

July is the month when we at St. James's hold our annual birthday party. Like all guests at such parties we hope for fine weather and good company in which to celebrate. Like all good parties we expect to see both family and friends, some old, some new. We like to renew acquaintances and talk of times past. We like to discuss what the year may bring. We hope to have fun. You who read this are part of the family and we hope you will make every effort to come to one of the services arranged for July 22nd. St. James's Day is 25th July but we hold our Patronal Festival, as our party is called, on the Sunday before in order that the majority of people may come before they go away on holiday. We hope that many will come to the afternoon service at 4.30 p.m. and enjoy some tea with us on the church lawn (do bring the children). The service itself will have a rather different flavour from most that we attempt and will be challenging and fun.

The occasion also gives us the opportunity to consider what the Church is for. Is it just another club to bring together those with a common interest, like stamp-collecting or wine making? Is it a group who like "doing good" and find it best to do so in company with others? Is it a band of those who are "for" or "against" certain ideas? Politicians of all points of view have at various times condemned the church as being in the pocket of their opponents. Haven't left wingers considered the church (especially the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church) of always siding with, taking their example from the "Establishment"? Haven't right wingers accused the church of being "trendy lefties" or worse? And haven't they both poured scorn on the middle way, those who cannot make up their minds on anything? In which case the church has probably got it about right! For it is not to be judged by the same kind of criteria as are used in other walks of life. It is, quite frankly, different.

There is no one word or one picture which will say it all. The word 'family' goes some way to describing what we mean, for the church is made up of people of all ages of very differing attainments and skills. But it is a voluntary family of those who have responded in one way or another to the call of God and each has heard the call differently and personally for them. The church meets to praise God for what He is and to put into action a life of Love as demonstrated by Jesus. That may or may not mean political action. It does mean service.

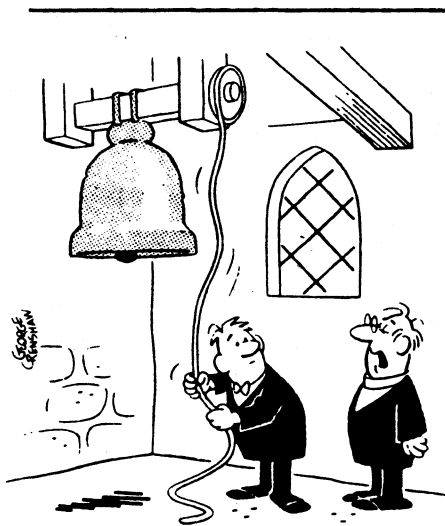
We also this month extend our very grateful thanks to Betty Stewart who has taught the children of St. James's for 45 years. She is part of our family and has contributed more than she will ever realise to the lives of many, by giving them a splendid start in christian teaching and example. It is a marvellous example of service to the community done with love and humility. We hope she will enjoy her 'retirement' from the Sunday School and we wish her every happiness.

P.C.C.

On 13th June the P.C.C. met at Wayside. As so often there was not so much new material as tying up of loose ends. Amongst these we agreed to pay from the combination of the Charities Allocation and the Whitsun Offering for a motorbike to be used in Tanzania to enable a medical officer to reach the local hospital and also visit some of the villages it serves. We now know the hospital has running water through the efforts of Christian Aid. (Imagine Teddington Hospital without water!). We also commissioned a group to locate on a map exactly where members on the Electoral Roll lived. We found that many people did not know who their christian neighbours were. We hope in the autumn to explore the possibilities of groups of people meeting together locally. We were delighted to hear that the Social Committee is once again alive and well under the leadership of Helen Taylor (look at other places for details of planned activities). There was also an interesting Report on the Area Synod by Lesley Mortimer and a Report on the Deanery Synod by Ursula Pearce which appears later in the Spire. We confirmed dates for St. James's Day (22nd July) and Harvest Festival (30th September). We learnt that there has been a request to purchase part of the Vicarage garden bordering the Churchyard and await developments.

HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

There is to be a course of Talks entitled 'Living Faiths' in the autumn starting with one on the Jewish Faith by Rabbi Friedlander on 17th September at 8.00 p.m. in the Methodist Church, Percy Road. Others will be on Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity. Bishop Trevor Huddleston will speak on 29th October. The other dates will be announced in next months Spire when details will we hope have been finalised.



"No, no, Higby. It's ding before dong except after bong!"

THE MOTHERS UNION

Many of our members spent some delightful hours in Windsor on Wednesday, 6th June, the occasion being our Annual Outing. This year we joined forces with St. Marks, Teddington. There we were able to enjoy a trip on the river, a visit to the excellent Madame Tussaud's Exhibition of Victorian Royalty and as a fitting climax a service in St. George's Chapel which was especially arranged for us, with the Choir of an American University rendering some superb singing. A really enjoyable day, indeed.

D. Edmonds

BOOKSTALL

Some of you may have heard of, or even visited, The Bridge Christian Book Centre in Hounslow, which, several months ago, contacted many local vicars and ministers, giving details of the facilities which can be offered to those who are responsible for church bookstalls.

