

Most of our thoughts recently at St. James' have been centred round the sudden news of the imprisonment in Johannesburg in South Africa of Tom Stanton, Hannah's brother. Those of us who have met Tom realise what a gentle unassuming person he is. How could he fall foul of the Law? Beneath the quiet exterior is a strength which enabled him to stand firm when asked to give confidential evidence in court about a former student. As we are "going to press" we have received the first detailed account of what Tom Stanton is reported to have said: 'Your Worship, I would sooner spend my life in gaol than live outside with the fact that I had testified against this young man on my conscience'.

Someone has immediately said that it reminds them of the scene of Christ standing before Pilate in the Passion story in the Gospels. It reminds me too of the words from the Baptism Service "I sign you with the sign of the cross, to show that you must not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified and manfully to fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto your life's end". How many of us would expect to have to be faithful in these sort of circumstances? Would we stand firm if the going became rough and tough?

It seems to me that the issue is not so much one of contempt of court (which it technically is because Tom was subpoenaed to give evidence) but rather one of confidentiality before the courts. It is a matter of trying to force (in this case a priest) to talk about matters which he knows were spoken to him in complete trust. That is a serious matter in any country and one which we think is a problem only in other places. But one of the provisions of the Police Act which was proposed by the Government earlier this year was to make it legal for the Police to inspect *anyone's* personal files. This meant that doctor's, priests', solicitors', accountants', social workers' records could be examined. Protest was mounting fast and then the Government dropped the proposals just before the General Election. There will undoubtedly be another attempt to draft a Police Act to give the Police more powers to help combat crime. Some of the powers will be able to be construed as necessary since much organised crime takes advantage of modern technology. But we must be on our guard not to allow any clause to be inserted which will make it possible for confidentiality to be breached. We have cause to be immensely thankful for the society in which we live. It still enshrines many things of which other countries are envious — and one of these is the liberty of the individual. Once the statutes of this country allow private documents to be used and searched we are indeed on a slippery slope. We must not suppose that this can never happen here. There are always those about who enjoy making life difficult or painful for others and these are the people who would come to the fore in due course if the rules were changed. Let this terrible incident of Tom Stanton be a warning to us all. And in the meantime let us support him with our prayers — and also the students who are under arrest so far without trial — Karl Niehaus and Jansie Lourens.

HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AUTUMN LECTURES – No. 1

Barefoot Librarians or What it Means to be a Christian in Latin America

The woman squats on the bare earthen floor of her hut. With one hand she feeds more sticks to the fire burning next to her on the floor while she is looking at the pictures in a book on first aid. She will have to wait for her young son to come home to tell her what the text says because she herself cannot read and she cannot even understand Spanish, the language in which this and every other book at her disposal is written. When her son learned to read and write a few years earlier they had absolutely no books or paper in the village. The teacher used the blackboard until she ran out of chalk, and the children practised their writing on large cactus leaves, with old nails.

This picture was conveyed to us by Father John Medcalf, the excellent, most unassuming speaker at the first HCC lecture. He has dual English and Peruvian nationality and recently had to leave Peru after 15 years because his work there was seen as a threat by the repressive Government.

He had been involved with setting up a mobile library network in Northern Peru which is offering an alternative system of education for the rural population to counteract the lure of the huge metropolitan city of Lima. People move there in search of work and to be near medical and educational facilities. Their hopes all too often prove vain and conditions in the vast urban shanty towns are even bleaker than those in the more and more pauperised rural areas. There are not many schools as we know them and it would be futile to try and set up an educational system on the European model.

The mobile libraries, carried on foot, in rucksacks to villages as far as 8 hours walk away from the nearest town, provide vital knowledge for the men, and through them the women, to improve their living conditions. First aid, religion, agriculture, handicrafts are taught through books; and likewise for instance ideas on trade union organisation, which is why the scheme is disapproved of by the government. Father John mentioned quietly how some men who had tried to form a trade union in their village were just simply shot.

This library scheme is one practical outcome of what it means to be a Christian in Latin America. The speaker briefly explained the political situation of the non-aligned third world and the sociological background of extreme polarisation between the very small landowning ruling class and the vast poor population who have no rights or prospects. The church provides many of the services which the state fails to give. The Latin American theology best formulated by Gustavo Gutierrez in his book "A Theology of Liberation" has grown out of the obligation the Christian in Latin America feels to change existing structures because these are manifestly unjust.

