

**GOOD NEWS**

Most of us are thankful when the Television, Radio, and Daily Press have good news to tell us rather than terrible accounts of war, explosion, riot, injustice, terror and the like. And yet for some remarkable reason there never seems enough good news to go round. Which is odd, for the Christian has nothing to tell anyone if it is not good news. Unfortunately most of the churches have in their own times and days distorted the good news so that it is unchallenging, stale, ordinary stuff. Here at St. James's we are particularly fortunate that very shortly we shall have the opportunity of looking at our Good News in a new way. First, on All Saints' Day, 1st November, the Youth Action Theatre is performing GODSPELL in the Church at 6.30pm, instead of Evensong. I hope many of you will come to this performance to gain new insight into what is the Good News of Jesus. (Details of what it is all about appear on another page in the Spire.) The Y.A.T. is the first amateur group to have been given permission by the publishers to perform Godspell in public. We shall not charge for coming to watch, but there will be an opportunity of buying a programme and also of contributing towards the expenses of the production.

Secondly, a fortnight later, we shall have the opportunity of hearing our own choir, augmented for the occasion, perform a new work GOD'S MESSENGER, on Sunday, 15th November, at 6.30pm. The work is tuneful and is the 'Story of John the Baptist in words and song (and dance)'.

I hope both these special occasions will help to set us thinking on the right lines for Christmas. So often Christians moan or wail about the commercialisation of Christmas but seem unequal to the challenge of how to change things. Perhaps the way for us this year will be not to indulge ourselves so much but to look for ways in which we can actively seek out those for whom Christmas is the saddest, loneliest, most-to-be-avoided time of year, and welcome them into our homes or visit theirs. The idea has long been discredited that Christianity is the opium of the people; but we have to replace the opium with a healthy and life-giving stimulant that will last and bring continuous strength to those who need it. There is no blanket prescription; it is up to each of us to see how we can be a 'light in the world' (as the Baptism Service puts it) in the place where we are.

N.B. The Prayer and Study Group arranged by Don Rawlins will now be called the Good News Group.

Nicholas Chubb

**THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE BISHOP OF LONDON**

How does one write about an event that one could hear but not see, even though one was present at the occasion?

St. Paul's Cathedral was almost full for the Enthronement of The Rt. Rev. Graham Douglas Leonard as 130th Bishop of London on St. Matthew's Day, 21st September. The time was unusual, 5.30pm, which made it difficult for many to attend. But then to have made it any later would have been awkward since the service lasted just over two hours! The congregation of people, clergy and laity, were admitted to the Cathedral just after 4.15, so we were in St. Paul's

for something over three hours. And the coachloads from Truro must have spent the whole day travelling up to London.

At 4.30 precisely the clergy from London and Truro Dioceses entered in procession to sit in the Transepts. There were quite a number of women from Truro, Parish workers and members of the Community of the Epiphany. The untrained eye of the vicar did not spot any women workers from London! At 5.05 the masters of the City Livery Companies entered, at 5.10 the Dean welcomed very warmly the assembled congregation, and then precisely on time the whole Cathedral broke into "All people that on earth do dwell" lustily – an impressive start. The legal words rolled out and then another hymn – words by Cardinal Newman in deference to Cardinal Basil Hume? More formalities as the Bishop was first placed in his Throne and then seated in his stall in the choir.

At last the Eucharist began, celebrating St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, Tax Collector. Rather unexpectedly but excitingly the Peace was exchanged just as we do at St. James. It made the whole congregation feel one family under God on a great family occasion. The Bishop preached on the Family of God and how the Love of God must shine through us, a minority group in the City of London, let alone the country and world. The communion underlined the family atmosphere with the words "Communicant members of all churches, in good standing are invited to receive Holy Communion", and one of the hymns was a prayer for the unity of the church and the plea for "our sad divisions soon to cease".

As always the music was superb and the highlight for many must have been the choir singing "O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" from Mozart's Coronation Mass.

The Diocese of Truro was clearly sad to lose a true Pastor – the Diocese of London has gained one.

Nicholas Chubb

## **ST. MARY'S 150th ANNIVERSARY**

At the beginning of September our Mother Church, St. Mary's, Hampton was 150 years old and part of the celebrations was a flower festival. A few of St. James's parishioners went to see the decorated church on Saturday afternoon – it was a lovely sight with hundreds of flowers arranged by various parishioners and flower-arranging clubs, and an added bonus for us was that our own organist, Olive Hayward, was giving a beautiful recital whilst we were there.

