

Very Dear People of St. James's,

It is impossible for me to write anything like an adequate expression of the deep and overflowing thankfulness which Con and I feel for the love with which you surrounded us and the splendid send-off which you gave us as we brought our ministry here to a close. We know that the marvellous Farewell Party was the result of long and careful planning, inspired thought, and much hard work unstintingly and cheerfully done. The magnificent presentation gift took our breath away and so bowled us over that words of thanks were swept away in this torrent of goodwill. The Sunday services were also deeply moving experiences in a setting of deep devotion to God and warm affection and fellowship amongst ourselves.

Many gracious and lovely things have been written and said about us, which make us feel both humble and grateful: at least we aspired to those things of which you spoke, and if we achieved some of them it was with your loyal support and cooperation. The last words of the Advent Sunday Epistle I felt were most appropriate: 'Therefore hearten one another, fortify one another — as indeed you do'. Yes, indeed as you have done to us and as we have tried to do to you. Shared ministry within the Church — sometimes giving, often at the receiving end — encouraging, heartening one another, building one another up as we press towards the goal; then turning and going out in love and openness and service to those not yet of our fellowship. Praying, worshipping, working and playing together in so many different ways — how we shall miss you all!

I write this in a study far more disordered than usual, amongst piles of books and papers and other articles still to be disposed of and much clearing up still to be done before the van comes in a few days' time for our final move to Seaford on December 22. In a month's time, when we hope to have things moderately in order at Seaford, I hope to write again in a more coherent way — and also to reply to the many personal notes and cards which so many of you have been kind enough to send us and which we shall always treasure.

God bless you all.

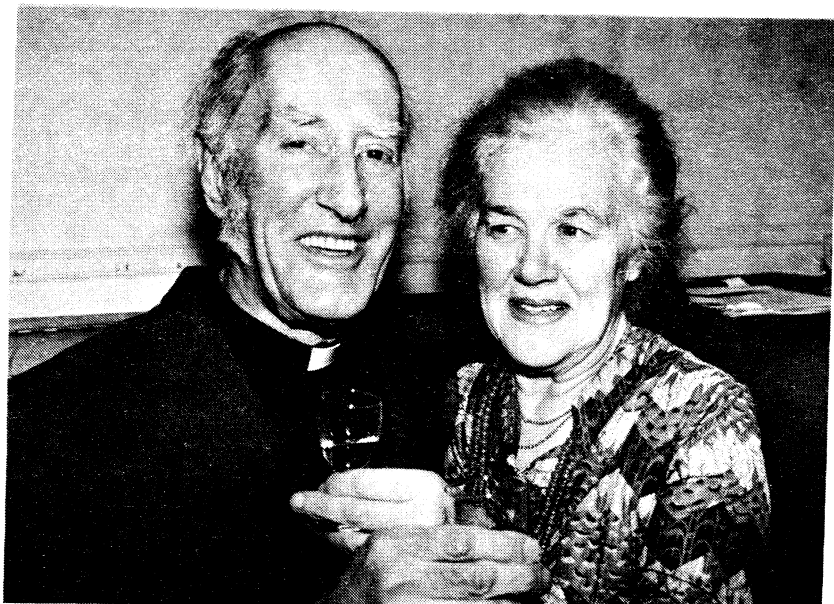
Be of a good courage.

Great love from us both.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Rupert Bourn

When you read this, the Vicar's retirement will be an event of "last year". It will mean that the year 1980 is especially remembered in the annals of St. James's, and we thought it appropriate to devote almost this whole issue to the farewell celebrations of November 29 and 30. It is unfortunately impossible to retain in print everything that was said, much less to truly convey the feelings of those days. But we hope that our contributions will present you with a worthy record of this memorable occasion.



Rupert and Connie as we shall be happy to remember them

Their new address is as follows:

The Rev. R.H. and Mrs. C.H. Brunt,
Flat 2, Richmond Court,
Richmond Road,
Seaford,
E. Sussex BN25 1DR.

Telephone: Seaford 894003

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF CONGREGATION

Dear Rupert and dear Connie — for this is how so many people think of you and will always continue to do. Thank you both for just being you, and thank God for sending you to us and guiding you in the guidance of us.

We have not come here tonight to say a lasting goodbye, that would be too painful. We have come to say Fare Well in your future. After nearly 30 years you are both part of our lives and we are part of yours, it could not be otherwise. So come back to us from time to time to share again in our worship and love.

Some here may have expected me to spend time tonight on emphasising the achievements and happenings of Rupert's incumbency from the spiritual and material impoverishment he found to the immeasurably enriched circumstances he leaves but these things have been and will be dealt with elsewhere and my brief here tonight — and a great and touching honour it is to have been given it — is to speak for each member of the congregation as their representative and so I have approached a cross section of your people asking them to put down in a very few words what you have meant to them. Each contribution, and sadly time does not allow me to include all of them, comes from their hearts in love and gratitude. All were different — you have truly been, through God's grace, all things to all men according to their most need.

