

IS THERE REALLY 'NO ROOM' IN 1979?

Once there was no room at the inn. And the Christian world remembers that fact every Christmas.

But the world as a whole, and even its Christianised parts, still closes the door on refugees and the world's poor — failing to recognise these rejected of men as children of God.

The boat people sought haven from persecution, yet were towed out to sea again. Even greater numbers of other South East Asian refugees languish in squalid camps while governments haggle about accepting them.

For these and other refugees there was no room at the inn this year — 1979 years after Christ was born in a stable. In 1979, too, the governments of the industrialised countries met those of the poor world in the fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and again refused to open the door another inch towards equal trading agreements.

So the poor stay poor, and their Churches struggle to help them raise their living-standards above the breadline. And in turn Christian Aid strives to help them in that task, but can do so only if local congregations here at home support the relief and development work of their own official service agency.

It is hoped that all who worship in our Church will make a realistic gift to Christian Aid this Christmas. If we have given generously ourselves we have greater justification in asking the general public to contribute to Christian Aid Week in May.

(Since the above article was written, most of the difficulties hindering all efforts to bring aid to the starving population of Kampuchea — formerly Cambodia — have been eased, and as soon as the door was opened the Board of Christian Aid made an immediate grant of £100,000. This was possible because of the excellent result of Christian Aid Week this year throughout the country. The grant is being used to re-equip three hospitals and two orphanages which are in a desperate state, and also to help with shipments of food in cooperation with other relief agencies. At the same time the Board resolved to ask the Churches at least to match that £100,000 with an equal sum as soon as possible. We at St. James's immediately sent off the Harvest Festival offerings in answer to this appeal. Between now and Christmas the Christian Aid Committee of the Hampton Council of Churches will be initiating and sponsoring many special efforts, in some of which many of us will no doubt be involved. Already there has been much activity and enterprise. Three of us went to the Austerity Lunch at the Teddington Methodist Church on Sunday November 18. The general theme was the need for constant steady and wise support for the right kind of World Development and not just response to emergencies which hit the headlines, but the emergency in Kampuchea is one of the most terrible that has ever happened, and so it was agreed that the offerings at the lunch — perhaps well over £100 — should be given to help meet this special need.

Our Christmastide offerings at St. James's for Christian Aid last year amounted to £160. We hope that we shall more than match that amount this year. We will ask the Board of Christian Aid to use the money we send as they think best: perhaps half for Kampuchea, and half for their continuing work to help the Churches of the Third World in their long-term plans and projects to help the poor of their countries become less poor.)

COMMUNICATING OUR VISION

Have you thought of attending the course of studies which is being held in our Deanery next year? Are there any young people you could encourage to attend? We can now give you the dates and titles of the eight sessions:

Session 1	Tuesday, 29 January 1980	God in the Eighties
Session 2	Tuesday, 12 February 1980	Living by the Truth
Session 3	Tuesday, 26 February 1980	Christian Living
Session 4	Tuesday, 11 March 1980	Christian Prayer
Session 5	Tuesday, 25 March 1980	The Cross
Session 6	Tuesday, 15 April 1980	Resurrection and Pentecost
Session 7	Tuesday, 29 April 1980	The Church
Session 8	Tuesday, 13 May 1980	The Eucharist

The Rev. Gordon Mursell, who is Vicar of East Dulwich in the Southwark Diocese, will be leading us. He is basing the Course on St. John's Gospel. The Bishop of Kensington has promised to attend the final session on the 13 May.

Brochures with full details will be available in every Church early in December. With each brochure there should be an enrolment form and, as far as possible, we would appreciate it if those wishing to attend enrolled in advance. If you are interested, but would like to discuss the Course with someone, please see your Vicar or contact the Rev. John Gann, St. Mary's Vicarage, Dial House, Riverside, Twickenham, telephone no. 892 2318.

Mrs. Patricia Simpson of 19 Waldegrave Gardens, Twickenham, telephone no. 892 2398, will be dealing with enrolment and brochures and forms may be obtained from her.

