parishes in Middlesex in the 1890’s. St. James’s for some reason did not feature in it. When I produced the chalice he was most impressed. He immediately recognised a Cologne silver mark and the style as baroque, but we would have to go upstairs to his department for further inspection.

The lady who knew about continental plate of that period said that the chalice was indeed baroque, made in Cologne in about 1760. The stones had been set at a later date in silver-plated copper (perhaps by H.I.K. in 1818?). Both chalice and paten had obviously once been gilded, but most of this has been cleaned off. The maker they could not identify – nor could the museum at Cologne when we wrote to them subsequently. The chalice – ‘a very fine piece’ but a pity about the stones. The paten? – yes – well obviously a rather heavy imitation intended to match – no great value or interest. There is now no record of how they came to us. Our other chalice is mass-produced silver-plate, marked 1884 so the baroque one must have come to us in 1863 when the church was opened and been used with the plain silver-plated paten (dated 1859). Perhaps an acquisition of the young Fitz-Wygram on the Grand Tour? There is no record of the origin of the matching paten in the Vestry minutes and the Parish Magazine did not then exist. The V. & A. could not identify the maker E.C.B., but with its acquisition the plain paten would become superfluous until the arrival of the matching chalice and flagon, both dated 1884, to complete a second set of plate. The silver and glass cruet must also have been acquired early, and is dated 1866.

S.D. Harris

## VIEWS FROM THE PEW

(1) The pews look very clean and polished, as does the church brass; the tiles and floors are gleaming. I know that we don't employ professional cleaners and I would like to thank the small team who undertake all this work and do it so faithfully week in, week out. What a lot of things are quietly done out of love, which would cost the church authorities dear if the service had to be paid for! The church wall, vandalised by hooligans, has been neatly tidied with some pretty expert-looking bricklaying. The ruins looked so delapidated and our Park Road boundary now looks neat again. There is a lot of work done in the churchyard; a single figure, or a husband and wife team can often be spied amongst the greenery. Every Friday morning I see from my window two faithful flower-arrangers, often with their wheelbarrow full of flowers and foliage, trotting off to make the church beautiful for us on Sunday.

How many people work like beavers – we don't really know how hard, how often and how long? Consider in this respect the hours spent typing, cutting stencils and duplicating. The office at Wayside is often cold, gloomy and lonely and it is salutary to remember this when we receive the various immaculate documents – they don't just grow like Topsy. What about the behind-the-scenes work done to produce the P.C.C.'s long and involved Minutes and also the whole of the copy for the Spire has to be typed each month ready for the printer. Imagine it, month in, month out, year after year!

To make the church affairs run so smoothly and to keep its properties in such good order takes hours and hours of time patiently and generously devoted to often humdrum and very often indeed, unnoticed tasks. We **would** notice if they ceased to be done. St. James's is fortunate in its loving servants – in the chancel as well as in the nave. In every aspect of church life; from morning until night – from parish breakfast, services, Sunday schools, "happy social happenings", paper collections, visits of comfort, general social work, encouragement to the youth groups, delivering things, checking things, recording things, paying bills, odd jobs, fetching, carrying, devoting evenings to meetings, the midnight oil to writing and planning - there is behind-the-scenes activity.

I know that it is all done ultimately for the glory of God, but all the same it is sweet to be appreciated, and very fitting at this time of general thanksgiving to be grateful so, on behalf of us all I would like to say: "Thank you, all of you, whoever you are and whatever your contribution; and thank you Lord for inspiring such loving and faithful offerings and for calling all of us to be part of the loving fellowship of St. James's."

M.C.

(2) Every year I look forward especially to the PARISH CAROL SINGING but this year this pleasant occasion must have been ruined for many of the adults by the undisciplined noisy behaviour of quite a few of the many children who attended. All the peace and beauty and joy of wishing the parish a Happy Christmas in the time-honoured way was quite dispelled. We must have sounded more like an unruly rabble turning up outside people's houses than a seemly and well-intentioned bunch of carol singers – not at all a good advertisement for St. James's Church, and this grieved me.

I suggest that next year children should only be allowed to come with the church party if accompanied by a parent prepared to control them. It is a fact that children need to be controlled if they themselves, and particularly their adult companions, are to enjoy themselves and give enjoyment to others.