One says "I shall always remember Rupert's face and smile, full of love and tenderness as he took a little special baby in his arms to baptise her. I thank God for him and the memory."

Another "Connie and Rupert have opened up a New Life to me and given me lots of verbal encouragement and love."

Yet another "For me Connie and Rupert epitomise giving. They are endowed with that rare gift of making one feel that they have all the time in the world to listen. I know their loving influence affects many far beyond this parish."

One of the older parishioners writes how during her mother's last illness when the family was living several miles out of the parish Rupert regularly brought communion. "I particularly remember" she says "one very wet Friday when we really did not expect him but he came to us in all that pouring rain".

"To call on Connie" writes another "made one feel that one was the one person of all that she most wanted to see — and if you were interested in gardening, that was an added bonus."

Another remembers with gratitude how Rupert insisted very quietly that we should persist with "The Peace" when there was so much initial opposition, and how much it has enriched our togetherness.

"Pigheaded and Mulish" — Rupert — "But experience taught us that when he did dig in his heels he was usually proved right, to our great benefit."

One more tribute reads "I owe Rupert and Connie a great personal debt of gratitude for their love and caring. In bitter disappointment I have come to them in sorrow and found comfort and often a new angle thrown on an old problem making the solution easier or if no solution could be found they taught me acceptance and courage to face the situation and go forward in hope."

Another "My feeling of gratitude to Connie and Rupert is for their availability and loving care and concern for everyone else's problems and well being which seldom gave a hint of their own many personal anxieties. Just knowing they were there has often been enough to get me through a crisis."

Yet another "The Vicar's coming to bless our two homes in Hampton Hill brought us much joy and peace. When anxieties and illness came to us as they come to all, he was always so kind in all his ministrations to us. I especially know that his healing hand of blessing on my head in hospital did so much to aid my recovery."

"I think" writes another "of their quiet strength and the example it has given me and the feeling of support in normal everyday life as well as in times of trouble. Seeing how they have coped with their own problems has been a great lesson in Christianity as they have never ever stopped having time for other people."

Another writes "I remember especially calling in great distress at the Vicarage one Sunday morning just as the joint was being carved. 'Come in, sit down and have some lunch with us' they said "And I was drawn into the family with such love and was comforted and strengthened."

I was told that Rupert, speaking recently at the Prayer Meeting said "Every time Con and I think of you all we shall thank God for having known you" and everyone present must have thought "and every time we remember you both we shall be grateful for the privilege of having been given you to minister to us."

Another tribute acknowledging the deep significance of Rupert's spiritual strength says "Rupert changed my life by the understanding, absolution and consolation he gave me when immense self guilt was overwhelming me. He gave me a fresh road to travel for which I shall be eternally grateful."

The tributes go on "I shall always think of Rupert in the pulpit as his eyes failed him more and more, having to abandon his carefully prepared notes which he could no longer see and preaching wonderful sermons in the light of the Holy Spirit."

Another says "It isn't only those in the congregation who love Rupert and Connie you know, many on the fringe of church life will come on Saturday to show their deep respect and appreciation."

Another remembers "I was talking some years ago to one of my very close friends, the least emotional of people, about something Rupert had just said or done and she said simply 'I love that man' and I knew just what she meant — love for his goodness, his humility, love for seeing God in him and learning from it."

"I regard Rupert" says another person "as a man of great faith and spirituality who has the power to impart these gifts to others and to share with them his vision of a man complete and upright walking in the light of the Son".

"I hold in mind" says another "the words preceding the blessing with which Rupert has sent me forth at Evensong over so many years at the start of another week. 'Be of a good courage, hold fast to that which is good, love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of His Holy Spirit'. These words would seem to me to sum up the precepts by which Rupert and Connie have carried out their ministry."

The last tribute sums it all up "For me, the most impressive element in Rupert's ministry is that his own faith is strong enough to allow the Holy Spirit to develop the inherent Christianity in each of us."

I end with my own tribute "Rupert — A bishop confirmed me with a Capital C. I do not remember *his* special message but you have confirmed me in my faith year after year by your teaching and I remember with deep gratitude and love the many words which have lightened my path."

Fortunately a much greater voice than my small echo has provided a fitting ending to this period of Rupert and Connie's lives and a fitting background to their next years which we know will be happy and fruitful and we hope will be many.

Rupert and Connie "Well done, good and faithful servants". It is our deep belief that you have long been in the joy of thy Lord and will continue in it.

God Bless you Both.