Religion and politics cannot be separated; theology is a living thing, continually being made by the grass roots communities of Peru and Brazil. Religion and politics are constantly and everywhere being talked about (like the weather in England) by the people in this continent where the great majority are believers, and where most people — as Father John Medcalf put it — know and love God much better than they could explain Him.

Hilde Bucknell

RE-ORDERING OF THE CHURCH

As most of you will be aware, certain alterations to the church building are planned to improve visibility and audibility. Detailed plans and descriptions will soon be ready for inspection, both in the church and here in the Spire. Please watch out for them so that you can fully inform yourselves.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

For many years now the churches in this area have made the Week of Prayer for World Peace the occasion of a United Service, and this is taking place at St. Mary's, Hampton, on October 16th.

Ever since 1974, when the idea of WPWP was started, the Rev. Gordon Wilson, a great man for peace, now Canon Wilson, has been its secretary and inspirer. He has lived for many years in Crewe, and is now coming to live in the St. James's parish. He will now be able to devote more time to peace issues.

He is to be our preacher on October 16, and the Hampton Council of Churches will be proud to welcome him to this area in his capacity as an interpreter of inter-faith involvement in peace.

Hannah Stanton

A QUIET DAY for the Parish along previous lines has been arranged for Saturday, November 5th. It is going to be led by one of the Sisters in Ham. Please enter your name on the list at the back of the church if you would like to come.

Advance Notice

The Parish Party this winter will take place on January 14th. The Social Committee extends a warm welcome and will issue all further details later.

A Date not to be Missed

On the 29th October at 7.30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, Hampton, there is to be an evening of music in aid of the S.O.S. Society. This Society looks after elderly men and women in residential homes — mental aftercare hostels — hostels for young men setting out into their adult working life — and hostels for rehabilitating ex-offenders. A great need indeed. A local project for the elderly is hoping to get off the ground in Hampton, with your help.

The performers are: Katie White - Soprano; Rebecca Chard - Clarinet; Michael Foster - Piano.

Tickets at £2.50 may be obtained in advance from Lady Hirst, Almond House, Church Street, Hampton, or from Miss Jean Dobson, 17 Wensleydale Gardens, Hampton. Please support this effort.

J.A.D.

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

BARBECUE:: On Friday, September 9th, all Cubs and Scouts, together with their parents were invited to come along to The Triangle, see how far we had progressed with the new Scout Headquarters', and how much was needed both in money and labour before it could be put into permanent use for the boys. It was very gratifying to see so many there (about 150), the display of Camp photos proved of great interest, and "The Webb Ivory" stall with its attractive display of Christmas cards and decorations seemed to be kept quite busy.

When all the delicious "hot dogs" and "hamburgers" had been consumed the G.S.L. invited all the parents to be seated and after giving them a warm welcome introduced to them Valerie Parkinson, Chairman of the Executive Committee. This Committee is principally involved in fund-raising, and it was explained how essential it was for all parents to support the various fund-raising events to ensure the continuous successful functioning of the Group with all its numerous activities.

B A Z A A R

will be held in the Parish Hall, School Road, Hampton Hill on
SATURDAY, 22nd OCTOBER at 2.30 p.m. Admission 10p.

B O N F I R E P A R T Y

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th
at "THE TRIANGLE"

rear of Holly Road Recreation Ground
commencing at 7 p.m. Admission 50p.

Tickets from G.S.L. 977-5041 : C.S.L. 941-0352 : 979-9054.
Soup, "hot dogs" etc. will be on sale.

MAGAZINE APPEAL

Over the past few years it has become increasingly expensive to produce the Parish Magazine. Even after the contributions received from our advertisers the cost is taking more and more of our limited resources. At the moment the net cost to the Church for each of the 800 copies of the magazine is approximately £1 per annum. We therefore feel obliged once again to ask our readers to share this expense.

We realise that some of you have already made a generous donation for the current year. Naturally, we do not expect those of you who have, to do any more now. But for those of you who wish to make a donation now we have enclosed an envelope addressed to the Vicar. We shall not be acknowledging any donations in The Spire, but we assure you that we shall be very grateful indeed for any contributions you care to make.

