

THE LORD SPAKE AND SAID

Throughout July the Bible Reading Fellowship readings have been following the history of David and the reading for 26 July (1 Kings, 2) being the last words of the historical David, contain this passage "The Spirit of the Lord has spoken through me, and His word is on my lips". In the commentary the author of the notes says about David "He had a beguiling natural skill with words (thus he was taken to be inspired by God.)" and something about this phrase seemed to me to supply the key to much that is wrong with the world's faith today.

I believe that God, through His Spirit did actually put words into David's mind and mouth. It did not just seem that it was so, it was so. I believe that when the Old Testament characters and the prophets said "the Lord spake unto me and said" that they were not liars and exaggerators but that the Lord in truth did speak to them. I believe that God speaks in the same way to certain people today and that He would speak to many more if minds were attuned to accept that this should be so: that it is right and natural for a Father to be in Communion with His children. Somehow through the ages, through the watering down of the true wine of the messages, man has lost the belief in a God who communicates in words in the minds He Himself has created, and so the world has lost its way. I believe that God DID speak to Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah . . . Peter, John, Paul . . . Thomas a Kempis, Julien of Norwich . . . Martin Luther . . . and many more, right through the ages as the centuries have passed, and still so speaks but the voice is more stilled today because the mind of man has drawn away from the conception of an everpresent, living, life force and thus many never come near to even the consideration that God still speaks to those with ears to hear and therefore they cannot hear.

Not all who listen for the word of God are destined to be mighty prophets, many are just helped to live their own lives more wholly and perhaps, through grace, to be able to help others; so we do not know who they are and how many they are but I do believe and know that the word of God speaking gently in the stilled mind of man is a living, saving Grace and I do believe that many who love the Lord and earnestly desire to abide realisingly in His presence and to hear the still small voice can, by placing themselves at His disposal, indeed hear Him speak today as of old.

M. Orton

SAINT JAMES'S DAY

It seemed to me, to quote another member of the congregation, that "it was the best St. James's Day ever", or at least nearly so. It is always a joyful occasion but this year especially so. The Family Communion had indeed brought a great many of the family together and I pondered the Vicar's words in his excellent address when he spoke of the power of God being like a fire kindling sparks and then spreading. More and more people seem to be joining us,

being kindled themselves and bringing in others to swell our community and in this we are greatly blessed.

I am usually moved by the beauty and spirit of the family communion service but on this particular occasion the splendid organ music during the offering of the bread and wine caught me up in its wonder and enhanced and deepened my worship. It seemed to me that the notes swelled to a mighty prayer, sank to a profound amen and a following still small voice. We are very fortunate in the skill and feeling of our organist and perhaps take a little for granted the contribution he makes to our worship when in his skillful hands the loud organ tells forth in deep tones the glory and praise of God.

Since so many people had attended the Family Communion Service I had wondered if the special Welcome Service would be sparsely attended but I needn't have worried for the centre of the nave was packed and overflowed into the north aisle. We ran out of St. James's hymn books, Evensong books and had to borrow them back from the early comers so that the later comers could participate fully, but even so we apologise if there were people in church who couldn't join as fully in the worship as they might otherwise have done due to lack of necessary books. After all, it is better by far, I think you will all agree, to have many more people than books than the sad reverse!

The service, the theme of which was pilgrimage (relating to the age long pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James at Compostella del Santiago in Galicia) was a delight. The blessing of the pilgrims and their simple equipment, the giving out of the cockle shells — all was most moving as was the performance of the youthful pilgrims themselves, reverent and dignified in their carriage.

And what can be said of the tea — the weather was kind in that it was warmer than expected and so tea could be served at the gaily decorated tables on the church lawn and somehow "the five thousand" were adequately and deliciously fed and there was plenty for all. What a friendly gathering; it was a joy to welcome throughout the day some people whom we do not see so often as others and some newcomers. A thought that came to me as I looked around was that, when our earthly families are dispersed and we are alone, or that we feel alone through worry or sadness even when we are in the midst of family and friends, what a blessing it is that the family and fellowship of our caring Lord is ever ready to welcome the sorrowful, the seeking and those that travail into its midst that they may be comforted, strengthened and refreshed.