## Views from the Pews cont/.....

(3) The PARISH PARTY on the other hand (and it is after all intended to be a parish party for all age-groups as distinct from a children's party) I much enjoyed, in contrast to last year, because the youngsters were well disciplined in a good humoured but firm manner by the three impressive Masters of Ceremonies. Silence, in accordance with good manners and good sense, was requested (and largely obtained) whilst the announcements were made so that we could all hear what was proposed for our enjoyment; also adults and certain of the children who so wished were allowed to enjoy the dancing as the rest of the field were restrained from careering madly amongst us or from rolling on the floor under our feet (!) and it was much more "fair does" for all. The community singing break was a very successful innovation this year and was charmingly conducted and obviously enjoyed by all. Congratulations and thanks to everyone concerned, not least for giving up so much time at this busy and exhausting season to plan our enjoyment.

M.O.

(4) The CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT service was a joy to take part in. Great originality was shown in the well-chosen and extremely well-delivered readings which provided just the right atmosphere for the singing of the carols linked to them. The choir's contribution to the whole was particularly beautiful this year; I would have hated to have missed the experience, and would like to congratulate those who conceived and those who took part in it.

M.O.

(5) I attended the CHRISTINGLE SERVICE this year for the first time. I had great expectations, but was disappointed. It seemed to me very flat and banal. There could have been more drama, more life, more zest, more to grip and hold the children while not boring the adults. In contrast, the MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST had all the elements that the afternoon service lacked, and it gripped and held me and seemingly everyone else. I do not wish to seem to be carping at those who had obviously given so much time to planning and arranging this service, but I think that they should bear in mind that a shorter, more lively service, aimed mainly at the children without being childish, would make much more impact.

(6) I have recently moved here into Hampton Hill, just a few weeks after becoming a Christian and I really believe the Lord led me to you at St. James's where I have found joy, love and peace. I am never bored with the services, they now become my life and from them each Sunday I gain renewal of the spirit to help me the week through and I just long for the next Sunday. I think the hymns very good and they often speak to me.

It is wonderful to come into a family like you and to be accepted with such love which, until July this year was a Foreign Body to me. Through those of you I have come to know very personally, the Lord Jesus has been revealed so clearly to me. I have read in the Psalms — 'when my mother and father forsake me then the Lord will take me up' — and so I find in St. James's that another promise has been fulfilled — truly I was a stranger and you took me in.

V.C.

## YOUNG FAMILIES' GROUP PRAM SERVICE

The weather has not been encouraging recently and unfortunately we found this the main reason why many people were unable to come to our last pram service. However, the lack of numbers in no way detracted from our enjoyment of this informal service, again helped and supported by members of the Mothers' Union to whom we are grateful. By the end of the service our numbers had considerably increased by the arrival of a group of mothers who had bravely made their way along in the treacherous conditions, some from as far afield as the Chambery Estate.

We were able to offer party fare to the children afterwards, but had overlooked the fact that we mothers would also be cold and thirsty, so apologise to all those adults present for the lack of a warm cup of coffee. We hope that our experience this year will enable us to be better organised next time!

C.R.

### AROUND THE SPIRE

Congratulations and best wishes to Penny and Tony Hennessy on the birth of their first child, a daughter, named Deborah.

We were very pleased to see Roy Brooks back amongst us, and resuming his position as sidesman, so soon after his successful operation on his hip — his recovery has thankfully been very rapid.

Most of us will now be aware that Vivenne Prentice has at last been able to move into her newly-converted home and that she is very happily settled now at No. 12 Oxford Road. Perhaps not so many people realise that this has all been completed in her eightieth year, and that far from being elderly and infirm she has continued to be most active in many directions. One of her main pre-occupations on Sunday mornings is to run a very efficient "taxi service" whereby she collects for church and returns home some other "ladies" — friends of hers whose ages top hers by only a year or two. On those days that the weather or other circumstances make it necessary, she arranges alternative means of transport. She is a cheerful and well-loved member of our church, choir and community, and we hope she continues as such for many years to come.

It was lovely to see a number of old friends and relatives returning home at Christmas and amongst these were Raymond and Gillian Draper with their two daughters. Raymond is at present an industrial chaplain in Rotherham, and they are expecting their third baby in the Spring.