Ruth Gostling

## **YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP**

My husband and I and our two children have had the pleasure of living in Hampton Hill for almost three years now. I think it is a delightful place in which to live and has somehow managed to retain a lovely village atmosphere. People are really friendly and the parishioners of St. James have always made us feel very much at home. My weekly Thursday morning meetings with the Young Families Group at Wayside were such a lovely way to be introduced to the other young mothers when I first came to live here. My daughter Charlotte and I have made some lasting friends through these meetings as well as enjoying some of the very interesting films, talks and discussions.

Although Charlotte has now started school and we no longer attend, we are always included in the invitations to the outings, etc. I was delighted to be asked along to the 'Pram Service' last Thursday. It was a delightful morning even though my BABIES are now much too big for their prams. The Rev. Chubb made us all feel very welcome and somehow managed to have a chat with everyone there. It was a short service with the Vicar giving us a little tour round the Church pointing out and explaining about interesting items in the building. I am sure it taught the Mums as much as the children as one does not always take the time to look closely at some things which are *just there*.

After the Service we had coffee and home made cakes and much appreciated the fact that ladies of the Mothers' Union had very kindly given up their valuable time to come along and make the coffee, serve it out and *then do the washing up afterwards*.

My mother-in-law who is staying with me from Scotland at the moment, came along and really enjoyed the morning out with the little ones.

I think we all benefitted from this delightful service and even though some of the little ones were perhaps too young to understand exactly what was going on, I like to think that they perhaps sensed some of the atmosphere and peace of the Church!

June Boan

## CHURCH YOUTH CLUB – VISIT TO HEATHROW AIRPORT

We all assembled at Wayside at 9 o'clock. We went in two cars, Joe's and Sarah's. We parked in terminal two's carpark, almost opposite St. George's Chapel. We arrived with five minutes to spare before the 9.30 service at the chapel. It is a very nice chapel; it is built underground and made out of stone. The service lasted about half an hour and is a communion service with two hymns.

Afterwards we split up into groups on top of the Queen's Building. Everyone had a good time and a look round the airport and enjoyed their morning very much. Finally I would like to thank Joe Brownlee and Sarah Watkins for providing transportation to and from the airport.

Christopher Taylor (aged 10)

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

We were so pleased that Saturday September 5th was such a glorious sunny day when we welcomed the Bishop of Seychelles, French Chang-Him to a garden party in this parish. He was able to stay only a few hours before travelling to the North of England for a conference, but it gave the opportunity for some of us to meet him. Not only were there people from St. James's parish but there were members of the 'Friends of Mauritius and Seychelles', from parishes in Twickenham, Teddington, Eastcote, Radlett and Blakesley. It was also fortunate that Canon Peter Woodward who has worked in Madagascar had Father Lala Andriamiharisoa staying with him in Northamptonshire so they were able to join us. We were particularly pleased about this as this year the Mauritius and Seychelles and the Madagascar Association are uniting. The Anglican Church in these three countries comprises the Province of the Indian Ocean whose Archbishop is Trevor Huddleston C.R.

Much of the afternoon was spent enjoying the sunshine and chatting to the

Bishop, to Fr. Lala and to each other. How lucky we were that no planes used our runway that afternoon!! After tea there was more formal talk: Bishop Alan Rogers said that he had known Bishop French for many years. Indeed when he was Bishop of Mauritius and Seychelles he had ordained Bishop French as a young priest and was delighted when he was elected Bishop of Seychelles two years ago.

Both Bishop French and Fr. Lala talked about their countries and the work of the church there. It was most interesting to hear a Seychellois and a Madagascan describing the situation as it is at the moment for both countries have fairly recently had changes in government and are now socialist states. They both showed great enthusiasm for the work the church is trying to do and we understood something of their achievements and their many problems. The church in both islands is in great need of support and certainly needs our prayers. We hope that Bishop French and Fr. Lala will enjoy their stay in England and gain strength and encouragement from their stay here.

Sylvia Boarder

### **"PROFESS AND SURVIVE" – A CONFERENCE IN COVENTRY**

It was the result of a bargain. I asked Bruce Kent, the General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, to come and talk to the London Group of the World Conference of Religions for Peace, and he said that he would if I, in turn, would take part in one of his meetings. I agreed with alacrity; anything to get Bruce Kent as a speaker.

I was rather flabbergasted when I realised that my part of the bargain was to chair the morning session of the important third conference of Christian CND in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday, Sept. 12. Oh dear, this was a big thing, and important, and, indeed, there were nearly 1000 people present.