The Editorial Board

PS: *The future of The Spire is currently under discussion (see meeting on October 9th). If you have any suggestions as to format and/or content, please make them known to us.*

MOTHERS UNION NEWS

On September 11th a Hand Embroidered Linen Altar Cloth costing £136 was presented to the Church by the Mothers Union. This was blessed by the Vicar at the Parish Communion and used for the first time on Tuesday, September 13th when the Mothers Union came together for their monthly corporate communion at the 9.30 celebration.

The Annual General Meeting on November 2nd will be followed by some slides and snaps about events during the past few years of our Branch.

THE GOOD NEWS GROUP

The above Group has been meeting for seven years. The only time in the year in which we do not meet is August. We get together fortnightly at 8 pm at 75 Burtons Road.

The aim of the meetings is to provide fellowship, opportunity for prayer and study. Part of the fellowship is provided for by starting with coffee and biscuits during which we talk about our own particular needs and the needs of others known to us. We then sing several hymns which set the atmosphere for prayer. We pray for the Church, the World, the sick and for our own particular needs. After prayers we read a passage from the Bible and then discuss the background and what the message holds for us.

There is no condition of membership, all are welcome: the atmosphere is informal. By talking, praying and discussing the Scriptures together we grow to love the Lord more and also to cope for and love each other.

Why don't you come along? You will be very welcome.

Don Rawlins

KOINONIA

The Koinonia is another group that meets regularly to help each member to grow into a more mature Christian. Everyone is welcome and each meeting is a good opportunity to start coming. We meet every Thursday at 8 pm in the Vestry. Our theme at present is the Holy Spirit. The word Koinonia is Greek and means fellowship, which St. Paul uses for partnership in the work of the gospel, for service and giving, with God being the source of all Christian Koinonia. By meeting together regularly for prayer, praise and discussion we hope to make the fellowship between ourselves and with God more real.

Alan Taylor

THE PRAYER CIRCLE

There are a number of people who feel called to pray for the needs of others. They seldom meet but provide a circle of prayer ready at short notice to pray for the needs presented to them. If you would like to have us pray for you, or for those close to you, or known to you to be in trouble, grief and sickness – contact us and within a very short time prayers will be being offered to God to minister to your need.

Contact initially The Vicar 979 2069 or Margery Orton 979 5868.

LENTEN COURSES: Every Lent there are about three groups to choose from, meeting weekly through the Lenten period. They are announced in Church and magazine and attendance is always an inspiring experience.

NOTHING

NOTHING is good for you. It encourages the front of your mind to shut up, so that you can hear the tiny voice at the back of your mind (this is the voice of the Real You). NOTHING encourages quiet thought about your life and whether you like it, and if not which bits. This self-examination can help you sort out what you don't want, which is one way of finding out what you do want, which is how you discover and encourage the blossoming of the Real You. NOTHING is best done sitting upright, or in a warm bath, or lying down (but not in bed, as you usually go to sleep). NOTHING needs concentration and should not be accompanied by smoking, drinking, knitting, music or anyone else. Try lowering your standards and doing a few enjoyable things with no future to them, perhaps some pursuits that you are not particularly good at but that you enjoy, such as dud double tennis matches (getting the ball over the net any old how is all that counts). Forget what you are supposed to do, what you were brought up to do and start doing exactly what you feel like. This helps you to sort out what is right for you and what is wrong for you. This is how you meet, recognise, and start to enjoy the Real You.

Monica Heaford

BACK FROM AFRICA

When looking over a map of Southern Africa the presence of Lesotho is hardly noticeable. Surrounded entirely by the Republic of South Africa this tiny kingdom, no larger than Wales clings to the harsh peaks of the Drakensburg and Maluti ranges. It appears at first sight to be one of the several Bantustan puppet states set up by the South African Republic. But no, Lesotho is an independent monarchy, member of the Commonwealth, and United Nations. Notable among African countries for its vulnerability, its almost total lack of resources and freezing winters.

Being where it is, high in relatively impassable mountains, surrounded by a highly developed state all the major towns of Lesotho are on or near the border with South Africa. Border towns have their own particular atmosphere created by the strange mixing of cultures. From the hills come the rural Basotho tribespeople with their traditional costumes, beliefs and customs. From the Republic the sophisticated visitors, entrepreneurs, fugitives with their more than western ways. For many the border towns are a stop-over; throughout the year half Lesotho's male population migrates back and forth between home and where the work is – the Republic's mines. And from South Africa come the lorries bringing in all our goods and taking the Rand back to where it belongs. Amongst this sometimes hectic sometimes lazy kaliedescope of activity function the churches and the schools.