Helen Lawrance has recently had notification that she has been accepted at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, to read Law. She is amongst the first girls to enter this college and we wish her every success in her studies.

Many people will remember with gratitude and affection Mr. Bougourd, for many years until his retirement an enthusiastic and unconventional teacher at Windmill Road School, and vigorous choirmaster and organist at our church for several years in the 'fifties. We were sorry to hear of his death after some months of illness at his home at Woodchurch in Kent where his widow still lives. The news first came to us from another old parish stalwart, Mrs. Bassett, now in her nineties and living quietly at a nursing home in Sunbury.

## OUR LINK WITH PENHALONGA

This year's Order of Service for the World Day of Prayer has been composed by women of Africa, and so it is very appropriate that Mrs. Mavis Gibson is to be the speaker at the evening service at Hampton Methodist Church on Friday, March 2. Mrs. Gibson's maiden name was Mavis Gumede; she is Rhodesian and was educated at Penhalonga Secondary School near Umtali, Rhodesia.

Mrs. Gibson is married to an Englishman, and lives near Esher; she is a Barrister and is head of her own chambers in the Law Courts, with a number of Barristers working with her. She is very able, and it will be a privilege to hear her speaking on the evening of March 2.

Readers will be glad to know that after having heard Father Tom Stanton speak of Penhalonga School, where he was teaching O-level and A-level science until 1978, the Parochial Church Council passed a resolution to send £100 to the school: partly as a contribution towards the cost of new buildings which are being constructed to house a larger Sixth Form than they have at the moment, and partly to finance a promising sixth-form student who might not be able to raise the school fees. This is a constructive way of helping Rhodesia; extended schools are urgently needed now and in the future, and we hope that Penhalonga, with its history of turning out African scholars with sound and good education, will continue to do well.

The Community of the Resurrection is handing over the school this year to African management. We send our good wishes to the school.

Hannah Stanton

### "SPIRITUAL GROWTH"

This is the theme for the Women's World Day of Prayer 1979.

The service has been composed by African Women meeting at an inter-denominational centre in Zambia. They write "Our warm greetings to all the Christians around the world who are coming together from different places for the World Day of Prayer in 1979. We hope that the voices of women at the Pan-African leadership course in Mindolo can be heard together with the voices of women throughout the world as we pray!"

In the study-paper in preparation for this service they have written of the important influence of the 'five objects of the World-wide Mothers' Union' which we take as a gracious tribute from members of other churches to an Anglican society.

Please try to support the services and bring friends.

Date: Friday March 2.

Place: Methodist Church, Percy Road.

Times: 2.30 and 8.0 p.m.

Speakers: both from Zimbabwe/Rhodesia. At 2.30 our old friend, Miss Dines, who worked for many years with the Railway Mission in Rhodesia and who needs no introduction to members of St. James's.

And at 8.0, Mrs. Mavis Gibson, a distinguished African barrister, practising in London, who was educated at the school in Penhalonga where Father Tom Stanton was recently on the staff and where we are currently trying to support a sixth-form student.

C.H.B.

## TUESDAY NIGHT IS FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT

The Tuesday night in question is that of 13 March, and "Friday Night is Music Night" is the BBC radio programme — and the connection, a somewhat surprising one perhaps, is that one of the Friday Night programmes is in fact to be recorded on that Tuesday night. If you are still with me, the relevance of all this to our parish is that, through the good offices of Malcolm Smith, an instrumentalist in the BBC Concert Orchestra which will be performing on that occasion, we have free tickets available to attend the concert and are to arrange a coach to take us to the Golders Green Hippodrome where it will be.

At the time of writing the cost of the coach is not known, but full details should be available by the time this is published: so please contact a member of the Social Committee and get your ticket before it is too late.

R.E.B.

## THE PARISH HALL

Most users of the Hall will know that it forms the centre of many activities, and is in consequence in almost constant use throughout the year.

This, of course, is just what we would wish, but as an unavoidable result, there is a lot of wear on the fabric generally, and in particular on the decorations; which, some eighteen months after the last thorough clean, are beginning to look distinctly grubby.

So we plan to carry out another mass Spring Clean, or perhaps a "Heineken Clean" . . . . . "to refresh those parts which . . . . . etc!"