14 November 1980.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

It's a pity the Community Health Councils are not better known to all members of the community, because they are supposed to represent us all in an important sphere of life.

The Community Health Council has the job of representing the consumer in the National Health Service, and the consumer in this case is not just the patient in hospital, but all of us when we are healthy as well as when we are ill, notably the relatives and friends of those who are ill, or handicapped, or needing any sort of care. And these Councils are different from most other consumer-representing bodies in that they are officially part of the Health Service structure.

The Community Health Council is therefore entitled to receive all the plans and proposals of the Health Service management teams and organisations that affect the district. And no major proposals concerning hospitals or clinics or services for the sick or handicapped can be brought into action unless the local Community Health Council has been officially consulted.

In the Hampton and Teddington areas our local community Health Council is the Hounslow CHC, which is officially part of the Ealing, Hammer-smith and Hounslow Area Health Authority. Frankly we are in a strange situation in this part of the world — we are in an "overlap" area. Our part of the Borough of Richmond has many of its services administered by the Richmond and

Kingston Area Health Authority – especially the services for old people. But for most Health Service work we come under Hounslow because the West Middlesex Hospital is in Hounslow District, and that, of course, is our local hospital.

The members of the CHC are drawn from the local councils and from many local voluntary organisations. Naturally many of these voluntary bodies are devoted to the care and interests of particular types of patients, the mentally ill, or the permanently handicapped, and naturally their members on the CHC tend to be primarily interested in the services for that particular type of patient. But other organisations such as local branches of the Red Cross or the British Legion usually have members on the CHC and the Hampton Council of Churches has a representative on Hounslow CHC. Incidentally far more voluntary organisations seek to have representatives on our CHC than there are places, and there are regular elections for these available places.

Your local Community Health Council is one of the routes through which any member of the public may make a complaint about the response of the Health Service to their needs. The CHC does not “advertise” for complaints but it hopes to be useful to both patients and the Health Service by helping the individual who has a “grouse” to get the matter properly attended to. And if there is a serious matter at stake the CHC has certain official rights within the Health Service enabling it to take the business up.

However far more of the CHC’s work is representing the wishes and feeling of the general public, as patients and friends of patients, when decisions are being taken about what services shall be available in our District, and when and where, and what money shall be spent on this new building, when that inevitably means that the money cannot be spent on some often desirable project. Your CHC is in contact with the local family doctors, and the dentists, with the people who run our local hospitals, large and small, and with the representatives of consultants and nurses and ambulancemen and so on. And your local CHC would far prefer to hear exactly what *you* feel you want from the NHS than think that you were unhappy with the service and did not know what to do about it. The Council’s monthly meetings in Twickenham and Hounslow are open to the public; there is an office you can phone in Hounslow, or you can contact any individual member of the CHC.

The Community Health Council is there for you to use. Use it.

A.D. Wilson

FIFTY (OR NEARLY SIXTY) YEARS AGO

The Vicar has just been given a delightful little book, written in very formal Spanish by a Uruguayan cousin of a Miss Chipperfield, who although now living in New Malden usually pays a call on Mr. Brunt when she comes back to Hampton Hill to visit a family grave. Her cousin, Roberto Ellis, had been so taken by St. James’s bells when he visited here in 1920 that he had brought them into one of his books and sent a copy to the ‘Vicar of Hampton Hill’ ‘wishing that he will understand Spanish’ and Mr. Brunt handed on “Fifty Years Ago” to me. It turns out to be not just a volume of reminiscences but a charming, formal love story set in Montevideo during and just after the first World War where a small pocket of English expatriots have established themselves. It is intriguing how these people have splendid Spanish Christian names and prosaic English patronyms.

The hero, one Ricardo Palmer, had, in 1920, been on an eight months' tour of America, England and Europe and spends a lot of his courtship hours telling his innamorato of his experiences. Being in a sylvan spot with the Montevideon church bells ringing across the countryside he addresses her thus:

"Let us listen in silence to this joyful peal you cannot imagine with what emotion I again hear the bells of this country place. In England, in Hampton Hill where we lived, on Sunday afternoons I used to listen to the bells of the Anglican Church there, very similar to these, and my thoughts used to fly back here and I remembered you and the pleasant times passed here, and now, listening again my thoughts go back, a little wistfully, to dear old England".