Let us thank God constantly that we are so blessed in our church of St. James and pray for grace that we may be worthy pilgrims in our lives and that the fire of the Holy Spirit may ever increasingly spread amongst us and beyond us.

M. Orton

RAMBLING ON

It was with considerable doubt that I anticipated the "Parish Ramble" on Saturday, 11 August. Surely I'd plenty of better things to do! However, my boots were in need of an airing and I was tending towards an "I might as well go" swing when Roma needed a reply so that she could efficiently organise transport for all to Hindhead. This was the beginning of my immense admiration of the detailed organisation of the whole event by Ron and Roma Bridges. Certainly with that sort of attention to detail, I wouldn't need to take my customary First Aid Kit! — I didn't, but never discovered if my trust was justified.

When we arrived at Hindhead car park, a wide variety of St. James's parishioners were gathered. (Did those hairy knees really belong to our group?) With a light-hearted feeling of "unresponsibility" I followed the prescribed trail which was Stage 1. A passing confused state attacked those who wanted to know where they were going as this was a reversed nature trail necessitating a search for backward pointing white arrows on the other side of trees etc. This passed through sparsely wooded heathland, providing plenty of interest to the amateur botanists among us and ended in a view over the sweep of the "Devils Punch-bowl" (was this the best objective for a crowd of good Anglicans, their priest included?). Those that felt that two miles was an adequate Saturday afternoon stroll, returned to the car park at this point. The less trepid followed undulating paths through lovely open countryside in pleasant sunshine. Nearly half the group went on to Stage three when the undulations became steeper — or appeared to — and thick undergrowth had to be cleared from muddy paths — true adventure! (Rewarded by riper bilberries than had been found on Stages one and two).

There were three routes to the venue for tea; the direct route which was ignored by all, the shorter scenic route discovered by the majority, and the longer scenic route taken by the most adventurous motorist.

I don't think it was just the prospect of food after good exercise and fresh air that made the lakeside tea-spot so attractive! On the other hand I am sure it was made less attractive for the fishermen whose peace was shattered by our rowdy arrival! Tea rounded off a good afternoon in lovely countryside and in pleasant company.

Very well done Ron and Roma. When's the next Parish Ramble? Please make it a day I can come!

R. Mills

P.S. Those of you who are avid readers of every issue of the Spire may remember that during the Parish Outing a certain R.B. was observed climbing a tree. Well, following tea after the Parish Ramble some indefatigable walkers took a stroll along the lake — and lo and behold we found two R.B.'s climbing a very challenging tree. Makes you wonder what is going to happen at the next outing?

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Having put away our tennis and walking shoes we are now planning events for Autumn and Winter and we hope you will find these enjoyable.

Although not being run by us we have entered a float in the Carnival Parade of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Communities Association on Saturday, 15 September, starting from St. James's Road. The parade finishes in the grounds of Rectory School where there will be a grand fete. Last year's carnival was very good and this year's promises to be even better. Watch out for posters giving further details.

On Friday, 5 October, we are holding a Barn Dance in the newly decorated Church Hall, led by our own experts David and Janet Nunn. We step off at 8 pm and tickets obtainable from the Social Committee will be 80p each, including light refreshments (both solid and liquid).

The Harvest Tea will be along the same lines as last year and will be provided in Church on Sunday, 14 October, after the 4.30 pm service. Whilst

tickets will not be sold nor any charge be made, we hope you will be so impressed with the high standard that you will feel compelled to place a contribution in the plate provided for that purpose.

Our annual Firework Party will be held in the grounds of Laurel Dene on Saturday, 3 November. This is always a very popular event and since, for reasons of safety and comfort, we strictly limit the number of tickets available, you are advised to buy early once we announce that they are on sale in mid-October. For parents with young children this is an ideal way of providing a magnificent firework display followed by hot soup and potatoes at a very reasonable cost and maximum safety.

Looking further ahead we will probably be organising some form of Carol singing and in the New Year the Annual Parish Party. Any thoughts or suggestions on either of these events would be welcomed by us before we finalise our plans.

PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTY – 28 JUNE 1979

St. James's Newcomers Parties have been held once or twice a year for many years. The pattern for arranging these parties has been changed slightly and they have been renamed Neighbourhood Parties. The Parish has been divided into four areas, Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. We started with a Neighbourhood Party for the Red area and everyone in the area received an invitation. Whether they were newcomers or not. The Red area comprises all the roads in the parish west of the railway line and bounded by Burtons Road, St. James's Road, Uxbridge Road to the Lady Eleanor Holles School playing fields.

Some sixty people came to the party and we had a happy evening. Coffee was served between 7.45 pm and 8.15 pm, and then Mrs. Marjory Orton gave her knowledgeable talk illustrated by slides on the history of Hampton Hill over the last hundred and twenty years. After her talk coffee and sandwiches were served and everyone had a chance to get to know one another. The party ended at 10 pm.

We shall be holding a similar party for people living in the Blue area, comprising all the roads in the parish east of the railway line on Wednesday 17 November 1979, and invitations will be sent out about ten days beforehand.

If anyone residing outside the Blue area would like to come to the party in the Parish Hall starting at 7.45 pm, they will be very welcome, though they will not receive a written invitation through their front door.

A.E. Loyd

AROUND THE SPIRE

Everyone who passes the church hall cannot fail to notice the smart appearance after the recent re-decoration. Can we but hope that vandals will now allow it to remain free of graffiti?

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Welcome home to Helen Lawrance who has just returned from Lesotho in Southern Africa after a three month working holiday. We look forward to hearing about her experiences.

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Congratulations to Miss Laurie Browne who celebrated her eighty-ninth birthday on August 13. A double celebration as she had just returned home after a spell in hospital — we all wish her a speedy recovery.

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So pleasant to see Sarah Cottle (nee Long) amongst the congregation recently. Sarah, an old Y.P.F. member has been nursing in Hong Kong.

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It was lovely too to see Coryn Robinson in church again. We thank God for the safe return to health of her little family after the dreadful bout of whooping cough. We must also mention Granny Eila who also caught it whilst helping Coryn to nurse the three babies and their father, Ian.

“CHRISTIAN AID” – ANOTHER ASPECT

To celebrate the “Year of the Child” the Scout Organisation has embarked on a three year project entitled “Seeds for Self-sufficiency”. Boys all over this country are busy raising money to buy plants and seeds to send to their brother Scouts in Nepal, one of the very poorest of the third-world countries, where starvation and ill-health is rampant.

There is a very personal feeling about this effort, our Cubs and Scouts have been learning about the country and their problems and no doubt some Scouts will be visiting Nepal.

On receiving the gifts the Nepal Scouts will travel out to the villages and under the guidance of their own Agricultural experts teach the people how to successfully produce good crops.

Some of the money collected will be donated to the Save the Children Health Centre in Nepal.

On July 15 some of our Cub Scouts with their leaders took part in a Sponsored Walk from Walton Bridge to Hampton Court Bridge, thereby raising about £40. After paying their Capitation Fees to the Group the rest will go to this very worth-while project — a very good effort indeed.

OUR SECOND CUB PACK

Brown Pack started on Monday 11 June with 9 boys all eager to become Cub Scouts. There are now 13 Cubs, 11 already invested and 3 more boys waiting to join in September. They attended Twickeree, have had good swimming sessions and some attended the District Athlete's Badge exam. Yvonne and her helpers, Lesley Mackett, Prill Smith, Keith Burgon and Nicky Cruickshank are all looking forward to a successful new term.

Dates for your Diary: Jumble Sale — 22 September (Hall).
Christmas Bazaar — 24 November (Hall).

D.E. Childs

MOTHERS' UNION DEANERY DAY

Monday October 1 is the date for a very special occasion. Our London President — Liz Robson — will have returned from the World-wide conference in Australia, and has promised to come to Hampton to share with us her experiences and give us all the information and ideas gleaned from the Conference, and to show us slides of M.U. 'Down Under'.

It has been arranged that Liz will come and talk to us at All Saints Church Hall, Hampton in the morning at 11 am. We then plan to have an informal lunch together, when there will be lots of opportunities to meet Liz and to ask any questions about her travels. The cost of lunch will be nominal. After lunch we are having our Deanery Banner Service in the Church, which the Rural Dean has kindly consented to take for us. The Service will be followed by a cup of tea — and more chat — before we go home at about 4 pm.