Margery Orton

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF

It is very difficult attempting in a few minutes to do justice to the involvement and the contribution of Rupert and Connie to the life of Hampton Hill and especially to the community around St. James's Church. It has been so varied and extensive. But the words in St. Matthew's Gospel (6.33) seem to me to sum up their very special contribution:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

In this humble seeking after the Kingdom there has been this marvellous encouragement to everyone as a fellow seeker. There has not been any pre-packaged prejudice and dogma, no "snuffing out the smouldering wick or crushing the bruised reed"; but an encouragement for everyone, usually, to listen; wait upon God; move and grow at their own pace; to catch a glimpse of a vision of the possibilities for personal and corporate fulfilment and maturing within the real power and love of God.

Whatever way you choose to remember people; whether it is with brass plates or stone edifices — surely the best and most truly lasting is this: when what they have lived and worked for, those eternal values and truths which they have brought before the people are begun to be understood, then assimilated, adopted and finally lived for by the people. This must surely be the most worthy remembrance to the case of Rupert and Connie.

Writing to the Phillippians (4.6) Paul put it so much better:

"Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true,
whosoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just,
whosoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,
whosoever things are of good report,
if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

And I believe that is how we can pay the greatest tribute to Connie and Rupert, by now continuing to live as they have lived themselves amongst us.

Although this is in some ways a sad occasion it also is one of new challenges for Rupert and Connie and for St. James's. Let us thank and bless God for their ministry with us and pray that the next stage of their lives will be as rewarding and happy.

Alan Taylor

THE RECEPTION AND PRESENTATION ON 29.11.1980

In the Parish Hall on Saturday I felt a member of a large and warmhearted family, a junior member, content to listen, watch and receive all the good things around me.

On Sunday morning in the crowded church there was a different atmosphere, sombre but purposeful. We all interpret the words spoken in the address in different ways. For me, it was a call to grow up within the family of the parish, inspired by the example of Mr. and Mrs. Brunt, for less taking and more giving in the future that lies ahead.

Carol Tipper

Mr. Brunt visited me twentyfive years ago. I was new to the area, had two young children and was pregnant. I declared myself an agnostic. Nevertheless he invited me along to the Young Wives Meeting. There I met a lively group of women, many of whom became close friends. Over the years I have become involved in the parish in all sorts of ways – to our mutual benefit I think! Mr. & Mrs. Brunt were ahead of their time, they made this a Christian parish in the widest sense. Long may it remain so. The farewell party demonstrated to them some of our regard and appreciation, I hope.

Barbara Withers

The Vicar's farewell party at the Parish Hall reminded me of a family occasion. It was rather an extended family, it is true, with about 200 people present. But all the family ingredients were there – love and laughter and a little sadness, as well as shared memories and a fair amount of teasing. There were jokes about the vicar's untidy desk and his wife Connie's hospitality – 'She always made you feel you were the one person in the world she most wanted to see, and if you were interested in gardening so much the better'. There were rows of cards and bowls of flowers and presents were exchanged. At the end, too, there was the familiar family feeling of separation – the sort of sensation you get when a daughter gets married and leaves home or a close relative goes off on a long journey.

George Low

At the time of going to press the Rev. R.H. Brunt and Mrs. C.H. Brunt Presentation Fund has reached a total of £2663.75. (Contributions can still be accepted).

The names of all donors will be included in the 21st Anniversary Album given to Rupert and Connie in 1972, together with the signatures of all those who attended the Presentation in the Parish Hall on Saturday 29 November, 1980.

Leonard Rockliffe
Churchwarden

THE FAREWELL EUCHARIST

The message of Advent, light in darkness, was conveyed with fresh power on November 30th at St. James. It was the last family communion at which Rupert would celebrate as parish priest before his retirement. As a relative newcomer, knowing little of the real heart of this parish's life, I felt very hesitant when approached to write a few words about a service which was the culmination of a thirty-year ministry. Yet even from this somewhat distant vantage point the whole service was a moving symbol of the significance of those years. The church was packed to the doors with people of all ages. The details of the service were carefully and lovingly planned; the altar decked in celebratory red, the bread specially baked by Margaret Taylor; the hymns chosen to take up the predominant theme of praise and celebration. The sense of light, the light of a constant and self-effacing witness, left the deepest impression. It was a ministry which had created a caring community who could be entrusted to continue the work with faithfulness and courage.

Judy Ollington

Our Vicar's thought to make Advent Sunday a joyous one for us, his members of St. James's, was well inspired. The beautiful hymns he chose and which were so joyfully sung, and his farewell sermon have left us with much food for thought. I am sure his heart and Connie's must have rejoiced to see the church filled with so many who came together to join in sacrament and prayer, and to wish them many blessings. My sisters and I will miss them both very much indeed. And I extend to the Vicar my warmest thanks for his kindly ministrations to me in my pew each Sunday that I was able to be in Church.