"But didn't you stay in London?"

"We went up to London every day, but we lived in Hampton Hill, a little village about eighteen kilometres from London's Waterloo Station. We lived in a villa which had a small front garden and at the back an orchard more than 100 metres long. At the side of the orchard lay the railway line which went to Hampton Court* while on the other side was a magnificent golf links. Across this one could see the plantation and part of the residence Fulwell Park home of Ex King Manuel of Portugal. Because of all this, in spite of being so near London, the orchards, the golf links, the hills on the horizon gave a rural appearance to the view."

"How lovely a countryside such as you describe must be", says Violeta (his sweetheart, surnamed Gibbs). "I understand the memories which these bells have brought to you. As for King Manuel, did you see him?"

"I didn't know him personally but we used to see him every Sunday because he used to go with his wife and his mother Queen Amelia (of the house of Orleans) to the small chapel in Strawberry Hill which is very close to Hampton Hill . . ."

"Did he have an important seat reserved for him in the chapel?"

"No, they entered very unobtrusively and always took their places in the first pew on the right which the faithful sidesmen always reserved for them. They were accompanied by the Marquis de Soveral who had been Portuguese Ambassador at the court of St. James during the Portuguese Monarchy."

"What a lot of things you have to tell"

Indeed Ricardo had, and told his innamorato faithfully of a concert enjoyed at Kneller Hall "at night, in the open air on a great public space surrounded by magnificent trees — what an unforgettable night." He described Hampton Court which he visited frequently. "There are enchanting gardens and the Home Park is splendid. To enhance its beauty there is an artificial canal about 45 metres wide and more than a kilometre long. On the banks of this are gigantic trees planted in the 17th century by orders of King Charles II. To see these trees reflected on the water is truly spectacular." After further descriptive passages Ricardo declares, "And what peace there is in this park so near the tumult of the city."

"It must be a wonderful sedative for the nerves", remarks Violeta.

"Yes, and a means of being closer to God", replies Ricardo and quotes "We can hear the voice of our Lord God whilst walking in a garden."

Ricardo goes on to describe that by the side of Hampton Court there is yet another park, Bushy Park which "stretches to the little town of Teddington. In this park hinds and stags are at liberty, demanding attention by their very tameness. The major attraction . . . is an avenue of 50 metres wide and 2 kilometres

long which has four ranks of gigantic Indian chestnut trees which, when in flower, are an unforgettable sight and millions of people flock to see them. There is a Sunday named Chestnut Sunday . . . on which the King and Queen come in their landeau to pass along this avenue to contemplate the beauty of the chestnuts."

The always attentive and enthralled Violeta is regaled during her suitor's invariably formal and correct courtship with such delights as memories of Windsor Castle, Crystal Palace, Hatfield House, Albert Hall, Brighton Pavilion, etc., etc., even Wolverhampton, Liverpool and the Sunbeam Motor Works!

In fact on being told that a certain oil painting in the Duke of Norfolk's house of a young lady "very distinguished, with an aquiline nose, her hair dressed in plaits just like yours, and very like yourself" and of how he had suffered and could not stop thinking of her, Violeta blushing and nervously accepts him and after exchanging eloquent glances and accepting the congratulations of a cousin who comes out to look for them, all three return to the Gibbs residence and presumably to future bliss and further reminiscences. Quite delightful.

Margery Orton

* *The author's excellent memory failed him here.*

TWO QUESTIONS: (1) WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?

There can't be many Parish Treasurers who haven't said this at some time or another as the percentage of the quota climbs remorselessly higher. "What does the diocese do with the money?"

Well the answer is quite simple, and can be found in the Diocesan Budget, a copy of which has been sent to every parish for several years now. But not everyone has the time to grapple with reading a budget, so it may be helpful if the situation is set out as simply as possible.

The figures are from the suggested Budget for 1980, which may well be modified by the Bishop's Council or Synod, though the proportions will not change very much.