I do hope all members will try to attend — Liz has travelled to Australia and back on our behalf, and has sacrificed much time for us.

If there are any non-members who would like to join us for the day — or even part of the day — you will be most welcome, whether your interest is in the Mothers' Union, or in Australia, or even if you would just like an interesting day out amongst friends from all the Deanery, please come. It would help with catering if you could let one of the members know if you intend to come, but this is not essential. If transport to All Saints is a problem please let Con or me know, as we may possibly be able to arrange lifts.

P. Young

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

The Young Families Group has just gone through its most enjoyable third year. For the first time we began the year with a so-called pram service in church prior to the annual baptismal roll party. We took part in the first Hampton Hill Carnival by running a children's painting stall, and we had our first coach outing. The normal Thursday morning programme was very varied: you could find us busy stitching patchwork, eating pastry, the skilful preparation of which we had just been shown, or blowing out eggs for easter decorations. That meeting had been called "Fun with Easter Eggs", and fun we did have that morning. Similar amusement was caused when we tried our hand at drawing in a novel way of getting to know each other. On other occasions we would very seriously listen to speakers about safety in the home, children in hospital or the Save a Baby Campaign. How to help our little ones develop pre-reading skills and how childbirth affects the family — these were some of the subjects we considered during the year. One morning a press photographer visited us and took the picture which you may have seen at the time.

Quite a few new members join us each year after the Baptismal Roll Party, but the group is open to any young mother who hears about us and welcomes a chance to get out of the house and meet new friends and indeed new ideas.

A Toddlers Club meets on alternate Thursdays, where members come together for a chat and a coffee. Like the Young Families Group this has proved a valuable pre-playschool experience for the children.

Our new year is going to begin again with a service in church and the

Baptismal Roll Party on September 6. On September 20, Mrs. Zollo from St. James's Nursery School is coming, and October 4 will see another children's clothes swap.

For full programme details see the next copy of the Spire. For anybody who hears about us for the first time through this article – The Young Families Group meets every 1st and 3rd (and 5th) Thursday at 10.30 am in Wayside. The Toddlers Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the same time and place. Once again, every young mother is warmly welcomed at all our meetings.

H. Bucknell

LADIES CHOIR

Our opening meeting will be September 10 at 2.30 pm in the Vestry, and then every other week.

Besides singing occasionally in church, we have entertained in the following Old Peoples' Homes: Laureldene, Gifford House, St. Mary's, Moiravale, Rosebank, Hampton Court House, Home of the Sons of Divine Providence, and at various Senior Citizens' functions.

To enable us to do this, we enjoy singing a wide range of tunes, from Musical Comedy to Sacred Songs.

New voices would be very welcome to help us with our two or three part songs, as we need to work on a new programme for return visits to our friends in the various Homes.

KEEP FIT

Why not start Keep Fit with us this September? We re-open in the Hall on Tuesday September 11.

Our aim is to help our bodies to function efficiently by using music to stimulate our movements. This is a non-competitive sport and is enjoyed by all ages, as it is done to one's own abilities and limitations.

We have made many good friends through Keep Fit, and would like you to do the same.

Pat and Eila

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

On Tuesday, 29 May at 10 pm I left Heathrow airport bound for Johannesburg and a 2½ month working holiday with the Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name in Leribe, Lesotho. Lesotho, until 1966 the British Protectorate Basutoland, is a small country approximately the size of Wales and completely landlocked within the Republic of South Africa. It is a poor but beautiful country and known as the Kingdom in the Sky because of its altitude and mountainous terrain.

I left England that night essentially very ignorant about Lesotho and South Africa, politically and otherwise. But I didn't have to wait long for a rude awakening; I discovered that the passenger beside me had been Amin's Minister of Mining and Drilling until 1976 when he had been forced to leave. He had known Amin very well and was returning to the country for the first time since then and talking to him was both interesting and horrifying. Three Ugandan men sitting behind me were returning after an absence of 2 years, and the fact that one of them had heard no news of his wife and family in all that time also set me thinking hard.