For those who haven't helped before, we aim on these occasions to wash virtually everything; ceilings, walls floors, windows; paintwork high and low, inside and outside; chairs, tables, crockery — the lot!

Last time we had some forty or so helpers, and did the whole job in one hectic Saturday, so this year we have set aside Saturday 12 May, hoping for a repeat performance (although the Sunday is in reserve if we don't quite finish).

We hope you will be able to give us an hour or two — and if you can, please bring a bucket and a sponge or leather. Helpers can be of any shape, size, creed, or nationality; and although there is no upper age-limit, we prefer their ages to run to two digits, rather than one or three!

And lastly, two essential points: soap and water, mops and brushes, ladders and trestles, will all be provided; as also will tea and coffee and biscuits, by long tradition, 'every hour on the hour'.

J.W. Gostling

## WANTED – PEOPLE!

At the moment we are short of person-power in several fields of activity. For many years Margery Orton has done sterling work in organising the Christian Aid Week collection in Hampton Hill: we now need someone to take her place (see the October issue of this magazine) and to work in conjunction with the new coordinators for the area covered by the Hampton Council of Churches, Mr. and Mrs. Scowen, 9 Birchwood Grove, Hampton (Tel: 979 7429).

The Editorial Board, a group of busy people who take on the additional job of putting together this magazine, have recently lost three valuable members, Ruth Gostling, Eila Severn and Hannah Stanton, and this has increased the burden on the few who now remain. We should be very glad to hear of volunteers willing to fill the vacancies.

That small unsung band of workers who keep the church so clean, and work on a rota-system so that their stint should come no more than once a month, also now needs reinforcing, and at the moment of going to press there is still no sign of the supervisor who is essential to the churchyard project planned for the spring (see the January issue). It is urgent that we find the right man soon – please make our need known far and wide.

About fifteen people in the parish are members of the Bible Reading Fellowship. Paul Brown ordered the quarterly booklets for them and saw that everyone received a copy in good time. Now as you know he has left the district and so we are looking for somebody to carry on this worthwhile work.

## WANTED – USEFUL ARTICLE!

Now that the fine new crockery has come into use when we serve refreshments in church, we need a tea-trolley to transport it to and from its cupboard. If the trolley is of such a size that it can be kept underneath the trestle-table, then the problem of its own storage will be solved. Could anyone please give us such a useful article, or failing this, let us have one on extended loan?

## SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES AT BISHOP WAND SCHOOL

Our own local Church of England Secondary School offers a special sort of Sixth Form education, based in its own purpose built Sixth Form Centre and within the context of a lively Christian community.

Sixth Formers stay for one or two years and work for A/Level, O/Level, C.E.E. or Pitman's (secretarial) examinations. A wide choice of subject combinations is offered and examination results are very satisfactory. Students regularly go on to Universities (including "Oxbridge"), Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and teaching Hospitals, or to careers in the professions, in commerce and in industry.

Every year the Governors are able to offer places to students who transfer into the Bishop Wand Sixth Form from other Schools. The Headmaster, Mr. D.G. Jones, M.A., will be very pleased to see prospective students and their parents and to answer any queries. Prospectuses and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Bishop Wand School, Layton's Lane, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, (Tel: Sunbury 87537).

(The School is situated near Upper Halliford Station on the Shepperton line and is served by several bus routes).

## ADULT CONFIRMATION GROUP

We did not get very far with our preliminary meeting on January 21, partly because the staff had one or two urgent matters to settle, and this delayed the start of the meeting, and understandably some people who were interested could not wait and had to go home, but unfortunately they did not leave their names so that further contact could be made.

Then there are others who say that they are not concerned about Confirmation, but want only to be baptised and so remedy a deficiency left over from their infancy which gives them a feeling of unease. They then intend to carry on as before, but with a sense of relief that something wrong has now been put right, something lacking now been made good. But Baptism is not normally administered to adults unless Confirmation is to follow, either as part of the same rite, or very shortly afterwards, with the assurance of regular Communion in the fellowship of the Church to follow. For Baptism is not a 'being done' but a 'being begun', and unless people intend to go on and grow from this beginning there is no point in being baptised. This, of course, would all be explained in detail in the group which we still hope to form. One who wants to come into such a group has kindly offered her flat as a place of meeting — all that is now needed is to get more people and choose a suitable evening. With Lent commitments coming along, it may not now be possible to start till after Easter.