One of the advantages is that books may be obtained on a sale or return basis at all times, which makes it possible for a much greater variety of books to be displayed. The unsold ones can be returned every few weeks and exchanged for a different selection.

I do hope that you will look at the bookstall when you are in the church, because it will have a "changing face" instead of the same, not so fresh, copies lying about for months.

The staff of The Bridge, under Maureen Tye, are very helpful, the books are well displayed and of great variety. Details of other amenities, including a pleasant coffee shop, are set out on leaflets, available in our church. I can thoroughly recommend a visit to The Bridge to anyone going to Hounslow. I shall still be able to place orders for books, as in the past, either at the Scripture Union Bookshop in Richmond or at The Bridge.

Jean Weston

MEETING OF DEANERY SYNOD 9 MAY 1984

The following were some items discussed and which proved of great interest to all present.

Education Mrs. de Gruchy reported back on a reasonably successful first year of the Board for Schools.

Letters have been sent to all parents with regard to the Capitation Fee.

Two members of the Board are also to represent them on an "Unemployment Group" set up by the L.D.B. for Social Responsibility.

Whilst Church Schools come in for criticism from all sides it is very interesting to note that they are always over subscribed!

A Discussion Document has been sent to the Diocese about the Policy of Church Schools and the criteria of admission — which appear to vary from school to school.

Each Church School is autonomous even though a great deal of the revenue to run it comes from the Government.

Lay Training Mr. Thwaites told us that our Welcare worker was retiring and that it is hoped to interview and appoint shortly.

A new Secretary was also needed, as Hannah, who has worked so long and hard is retiring.

There is a house at Brentford which it had been hoped could be used for long and/or short term stays, but objections had been received from local residents and Hounslow Social Services.

Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility The speaker on this subject was the Director, Mrs. Lydia Gladwin.

Although this is a very small committee the Area Dean considers it is extremely important and wants it greatly strengthened in the new Synod.

(Welcare is a Sub-Committee of the Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility).

What is Social Responsibility? It is our response to the second half of the only Commandment Christ gave us "to love our neighbours as ourselves".

Mrs. Gladwin reminded us that from earliest Biblical times the Church has been used to care for other people in all times of adversity e.g. Barnardo and Wilberforce and how hospitals and education and prison care and help to "outsiders" has come from the Church.

Five years ago the London Diocesan Board came into being by drawing together lots of ad hoc deanery committees to enable all the problems of today to be faced and hopefully tackled.

Special issues dealt with by experts are – abortion, riots, Response to Scarman, Response to abolition of all Metropolitan Boroughs now and in the future. Also Housing/Homeless, Moral and ethical issues of human fertilisation, Handicapped people living in the community, Marriage/Divorce/Family life, unemployment.

So many of these issues and many others cannot be tackled by individual Borough Councils and this will be the loss if the Metropolitan Boroughs are disbanded.

Another issue of great concern to them is the future of the Welfare State and the members hope to affect policy at the very highest levels.

Bishop Mark is very concerned with prison conditions and we must never forget what, "Bishop Jim" of Stepney said ". . . . never underestimate the part the Church can play in contemporary life".

The Board are also very concerned with Individuals at local level and need more professional support but only of the right calibre and only employs (i) qualified social workers, (ii) those who are committed Christians.

We in our Deanery only have a Social Worker for 16 hours a week. She has 20 cases and is more than anything else an "enabler" – looking at particular needs in any area e.g. young families on new estates, Bereavement visiting and counselling.

Local authorities usually provide 60% of funding (although Richmond and Twickenham are less generous!!) and churches more so! Churches should be prepared to give more than the 40% needed at present – and that would enable more social workers to be employed.

Finally it is up to us, as the Church, to respond to any need, as and when it arises – as Jesus bade us do.

CAR QUIZ AND PICNIC – SATURDAY 21 JULY 1984

Bring your car – or cadge a lift – on Saturday, 21st July to the church in St. James's Road when we shall be repeating our infamous Car Quiz of a few years back. Arrive at 1.45 p.m. when each car will receive a circular route map leading to the picnic spot in Nonsuch Park, Ewell. On the way you are invited to solve a series of questions, some simple, some fiendish – or just enjoy the view of the surrounding countryside. Bring sandwiches and cakes with you for the picnic at 4.30 p.m. in Nonsuch Park (yes, there is!) when we shall pool all the food, provide you with tea and orangeade, and have some family fun and games including the revolting St. James's Cherry Stone Spitting Championship for 1984. And don't forget the sunglasses.

The Social Committee

TO BE OR NOT TO BE? – THAT IS THE QUESTION

This magazine "The Spire" has recently come in for some criticism on several different scores, so I thought it might be worthwhile to look at some of these criticisms more closely to see if they are justified and perhaps accept or refute them.

The first criticism is that we have had too much material lately about the Nuclear Debate and in particular about the Peace Movement and CND. In the last ten issues we have had no less than nine articles related to that subject so this criticism is obviously justified to a large extent. However as this is undoubtedly the most important issue of the day and several of the articles have been unsolicited by the Magazine Committee but felt to be worthy of publication this is perhaps not so surprising.