My apprehensions were somewhat reinforced upon arrival at Nairobi airport the following morning. After landing I noticed that the plane was being carefully watched by armed soldiers in camouflage suits lying in the grass beside

the runway and they took their positions around the plane as it came to a standstill in front of the airport buildings. We were informed that, for security reasons, we were not permitted to disembark, but as far as I was concerned, remaining on board seemed by far the safest idea!

We arrived at Johannesburg early on Wednesday afternoon and I was very warmly welcomed by Sr. Christian. She is the Sister Provincial in charge of all the CHN houses in Lesotho and Zululand; (the Mother house is at Malvern Link, Worcestershire).

Due to the early closure of the border post we had to set out immediately on the 5 hour drive to Leribe. As we drove south towards Lesotho out of Johannesburg, my first impressions were of the flatness of the land, the aridity and the monotony of the scenery. As the afternoon progressed an almost continual straggle of children appeared along the roadside, many shoeless and carrying their schoolbooks on their heads or in plastic bags. Often there were no houses or villages in sight but Sister told me that the children often walk up to 7 or 8 miles each way to school every day. For the last couple of hours we drove in darkness which seemed so strange after the lengthening evenings in England and meant that I had to wait to see Lesotho until the following morning.

We had to cross the border into Lesotho at Ficksburg Bridge and here I met for the first time the contrast between the efficient, businesslike attitude of the South African border officials and the more relaxed one of the Basotho. At the Republic side of the border one was conscious of an overriding military structure with its armed officials in excessively smart uniforms conducting an intense examination of one's documents. Across the single file rickety bridge the black Basotho officials (wrapped up in their blankets) although searching, were much less officious in their task.

On arrival at the Convent at Leribe, which is situated in northern Lesotho we had a quick supper and I was then shown to my rondavel where I was to stay for most of my time in Africa. I sat on my bed, looked at the mud walls around me, the thatched roof above, and wondered what the next 11 weeks would have in store for me.

H. Lawrance

LET US RE-ITERATE AND REFUSE TO BE STILL THAT WE DON'T AND WON'T LIVE IN HAMPTON WE LIVE IN HAMPTON HILL!

What confusion, real hardship and even rage has been engendered by the thoughtless bureaucrats who, by a stroke of a pen (or blue pencil!) have taken Hampton Hill literally off the map — the new ones anyhow. Newcomers to the telephone service may well find their address given as Hampton (and how confusing will this be for friends looking for them in Hampton Hill!) People who, like myself, have lived with a great deal of pleasure in so doing, in Hampton Hill since before, possibly, the said bureaucrats were born, now wake up to find, hey presto because they say so, that they are living officially two miles away in far off Hampton.

Local traders complain that their goods are held up or not delivered because their High Street numbers are either not to be found in High Street, Hampton, or turn out to be completely different businesses or even private houses! "The Book Shop" in our village is twinned with an identical "The Book Shop" in High Street, Hampton, so, if the bureaucrats are right and we are wrong, they now have two "The Book Shops" in High Street, Hampton whereas we all know they have only one!

What about our Post Office? It is described as Hampton Hill Post Office on its fascia board but if, as one enraged enquirer was told on contacting the higher echelons of the G.P.O., "Madam, as far as I am concerned there is no such

place as Hampton Hill", is not the G.P.O. liable under the Misrepresentation of Trade Descriptions act? What about our two banks, are they too in Hampton and if so, how are they to be distinguished from their counterparts in Hampton if Hampton Hill no longer exists. At our Editorial Board meeting this morning a letter arrived for the householder addressed Hampton Hill but some official knowall had added Hampton in ink to make it clear that we aren't here but there!

A few nights ago I came across a young girl staggering along our road carrying an enormous heavy suitcase. She wanted Gloucester Road, Hampton, and had been set off the bus at our traffic lights - "Here you are miss, this is Hampton". She had been directed up Park Road and so here she was, exhausted and still a mile or so away from her destination. My husband took her to her destination in his car but it doesn't alter the fact that this is the sort of saddening inconvenience that is happening and is bound to happen increasingly.