In my introduction I quoted what was said soon after the first atom bombs were dropped in 1945, "Next to the sin of Adam, the destruction of God's world is the next gravest thing man can do." I spoke of the urgent nature of the conference, and of the importance of the talks, reports and discussions which were to take place that day. The conference was entitled "Profess and Survive"; we were called to declare openly our allegiance to and our faith in God and His Peace, and His Future for His World.

The Rev. Paul Oestreicher was the first speaker. He was very out-spoken about the involvement which we all share in our power politics, in our tax-paying, a huge percentage of which is spent on armaments. He spoke of nuclear armed submarines with young men prepared to put into operation bombs which will obliterate whole cities; there is no room for argument, they would have to do this if ordered to. But we must realise that as Christians we have a moral obligation to refuse to destroy our enemies in this way. Non-violence is the only answer, with a voluntary acceptance of weakness. Disarmament has to start somewhere and has to become a reality. It is morally wrong and is courting desperate danger to build up these terrifying arsenals of nuclear weapons. It happens in these circumstances that what is morally right is also expedient.

Mrs. Sue Dowell included in her speech what could be learned from experiences in the Women's Movement. Dan Smith from Sussex University, an expert on the technical details of the latest weapons, was clear and informative; and the Rev. Jan van Veen reported on what was going on in Europe, and, concentrating

on his own country of Holland, told us of 400 local groups there, many belonging to the churches, which were having a definite effect on decisions being taken by the Dutch Government. He was greatly encouraged by the Coventry meeting; I heartily agreed particularly when it came to the reports of the various CND groups throughout the country: the speakers were young, keen, dedicated, and they outlined imaginative plans for organising support. All looked forward to the big CND March in London on October 24th.

In the afternoon we split up into discussion groups, and came together in the evening to hear Bruce Kent tell us about the progress of the CND movement "It must be seen that the Christian peace movement is as broad as the human race itself."

Later a very informal service was conducted by Bishop Hare Duke in the ruins of the old cathedral, — the link with the new cathedral forming a symbol both of death and of resurrection and of the indestructibility of the Christian faith.

Hannah Stanton

## **Synopsis**

### **"GODSPELL"**

Godspell is a pop musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, containing a great deal of happiness, high spirits and innocence. It is full of tuneful melodies and happy songs which the audience finds infectious and hum on their way home after the performance. These songs are all in the modern, pop style and are backed by a group of musicians. The story is interpreted by a group of young people in clown-type costume. In the first professional performance in this country the leading role was played by David Essex.

Starting with a formal prologue when philosophers down the ages propound their theories, first in solo and then in argument and finally in fight, forming a type of 'Tower of Babel', they are interrupted by a loud blast on a horn from the rear of the auditorium and the arrival of John the Baptist singing 'Prepare Ye the way of the Lord'.

The main part of the play is interpreted by a group of ten young people, one of whom assumes the character of Jesus, another John the Baptist and Judas and the remainder the Disciples. In a vigorous, informal and tuneful manner, the various parables of the Gospel are acted out in mime and dance, puppetry and so on.

During the interval, members of the audience are invited on stage to take wine with the cast and to be entertained by them.

Then the second half carries on Christ's teaching in a similar manner until the happy mood suddenly changes and we watch an interpretation of the Last Supper, the Temptation of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Betrayal and finally the Crucifixion. The contrast between the gaiety and innocence of the body of the play and most moving ending, is very striking but suddenly again, this is transformed to happiness, signifying the Resurrection. It is a most marvellous experience and can be enjoyed by religious and non-religious alike.

As mentioned elsewhere, on Sunday 1st November we shall have the pleasure of having this exciting musical performed in our church.

## CHURCH YOUTH CLUB (CYC)

Senior and Junior CYC continue to meet every Sunday evening at 7.30 in Wayside. The splitting into the two groups was proved a great success as both are very well attended. A committee has recently been *democratically* elected for a period of six months and it will be the duty of this committee to ensure CYC maintains its varied programme as well as assist the Secretary, Treasurer and myself with the increasing amount of administrative work. Past events have included talks from the Vicar and David Bonner, a visit to Houslow Pentecostal Church and swimming at Feltham Baths to cool the brain. At the time of writing this report, I am still finalising the Senior CYC Programme for the end of October and most of November but I hope the itinerary will be:-

11 October A visit to St. Stephen's Church Youth Club, East Twickenham.

18 October To be arranged.

25 October Peter Rawlins — This is Your Life.

1 November Performance of Godspell in Church.

8 November A talk from the Police.

15 November Community Care Work.

22 November An Evening with Canon Alan Gowdey,

Chaplain of Heathrow Airport.