For paying the parochial clergy:	61.0%
For paying nonparochial clergy:	6.2%
For training future clergy:	3.6%
Supplementing pensions of retired clergy and their widows:	0.8%
For maintaining parsonage houses :	13.1%
All the clergy and their houses:	84.7%
Education:	5.2%
Diocesan "Quota" to Central Board of Finance:	4.5%
Administration:	5.6%
	<hr/> 100%

These are percentages of the amount which the parishes will be asked to provide through the Common Fund, not percentages of the whole amount which will be spent. This brings us to the second question which is not so often asked:

(2) WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY COME FROM?

Well, as far as the Diocese of London is concerned, 1980 will be the first year in which more of it has come from the living than from the dead.

Up till now "Investment Income" has provided a larger share than the Common Fund, but 1980 will see the balance swing and unless there is a really dramatic fall in the rate of inflation or the Church Commissioners are able to increase their investment income at a much higher rate than they have done over the past twenty years it will go on swinging.

In summary the figures are:-

Living/Present	Common Fund	54.3%
	Fees etc.	<u>3.7%</u>
		58%
Dead/Past	Investments under Church	
	Commissioners Control	38.8%
	Under Diocesan Control	<u>3.2%</u>
		42%

Even though the living are now contributing more to the cost of paying the clergy than the dead, it remains true that almost no other church in the world is subsidised by investment income to anything like the extent that the Church of England is. It may be no bad thing for our church life if we have to become even more self-supporting in future.

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

In 1966 our first Bonfire Party was held on The Triangle, Holly Road. This was run by the Cub-Scout Leaders, the boys then being encouraged to bring along their own fireworks. Over the years this has grown in every way, 1979 being no exception. It was a cheery sight as one approached the entrance to see the coloured lights, the huge bonfire blazing away, and savour the delicious aroma of hot-dogs and hamburgers.

At our Party this year a very pleasing little ceremony took place when the G.S.L. requested George Casey and Stanley Childs to take up positions in front of the new Headquarters, then the flag was unfurled from the Name Plate, and The George Stanley Hall, named after our first two Group Scout Leaders, came into being. The doors were then opened and everyone had the opportunity of viewing the new building.

We are now looking forward to the day when the Hall is completed and the Official Opening will take place.

D.E.C.

R.J.C. DAFFORNE

Known affectionately to many of us as Ron, our organist and choirmaster for the past 16 years is retiring early in the New Year and hoping to live somewhere in Sussex, so we have sadly to record that he will soon be leaving us.

He has been responsible for enriching our services and bringing much pleasure to us by his high standard of music and devotion to training the choir. He was also largely responsible for the specifications for the overhaul and rebuilding of our organ in 1972.

Ron has agreed to give us a Farewell Recital on Friday evening February 1 at 7.45 pm. The choir will also contribute an item, and there will be an interval during which refreshments will be served. The programme will end at 9.30 pm, and in the course of the evening there will be a presentation ceremony.

Donations towards the presentation to Ron and Daphne may be sent to me at 36 St. James's Road, or given to the Vicar, along with your signature on a slip of paper to be pasted in an album. Cheques should be made out to The Dafforne Presentation Fund. Please book the time and date of the Recital now, and make sure that you come.

G.I.Robinson

BISHOP WAND SCHOOL 10th ANNIVERSARY EUCHARIST

A Birthday should be a happy occasion, said the Bishop of Kensington at a special Eucharist service held at Bishop Wand school to mark the 10th Anniversary of its founding. Although Bishop Wand himself had laid the foundation stone, it had been the Bishop of Kensington who had hallowed the school at its opening ten years ago and had paid several visits to it since that time.

This was indeed a very happy occasion and the school hall was filled to capacity with about seven hundred people. The Gospel story concerned Jesus and His parents, who made their annual visit to the Temple in Jerusalem and when Jesus was twelve, he stayed behind to know more about God from the teachers in the Temple. The Bishop enlarged upon this story and spoke about growing up in today's world when a fundamental belief in God can no longer be assumed as it was when he himself was a boy, and how present day values and morality had made the task of bringing up a family with a belief in God so much more difficult.