You have doubtless all heard of the Hampton Hill Association's petition on this subject and many of you will have signed it, even queueing in the High Street to do so, but it needs many letters to the G.P.O., to the Borough, to our redoubtable M.P. and to our local councillors to get "them" to restore our identity. After all, it took the residents of this area about ten years to wring the official name Hampton Hill out of the G.P.O. in the 1880's and what cheek it is for "them" to have taken such eradicating action without consulting the very people who are most concerned, namely, the people who pay the piper through their rates and taxes and who therefore could reasonably be expected to have a say in the calling of the tune.

There is another aspect my husband had a buff envelope from "them" addressed to Hampton and he returned it marked "Insufficiently addressed, try Hampton Hill" and, so far, that's the last we've heard of it, so who knows, perhaps we have found the perfect answer to the annoying demands received from G.P.O. and Borough

IF WE DON'T EXIST THEY CAN'T PERSIST or can they?

M. Orton (again)

TUESDAY CLUB - PROGRAMME FOR AUTUMN 1979

September 4	Janet Robinson "The Maltreated Child"
September 18	Dr. D. McClean "Speaking on Japan" (with slides)
October 2	to be advised
October 16	Mrs. I. Everall "Wool Secretariat"
October 30	Open
November 13	Janet & David Nunn "A Walking Holiday" (with slides)

HHA ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

The Hampton Hill Association is holding its Exhibition of Local Arts, Crafts and Hobbies this year on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 from 2 to 6 pm at Hampton Hill Junior School, St. James's Avenue.

If anyone would like to exhibit their work, (and, if possible, give a demonstration), please contact any of the following:

Mr. Eric Carter, 31 St. James's Road, Hampton Hill. 979 1166

Mrs. Joyce Doughty, 228 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill. 979 2839

Mrs. Sally Low, (esp. for children's work) 95 High Street, Hampton Hill.
979 9473

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS FAMILY OCCASION - THERE IS A SPECIAL SECTION FOR CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES AND DO-IT-YOURSELF PAINTING' POTTING AND PRINTING, MODEL RAILWAYS, Etc.

GLASS RECYCLING

Following last month's note on recycling schemes in Germany, we were pleased to hear that some similar schemes are indeed being run in this country. Let us hope that they are so successful that the organisation is soon spread over more areas.

CHEMISTS' ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

September

- 9 H. Hall, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill.
- 16 E. Moss, 14 Broad Street, Teddington.
- 23 F.G. Martin, 28B Priory Road, Hampton;
- 30 D.G. Manley, 122 High Street, Teddington.

October

- 7 F.G. Martin, 3 Station Approach, Hampton.
- 14 E. & R. Kirby, 53 High Street, Teddington.
- 21 Boots, 66 Broad Street, Teddington.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

September

- 9 09.20 The Sunday School reopens in Wayside
- 11 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 12 14.30 Mothers' Union : Branch Meeting (W) ; 19.15 Holy Communion
- 18 20.15 Hall Management Committee (18 St. James's Road)
- 19 20.00 Parochial Church Council (W)
- 20 SAINT MATTHEW : 19.15 Holy Communion
- 23 17.15 St. James's leads service at Laurel Dene
- 25 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 27 19.15 Holy Communion (for MICHAELMAS); 20.00 Properties Committee (5 Sanders Close); WMC Management Group (60 St. James's Avenue)

October

- 3 19.15 Holy Communion
- 9 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 10 19.15 Holy Communion
- 11 20.00 Possible Open Meeting on a current topic of importance arranged by the Mothers' Union (W)
- 14 HARVEST FESTIVAL : Sunday arrangements as usual. After the Welcome Service at 16.30, a special HARVEST TEA in church
- 17 19.45 Neighbourhood Gathering (Hall)
- 18 SAINT LUKE : 19.15 Holy Communion; 19.45 for 20.00 Wayside Monday Centre Helpers : AGM (W)

MARRIAGE

July

- 28 Nigel Cyril Gordon Watts to Cindy Rosemary Soleil

BURIAL

July

- 27 Bessie Edith May Davies, Flat 9, 179 Uxbridge Road, aged 82 years (at Hampton Cemetery)