29 November Games Evening.

The programme for Junior CYC members is still in the course of preparation. All new members between the ages of 8 and 17 are most welcome.

Joe Browlee

## THE MOTHERS' UNION

For over twelve years the Mothers' Union, London Diocese, has rented Landsdowne Holiday Home, Winchelsea Beach, East Sussex, near Rye, for the last two weeks of July to provide a holiday for mothers and their children who otherwise would not have one. The families are sent mainly by Social Workers, Welcare, etc. but also by MU members and Young Wives Groups.

Each week we have approximately six mothers and twenty-two children. They travel down by coach from Waterloo and after a week's holiday they go home and the coach returns with the second group. Two MU members run the house and do the cooking, etc. plus one husband who is a jack-of-all-trades. So that the mothers can have a break from their children we have six students with us, three boys and three girls. Mostly they are the sons and daughters of MU members. During the day they take care of the children, organizing games or country walks, playing on the beach with them, etc. The students also wait at table, do the washing up, and the boys peel the potatoes. We rent two caravans on a nearby site where the students sleep and spend their off-duty time. They do a wonderful job and this year we had Sarah Childs, granddaughter of one of your members helping on the holiday. During the last two holidays we have been entertained to tea on their farms by MU members from Brede in Sussex, events much enjoyed by the mothers and children (and students).

It's hoped that this holiday will continue and already we have been asked if we wish to book the house for 1982. Surely this holiday is one aspect of the MU in action as people who care. How can *we* help? you may ask. Well, each year two members are at Waterloo to see the coaches off. Also the MU provides

sheets, pillowcases and towels for the family — they go on the coach with the families each week — perhaps your Branch could help with the washing of these one year? Lastly your Branch help is needed by giving a donation towards the cost of the holiday. We assure you it will be money very well spent.

## **HAMPTON RURAL CENTRE**

In the Spring this year a meeting at the White House discussed the pros and cons of creating some sort of 'Urban Farm' or 'Rural Centre' in Hampton.

Regrettably the idea of a farm with all the attendant problems of farm animals has been abandoned but a marvellous short term site (4-5 years) has been made available by the local authority. It is in Oak Lane and is land which may one day house a new Infant and Junior School; it has been a glasshouse area and can be identified by the tall boiler house chimney which is all that now remains.

Our plans are many: first we have to clear the site of rubbish and stack and store useful items, the building of an access path around the site is an early priority, establishing a picnic area, planting a copse and butterfly attracting shrubs, shallow pools for frogs and newts, a blackberrying area, a dovecote, mulberry trees for future silk worms and, remembering our own delight at picking wild flowers, areas planted in the old greenhouse beds especially for that purpose — and all this with good access for those in wheelchairs.

Site clearance has begun by members of the Committee. The Probation Service has been approached with a view to help from those sentenced to community service, local building contractors are being asked to loan their heavy plant and machinery. At a later stage we have offers of help from local schools and youth groups. Neighbouring residents are very keen to help, especially as many of them have minute gardens. Joan and Gerald Heath are doing sterling work and among much else have a veritable forest of tiny trees growing in pots awaiting their new home. If you would like to be involved in any way please ring the Heaths at 979 1060, all helpers will be most welcome.

Carol Tipper

## **HAPPY NINETIETH BIRTHDAY!**

On October 8th one of our much loved congregation, Mrs. Coral McCarthy, celebrates her ninetieth Birthday. Mrs. McCarthy, with her sisters the Misses Browne, have attended St. James's for over thirty years since they moved to Hampton Hill.

Last year Miss Laurie Browne had her ninetieth Birthday, this year it is Mrs. McCarthy's turn — we all join in wishing her our sincere congratulations and offer her our love and good wishes for the future. We will all look forward to wishing Miss Merlin Browne the same felicitations!

## **WHEN EYES MEET**

How often upon the bus or train to work while minding your own business save the odd mental criticism of your fellow passengers' dress, facial expressions, or what they are reading do your eyes meet with those of a stranger. And once met, how often do those eyes, those unknown eyes that look out onto a different world to yours, that have been crying while you laughed, that have

been wakeful while yours were closed in sleep, that have looked out in love while you looked in with hate; how often, instead of drifting apart with unconcern into their own high walled dominions do they stay for a while looking out across the tops of those fences at one another. And something is recognised. Suddenly you are threatened, sense of security crumbles with the fear of secrets flung open, soaking up your courage. You must look away. You do so.