He said too, how important it was that the young people should have a good example of Christian living set before them by their teachers and parents and the role of the school and its Christian atmosphere was very important in this respect, and the Bishop paid tribute to Mr. Jones and his staff for their efforts to ensure such an example.

The collection taken that evening amounted to £250 and a Blue Peter Bring and Buy sale held on the following Thursday, among the school's pupils, raised a further £400, all for aid to the starving people of Kampuchea. Here was such an example of how the school truly cares for others. May it continue to flourish for many more years!

H. Taylor

AROUND THE SPIRE

Congratulations to David and Elizabeth Sharman on the birth of their son, Benjamin David, who was born on November 7 – we look forward to making his acquaintance in the near future.

As many of you will know, Dawn and Seymour and their family will shortly be moving into the parsonage of St. Michael and St. George, Fulwell, where Seymour will be the new priest-in-charge. They are also expecting an addition to the family within the next few weeks so we wish them all well in their new home.

We were all very pleased to know that Len Rockliffe had responded so well to the treatment he received in hospital recently and has now returned home. We look forward to seeing him back amongst us again soon. Peter Moorey is also in hospital but is quite happy and comfortable and enjoying the company.

On Friday, November 9, David Dore was admitted to the office of Licensed Reader to serve in our Parish at a special Eucharist at which the celebrant was the Bishop of Kensington. The service was a very happy occasion for David and his family and those who were present included many Readers from surrounding churches. We wish David all joy and happiness in his ministry here amongst us at St. James's. After refreshments, the Bishop held a meeting with the Readers when he outlined his plans for an Area Synod.

It is lovely to know that 'our' twins, Lucy and Sarah Watkins, have both settled happily into college. Lucy is training to be a physiotherapist at Wolverhampton, and Sarah is learning Speech Therapy at the School for the Study of Disorders in Human Communication, in London, so she is still amongst us. We look forward to seeing all our young people at present in college when they return for the Christmas holidays.

As we go to press, we are sorry to hear that Dorothy Casey has had a bad fall in her home, but the latest news is that nothing serious has been broken and she is progressing well in hospital, though still in much pain. Violet Clark, after some weeks of illness being cared for by neighbours and friends, has also now had to go into hospital to receive the full nursing care that she needs.

MRS WINNY WINCHESTER

We were sad to hear of the death, at 85 years of age, after a long period of incapacity, of Mrs. "Winny" Winchester of Wolsey Road. She came to the village sixty years ago as a bride and was a mine of information about the old days of Hampton Hill in the early part of the century, and was very helpful when "The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill" was being researched and compiled, and since then when ever information about past "viliagers" was being sought.

She was a cheerful, kindly person and will be remembered as a splendid Forget-me-not Queen several years ago. Twenty three years a widow she busied herself taking an active part in village affairs and was a member of the Old People's Welfare Committee. She will be greatly missed by her many firends and acquaintances.

M.O.

SOME ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On Wednesday December 12 we shall welcome to our church at 7.30 pm pupils from the Rectory School with their parents and members of the Staff. More than 400 are expected, so our church should be full. After the service coffee and mince-pies will be served.

As the International Year of the Child draws to its close, the Church of England Children's Society will be holding its first Christingle service in St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday December 15 at 2.15 pm. We are invited to send representatives from this parish: if you would like to go please let the Vicar or Mrs. Childs know. The Bishop of London will receive gifts for the Society's work, and give the address.

We shall have our own Christingle service in St. James's on Sunday afternoon, December 23, at 4.30 pm, when the offerings (nearly £50 last year) will also be in support of the important work done by the Society. The modern Christingle service is based on one used by the Moravian Church in the 18th century. The Christingle is an orange — representing the world; this is topped by a candle — representing Christ, the Light of the world. Four sticks with fruit and nuts are stuck into the orange to indicate the four seasons and the produce from the earth. The whole is tied with a red ribbon, which signifies the blood (that is, the life enriched by death poured out to enrich our lives) of Jesus. The highlight of the service is when all the Christingles have been presented, carols are sung and candles are lit: it is an impressive sight. Last year our church was packed to the doors for this service, and late-comers had difficulty in finding a seat, and families had to be split up, so please be in good time this year.