Coral McCarthy

A TRIBUTE FROM THE SCOUT GROUP

Looking back over Rupert's long ministry at St. James, I think his association with the Scout Group must be the longest of any Church Organisation. I believe his very first service was to sign the Warrant for my father as Cub Scout Leader in 1951. From then on the Vicar was a regular attender at our Committee Meetings and later became our President.

Whether as an honoured guest at the Cub's Christmas Parties, or functioning at the A.G.M. Rupert always took a great interest in the work and activities of the boys, and on more than one occasion he has proudly let us know he was once a Scout.

The Vicar had always showed his concern that the Group should be fully integrated in the life of the Church. When it was decided to change the Morning Service to a 9.30 Parish Communion, after consultation with G.S.L. the Monthly Parade Service and Family Communion followed by breakfast at "Wayside" became an institution. On several occasions the Parade Sunday has been altered as Rupert was always very desirous that the children should take part in the Harvest Festival

In 1977 after Series 3 had been adopted, a meeting was held of all Uniform Group Leaders to discuss how the service could be made more acceptable to children, and the Vicar with great keenness lead the discussion as to how the service could be shortened, and a very commendable solution was arrived at. Three years ago we were very pleased to welcome Rupert and Connie to our Summer Cub Camp at Normandy, and who knows perhaps now they have more time for leisure they will once again pay us a visit. We wish them both every happiness in their retirement.

Michael Childs

AROUND THE SPIRE

Our congratulations for their diamond wedding year go to Mr. & Mrs. Thompson who were married at St. James's Church in 1921. Mrs. Thompson was also confirmed in our church in 1917 and has until recently been a regular worshipper here. Now unfortunately her failing health makes it difficult for her to go out. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Thompson who has supplied flowers for the church for many years, and also Mr. Collins, Mrs. Thompson's brother, who has tended the family grave in the churchyard so well for years.

A Letter

I would like to thank all the members of St. James's Church and many friends who sent beautiful get well cards during my illness. The knowledge that so many prayers were being said for me greatly sustained me and helped my recovery.

Laura Collins

PANTOMANIA DANCE 21 FEBRUARY 1981

There will be a super (yes) Buffet Dance with the John West Trio including female vocalist organised by the Social Committee in the Church Hall on Saturday 21 February Fancy Dress optional. Tickets £3.50 each Limited number only

CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

January

- 1 F.G. Martin, 3 Station Approach, Hampton
- 4 E. & R. Kirby, 53 High Street, Teddington
- 11 Boots the Chemists, 59 Broad Street, Teddington
- 18 D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
- 25 H. Hall, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill

February

- 1 E. Moss Ltd., 14 Broad Street, Teddington
 - 8 F.G. Martin, 28b Priory Road, Hampton
 - 15 D.G. Manley, 122 High Street, Teddington
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SOME DATES TO NOTE

JANUARY 1981

- 6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
20.00 Prayer Meeting and Study Group (75, Burton's Road)
- 11 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
No Evensong
16.30 WELCOME SERVICE
- 12 14.30 Ladies' Choir (in vestry)
- 14 20.00 LITURGICAL COMMITTEE (63, Park Road)
- 15 19.15 Holy Communion (in church or vestry)
20.00 New session of Koinonia meetings begin (in church or vestry)
- 18 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS
- 19 14.30 Ladies' Choir (in vestry)
- 20 20.00 Prayer Meeting and Study Group (75, Burton's Road)
20.00 Committee of Hampton Council of Churches meets at this Church
- 21 19.00 AREA DEAN MEETS CHURCH OFFICIALS AT WAYSIDE
20.00 MEETING OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL at Wayside. The Area Dean (the Rev. E.J. Cotgrove) will attend this meeting

- 22 19.15 Holy Communion (in church or vestry)
20.00 Koinonia (in church or vestry)
- 25 THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL
To-day services are as usual apart from a UNITED SERVICE at 18.45 at
this Church
- 26 14.30 Ladies' Choir (in vestry)
- 29 19.15 Holy Communion (in church or vestry)
20.00 Koinonia (in church or vestry)

FEBRUARY 1981

- 1 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
09.30 MONTHLY FAMILY AND PARADE SERVICE
- 2 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
(Arrangements for services to-day will be notified at a later date)
14.30 Ladies' Choir (in church or vestry)
- 3 20.00 Prayer Meeting and Study Group (75, Burton's Road)
- 5 20.00 Koinonia
- 8 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
No Evensong
16.30 WELCOME SERVICE

Every Thursday, 10.30 a.m. at Wayside, Young Families Group

INTERMENT

December 18 Miss Margaret Ovington-Jones, aged 95 years