I came to work at St. Catherine's College, a boarding school for girls run by the Anglican Diocese in the capital – Maseru. My small room adjoining the chapel between the school buildings and the little convent was as pleasant a home as I could have wished for and despite its limited comforts (not until February did I get time to install plumbing) and the proximity of nearly three hundred vociferous little women (appropriately named 'goats' by the matron) I lived in the greatest happiness for the whole of my eight month stay.

Although I came to work on the maintenance team of the school my first job was to be school secretary. The previous secretary was due to leave only ten days after my arrival – I had to learn the job in a matter of days. Fortunately she was a good teacher and my two months handling of the school accounts passed without serious mishap. During the Christmas vacation I took over the maintenance team and we set to giving the school a new coat of paint for the next term. With school under-way again and once the routine jobs of fixing broken loos, windows and beds were under control we were able to begin some more ambitious projects. I designed several pieces of school furniture which we successfully manufactured in some quantity and towards the end of my stay we completed a water storage project giving the dormitories a constant supply of water. In my spare time I got the chance to see some of the wonderful mountain scenery which bewitches one into stillness and also visit the township of Soweto in the Republic. Numerous other activities like the school play and 'Maseru Singers' are too many to describe.

When I think of all I saw, all that has happened to me this year I realise that I am the luckiest person I know. To have learned so much from Mpho, my deaf and dumb friend on the maintenance team. To have worked with Sister Jean Mary, the principal and other teachers and to have met all kinds of people from Bishops to thieves has been my great privilege. I thank God remembering the prayer for Africa.

God save Africa
Guide her rulers
Guard her people
And give her Peace.

Richard Tipper

BRASS CLEANING

For many years we have been fortunate in having a succession of willing, regular brass cleaners who have diligently polished all our brass every week. Our most recent volunteer, Ursula Pearce only took on the job for a temporary period and would now like to hand it over. We do thank her, and all others who, for many years, have kept our brass sparkling.

I now feel the time has come to try and spread the load and ask for volunteers who would be willing to do the job on a rota basis. If you feel you could help with this job occasionally (all materials provided) please tell the Vicar or contact me Eila Severn (979 1954).

PUZZLE SOLUTION

A correct solution for the "Jumble" in the August Spire was received from the Harries family of 27 The Wilderness. The words were taken from the text for August 14th, on page 694 of the ASB: choice, count, longer, implore, innocent, favour, dawned. And the final word was RECONCILIATION. (Apologies for a mistake: an additional letter "o" should have been ringed.)

"War is good entertainment"
"Getting to know about arms is fun!"

If you don't quite agree with these two statements think about the lead-up recently on TV to the latest serial about World War II.

IN MEMORIAM

Judy Ollington was a lecturer in religious studies at Whitelands College in Putney. Tragically widowed only seven years ago she continued to live in Hampton Hill where her house was always open to many young people. For the past three years Judy had suffered progressively from cancer. Her continued cheerfulness under the relentless course of the disease was something which was marvellous to see. She was a Christian and her faith was abundantly witnessed by the tributes from her colleagues, both secular and ecclesiastical, at her funeral in St. James' Church on 26th July. She died at the age of forty five, mourned by her loving family in Leicester and by the many, many friends and students who had been privileged to know her over the years.

A Friend

AROUND THE SPIRE

Many people will remember Mrs. Ogden, Millie Saunders' mother, who lived for many years in St. James's Avenue. Gertrude Alice Ogden would have been a hundred years old next January, she died, peacefully, on August 3rd in Brentford Hospital. She was famed locally for her many and varied 'arts and crafts' ranging from beautiful needlework to flower arranging — this last a gift her daughter certainly inherited. We send our condolences to her family and will continue to remember Mrs. Ogden and her many talents for a long time to come.

Several of the 'invalids' we have been thinking of and praying for in the past few weeks are beginning to show signs of a good recovery. Alison Thompson is out and about again although still only to a limited degree and Anna Trenter, who had a very bad car accident at the start of the school holidays has recovered sufficiently to return to school. Please remember Ian, who is having eye problems and Joyce Doughty who is also having eye treatment.