I think the best thing to do in the circumstances is to hold another preliminary meeting after Parish breakfast on a Sunday, so let us now arrange this for some time ahead, to give everyone a chance to hear about it, and for members of the Church to make known to friends who might be interested.

So I suggest, Sunday March 25 at 11.00.

### SEASONAL PUZZLE - Answers to January Quiz

J <u>E</u> SUS	H
<u>A</u> NGELS	A
M <u>A</u> RY	P
<u>S</u> WADDLING CLOTHES	P
E <u>G</u> YPT	Y
NA <u>Z</u> ARETH	N
<u>T</u> HREE KINGS	E
S <u>H</u> EPHERDS	W
<u>N</u> ATAL	Y
J <u>O</u> SEPH	E
H <u>E</u> RÖD	A
J <u>E</u> RUS <u>A</u> LEM	R



## JUMBLE SALE

Please will friends who kindly support M.U. sales note that the next one will be on March 31: details will be on posters nearer the time.

## CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

### February

- 18 D.G.Manley, 122 High Street, Teddington.
- 25 F.G. Martin, 3 Station Road, Hampton.

### March

- 4 E. & R. Kirby, 53 High Street, Teddington.
- 11 Boots, 66 Broad Street, Teddington.
- 18 D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington.

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

### February

- 12 10.30 Editorial Board (75, St. James's Avenue): 14.30 Mothers' Union Deanery Meeting: Mollie Nicholls speaks about her visit to the Sudan (St. Mary's, Twickenham).
- 13 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75, Burton's Road).
- 14 19.15 Holy Communion: 20.00 meeting in church to consider the Presentation of the Passion in music and mine proposed for Palm Sunday.
- 15 08.45 Holy Communion (St. Anne's Chapel, LEHS); 10.30 Young Families' Group: Film 'Eating can be good for you' (W); 20.00 Liturgical Committee (63, Park Road).
- 20 20.00 Tuesday Club: Beetle Drive (W).
- 21 (observed as ST. MATTHIAS'S DAY) 19.15 Holy Communion (in vestry).
- 22 20.00 meeting for those shortly to be married (in vestry).
- 27 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75, Burton's Road).
- 28 ASH WEDNESDAY: 19.15 Holy Communion.

## March

- 1 10.30 Young Families' Group: Bring and Buy Sale of nearly-new childrens' clothes (W): 20.00 Stewardship Committee (106, Park Road).
- 2 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER; Services at Hampton Methodist Church at 14.30 and 20.00.
- 6 08.45 Holy Communion (St. Anne's Chapel, LEHS); 20.00 Prayer Meeting and every Tuesday evening throughout Lent (75, Burton's Road); Tuesday Club: Miss Hannah Stanton – 'China' (W).
- 7 19.15 Holy Communion.
- 8 20.00 Parochial Church Council (W).
- 13 Coach Outing to recording of 'Friday Night is Music Night'.
- 14 19.15 Holy Communion.
- 15 10.30 Young Families' Group: 'The Welfare of Children in Hospital' (W).

Young People's organisations continue to meet as arranged, and the Catechumenate every Wednesday and Saturday evening in church. Holy Communion, either on Wednesdays or Holy Days, is now at 19.15 instead of 07.30, as this time has been found more generally convenient. At the time of going to press, the formation of Lent Study Groups is being considered by us in conjunction with the Hampton Council of Churches.

## MARRIAGES

### January

- 6 John Albert Funnell to Tina Lewington
- 27 Andrew Patrick Skinner to Lesley Palmer

## CREMATIONS

### January

- 5 Constance May Wright, Wayside, St. James's Road, aged 64 years  
(at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium)
- 15 Norman Roberts, 108 St. James's Avenue, aged 57 years  
(at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium)
- 18 Eliza Eleanor Cane, 49 Burton's Road, aged 92 years  
(at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium)
- 22 Jessie Elaine Gill Cook, 11 Myrtle Road, aged 59 years  
(at S.W. Middlesex Crematorium)
- 23 Walter Skinner, 5 Grenville Mews, aged 66 years  
(at Putney Vale Crematorium)