Then just as the undertow sucks back on the pebbles that the wave has carried up the beach your eyes are pulled back and meet again, this time almost with familiarity. Something is shared. A smile spreads across nearby lips but now the journey is ended and it is time to gather up your belongings.

You walk away with a little knowledge, perhaps soon to be forgotten, that grass is green, that birds do sing and rain falls upon both sides of the fence.

Richard Tipper

**THE TEDDINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY** has a great need for good new voices in all sections but particularly for sopranos, tenors and basses. There will be a varied repertoire of singing which includes two major concerts, one in December with Bach's Magnificat in D and a selection of carols and the other in May 1982 is a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah with orchestra.

In January the choir will take part in the annual Malcolm Sargent "Messiah" Charity Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. New members are auditioned during the first few weeks of term to enable the Musical Director to place them in parts for which they are most suited. The Society meets every Monday evening at the Waldegrave Centre, Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham from 7.45 to 9.45 pm. and the Secretary, Mrs. Ruth Gostling of 21 St. James's Road, Hampton Hill (telephone 979 3748) will be pleased to provide further information.

## **DATES TO NOTE**

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|---------|----|--|
| October | 13 | 9.45 am Editorial Board Meeting, 75 St. James's Avenue   |
|         | 14 | 8.00 pm Good News Group, 75 Burton's Road  |
|         | 19 | 11.30 am Mothers' Union Deanery Service<br>at St. Mark's, Teddington   |
|         | 25 | 9th Sunday before Christmas<br>Services as usual except evening<br>Beware of the end of British Summer Time<br>No Evensong here, 6.45 pm United Service to mark Week<br>of Prayer for World Peace at All Saints, Hampton |
|         | 28 | SS. Simon & Jude<br>8.00 pm Good News Group, 75 Burton's Road  |



## **Dates to Note continued . . . . .**

November	1	ALL SAINTS DAY 8.00 am Holy Communion 9.30 am Parish Communion with Parade Service 6.30 pm GODSPELL
	3	8.00 pm PCC at Wayside
	4	2.30 pm Mothers' Union at Wayside
	8	7th Sunday before Christmas 8.00 am Holy Communion 9.30 am Parish Communion 4.30 pm Welcome Service for Remembrance Sunday
	11	8.00 pm Good News Group, 75 Burton's Road
	15	6th Sunday before Christmas 8.00 am Holy Communion 9.30 am Parish Communion 6.30 pm GOD'S MESSENGER
December	9	6.30 pm Rectory School Carol Service

## **Regular Weekday Events:**

Wednesdays	8.00 pm	Catechumenate
Thursdays	10.30 am 7.15 pm 8.00 pm	Young Families Group, Wayside Holy Communion Koinonia
Saturdays	7.00 pm	Catechumenate

## **CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA**

October	11	Kirby, E. & R., 53 High Street, Teddington
	18	Boots the Chemists, 59 Broad Street, Teddington
	25	Thomas, D.R., 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
November	1	Hall, H., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill
	8	Moss, E. Ltd., 14 Broad Street, Teddington
	15	Martin, F.G. (Chemists) Ltd., 28b Priory Road, Hampton

## **BAPTISMS**

- August 9 Clare Louise Gloyns, 27 Fry's Lane, Yateley  
Eleanor Shaddick, 4 Grenville Mews
- September 13 Chloe Elizabeth Sherfield, 52 St. James's Avenue  
David Robert McCall, 9 Wordsworth Road  
Melissa Louise Hook, 60 Wordsworth Road  
Grahame Richard Darey Hook, 60 Wordsworth Road

## **MARRIAGES**

- August 22 Kenneth Alan McBride to  
Elizabeth Katharine Rosalia Riches
- August 29 Bruce Edwin Money to Jennifer Mary Gwendoline Dibden
- September 12 Stephen John Mogford to Judith Margaret Mitchell

## **FUNERALS**

- August 26 Dorothy Collins, 8 Lindsay Road, aged 81
- August 28 Gladys Rayson, 3 Cross Street, aged 70
- September 4 Florence Alexander, 8 Fytzwygram Close, aged 81
- September 22 Bessie Keith, 13 Rectory Grove, aged 68
- September 23 William Ungate, 180 Hanworth Road, aged 61
- September 28 Edith Smith, 29 Wolsey Road, aged 90