Some cause for celebration also occurred recently. The arrival of Master James Guy Forster Ormerod, to name one, who arrived on August 29th, a brother for Emma and Lucy, congratulations to Jane and Russell and we look forward to meeting the new arrival. Terry and Soo Lin Baldwin's daughter was christened on August 21st. Terry was Secretary of the PCC for some time, and we welcome Jennifer Anne into our extended family and wish them all well. We don't often celebrate a Golden Wedding but Len and Vera Rockcliffe celebrated theirs on September 8th and enjoyed a very happy few days with many friends and family. Love and best wishes to them and may they celebrate many more years together.

At the other end of the scale may we remember two couples shortly to be married in our Church, Robert Williamson and Penny Connor, and Keith Lambert and wife-to-be Liz. Keith's parents, Les and Pat Lambert are well known locally and Keith himself was a regular member of our congregation for some years. We wish them all a long and happy life together and may they celebrate a Golden Wedding as happily as Len and Vera in 50 years time.

The Church recently received a rather special gift from the members of the Mothers' Union in the form of a new fair linen Altar Cloth, hand embroidered in the corners and totally covering the altar and reaching down to the floor on each side. This is the first time for many years that we have had an Altar Cloth which actually fitted the present altar and it makes a very welcome and handsome addition to our small stock of Church Linen. Thank you everyone who contributed to this very acceptable gift.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms	September 25th	Emma Elizabeth King, 84 Wordsworth Road Lucy Mary Alexander O'Riordain, 2 Eastbank Rd.
Weddings	September 10th September 17th	Andrew Linden Tribe & Elizabeth Anne Warner Robert James Williamson & Penelope Ann Connor
Funeral	September 9th	George Bell 73A Uxbridge Road aged 64

CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

October	9th	Martin, F G Ltd, 3 Station Approach, Hampton
	16th	Moss, E Ltd, 14 Broad Street, Teddington
	23rd	Martin, F G Ltd, 28b Priory Road, Hampton
	30th	Kirby, E & R, 53 High Street, Teddington
November	6th	Boots the Chemists, 59 Broad Street, Teddington
	13th	Hall, H, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill

Weekdays except Saturdays 6 - 7 p.m.
Sundays 11 - 12 noon
There is a 24 hour Chemist at London Airport

	Communicants	Attendance	Pledged Giving	Other Giving
21.8	97	113	185	8
28.8	74	84	115	8
4.9	90	100	83	12
11.9	90	102	189	13
18.9	110	141	137	12
			Pledged Giving by Bankers Order August	£209

DATES TO NOTE

October

- 8 10.00 Churchyard Working Party
- 9 PENTECOST 20
Services as usual
After Evensong discussion on Parish Magazine, Open Meeting
- 10 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
- 11 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James' Avenue
- 12 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Deanery Synod (All Hallows)
- 13 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 16 LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Morning Services as usual
18.30 United Service for One World Week (St. Mary's, Hampton)
Preacher: Rev. Canon Gordon Wilson

- 17 20.00 HCC Lecture (All Saints, Hampton)
"What it means to be a Christian in Iran"
- 18 ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 Wayside Management Committee
20.00 Tuesday Club, Wayside, "History of English Porcelain"
- 19 20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 20 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 22 14.30 Scouts Bazaar
- 23 NINTH SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
PLEASE NOTE: Readings ASB Year 2 – Summer Time Ends
Morning Services as usual
16.30 Evensong
- 24 Ladies Choir, Vestry
- 25 09.30 Holy Communion
- 26 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 PCC Meeting on Stewardship
- 27 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
20.00 Wayside Monday Centre AGM
- 28 St. SIMON AND ST. JUDE, APOSTLES
- 30 EIGHTH SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
Services as usual
- 31 20.00 HCC Lecture (All Saints, Hampton)
"What it means to be a Christian behind the Iron Curtain"

November

- 1 ALL SAINTS
09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 Tuesday Club, Wayside, "A Year as Deputy Mayoress"
- 2 14.30 MU, AGM, followed by slides on branch events
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 3 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
20.00 Hall Management Committee
- 5 Parish Quiet Day, Ham
19.00 Scouts Bonfire Party
- 6 SEVENTH SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
Morning Services as usual, with Parade
16.30 Parish Communion
- 7 Ladies Choir, Vestry
- 8 09.30 Holy Communion
- 9 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
- 10 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 13 SIXTH SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
Remembrance Sunday, Services as usual
- 14 HCC Lecture (All Saints, Hampton)
"What it means to be a Christian in Fiji"
- 15 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James' Avenue