The Parish Open-Air Carol Singing will be in the High Street, in front of the new shopping-centre, beginning at 3.30 pm on the afternoon of Saturday, December 22. It is offered as an expression of joy and thanksgiving, not as a money-raising effort, but any donations received will be given to the good cause of Cancer Research.

The Midnight Eucharist, beginning at 11.45 pm (and again the church is usually packed to the doors, so it is advisable to come in good time), and the Christmas morning services will be as usual, and as mentioned elsewhere all non-pledged offerings will be for Christian Aid. There will be plenty of envelopes available beforehand, so that those who cannot be with us at Christmas can bring their gifts later: but as the needs are urgent, we should like to have all the envelopes returned by the middle of January, so that we can without undue delay send off the total amount received.

On the Sunday after Christmas, members of our Sunday School will lead a Family Service at 11.15 am. Much care and thought are always put into the preparation for this, and worship is stimulated and enlivened by vivid dramatic presentations. In the afternoon at 4.30 pm there will be Carols and Readings by Candlelight (but not so dim that you will not be able to read the words!). Members of the congregation who would like to join in singing some of the more unfamiliar carols at this service are warmly invited to attend the choir practice on Friday, December 28 at 7.30 pm.

CHEMISTS' ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

December

- 16 Boots, 66 Broad Street, Teddington
- 23 D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
- 25 E. & R. Kirby, 53 High Street, Teddington
- 26 D.G. Manley, 122 High Street, Teddington
- 30 H. Hall, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill

(Arrangements for January are not yet to hand, but following the pattern of the Rota, the first two are most likely to be as follows: January 1 : F.G. Martin, 28B Priory Road, Hampton; January 7 : E. Moss, 14 Broad Street, Teddington)

SOME DATES TO NOTE

December

- 10 20.00 Social Committee (4 Ormond Drive)
- 11 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Parochial Church Council (in vestry); Tuesday Club (W)
- 12 19.30 Rectory School : Carol Service (in church)
- 18 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 19 19.15 Holy Communion
- 20 10.30 Young Families' Group : Party (W)
- 21 According to the new Alternative Calendar which we follow, the Festival of St. Thomas is to be observed on July 3 instead of December 21
- 22 15.30 – 16.30 Parish Carol Singing in the High Street
- 23 Sunday morning arrangements as usual; 16.30 Christingle Service
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE : 11.45 Midnight Eucharist
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY : Holy Communion at 08.00 and 12.10; Parish and Family Communion 09.30, followed by the usual light refreshments in the south aisle
- 26 ST. STEPHEN'S DAY : 10.00 Holy Communion
- 27 ST. JOHN'S DAY : 10.00 Holy Communion
- 28 INNOCENTS' DAY : No service in our church this year; 19.30 Members of congregation invited to join choir for final practice for Sunday's Carol Service.
- 30 First Sunday after Christmas: 08.00 Holy Communion; 09.30 Parish Communion and Infant Baptism followed by Parish Breakfast; 11.15 A Family Christmas Service devised and led by members of the Sunday School; 16.30 Carols and Readings by Candlelight – a Festival service for all.

January

- 1 THE NAMING OF JESUS : 10.00 Holy Communion
- 2 14.30 Mothers' Union ' Branch Christmas Party (W)
- 6 THE EPIPHANY : Sunday services as usual
- 12 19.45 Parish Christmas Party and Tramps' Supper (Hall)

BAPTISMS

November

- 11 Jodie Ann Gibson, 115 Wordsworth Road
Benjamin Daniel Hillman, 7 Grenville Mews
Richard David Mark Webber, 158 Uxbridge Road

MARRIAGES

October

- 27 Kevan John Squires to Lynne Maria Williams

November

- 17 Gerald John Singleton to Susan Ann Roberts
Robert Andrew Brittain to Sharon Deana Hards

BURIAL

November

- 19 Winifred Elizabeth Winchester, 41 Wolsey Road, aged 85 years