Another criticism is that we dwell too much in the recent past, again a justified criticism. In the same ten issues there have been thirty-four articles on past events; but many of them had a spiritual dimension and to have left them out would have been a disservice to all those people who had worked so hard to make that particular event worthwhile. "Not enough emphasis on coming events", this is really not a justified criticism at all as we have had at least twenty-five articles on forthcoming events of one sort or another.

The biggest dilemma for any Church Magazine Committee must be keeping a balance between 'Parish Pump' material and larger issues about which we should all be thinking. Local news is always appreciated by those who are unable to get out and about very much but it would be quite wrong to ignore all the many other issues of the day. In this respect our magazine is unrivalled by any Roneoed sheet handed out in many Churches in lieu of a magazine. We have had articles on Apartheid, the Bomb, Stewardship, What it means to be a Christian in other countries and many others. Our magazine also has a considerable spiritual content and not just from the Clerical level but at what one might call a 'grass roots level' – this is a rarity to be encouraged.

Any publication is only as good as the material it receives. Articles are always welcomed and considered by the Committee, occasionally for lack of space or some other reason articles are not published, but this is not often; more usually we are looking for material so if you have something buzzing round in your head, get it down on paper and send it to the Editor (the Vicar).

Finally, the magazine is in a very parlous financial state and is in danger of disappearing altogether very soon. Perhaps you may not miss it, perhaps you may, in the end it's all up to you!

Helen Taylor

CRICKET, LOVELY CRICKET

Saturday, 16th June was set for a great Cricket Match – St. James's side a little rusty, against a side from All Saints, rather better prepared. It was hot and humid but a good match was ahead.

All Saints to bat first, St. James were none too confident. Some immaculate bowling throughout the innings occasionally interrupted by a loose over gave St. James a good chance with the batting. All Saints all out for seventy-four.

With parched throats we went in after the All Saints innings to find a very welcome cup of tea waiting, sandwiches and cakes, a lovely interval, thank you ladies. Then it was our turn at the wicket.

We made a good start with John Stevens getting 20 runs in the first two overs, the runs crept up, then we lost a few wickets, would we make the target? Down to our last pair only a few more runs necessary to overcome the opposition – yes, St. James had won! We had triumphed in our first inter-Church cricket match, may it be the first of many. It can truly be said, a good time was had by all.

Oliver Taylor

CONFIRMATION 1984 – A HAPPY OCCASION

On Whit Sunday, we were very fortunate to have Mark, our Bishop, to take Parish Communion and confirm six candidates, all from St. James's. We were delighted that it was possible for the confirmations to take place as part of our regular Parish Communion, as everyone was then able to participate and welcome Dianne Irving, Peter Baverstock, Robert Childs, Christopher and Oliver Taylor, and Barry Walker, as full members of the Church.

The Gospel reading was taken from John, Chapter 14, verses 15-26. As the Bishop pointed out in his address, it was particularly appropriate that it should be Whit Sunday, when we celebrate God's gift of His Holy Spirit to give us greater wisdom, understanding and strength to do His work.

It was a joyful occasion, which was enhanced by the musical support of our organist, Olive Hayward, and the choir, with Jack Gostling as soloist. The candidates received their communion first, and were then followed by the remainder of the congregation in the normal way. Older members of the Sunday school were present for both the confirmation and communion, which they enjoyed very much, and which was a nice way of helping them to feel part of our Christian community.

We should like to thank Mark, for his eloquent address, and for conducting the proceedings with such purpose and authority. There was general agreement among the congregation that it was altogether a most enjoyable and meaningful occasion. Our thanks are due to Nicholas for guiding us through the service in his usual unobtrusive and skilful way.

Peter and Sue Roberts

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Brown Pack Camp on Triangle During the half-term holiday some Cubs spent 2 days on The Triangle gaining their first experience of Camping. The first afternoon was spent at Richmond Ice Rink and the second at Heathrow Airport, followed by a refreshing swim at Feltham Baths. Altogether a very rewarding 2 days.

Cubaree at Hook Arena, Chessington On Saturday 9th June 22 Cubs Scouts from both Packs took part in a County Gathering of some 4,000 Cubs from Greater London South West. Each Pack organised some form of activity, we actually did Plaster Casting and Brass rubbing, the latter unfortunately did not get off the ground as the Brass Plate became too hot to handle and the crayons just a gluey mess!! With all the Packs in the County providing different Side Shows the boys were given a vast choice of activities to choose from, in addition to the outstanding Displays in the Centre Arena. After an enjoyable day we all returned to Hampton Hill "hot and happy".

Twickenham District Scouts Sports These were held at St. Mary's College on Saturday 16th June, and our team gained 4th place.

Confirmation Whit Sunday June 10th Among the candidates confirmed by the Bishop of Kensington were 2 of our Scouts, Peter Baverstock and Barry Walker, and Robert Childs (7th Teddington Air Scouts). Also Dianne Irving, mother of former Cub Scout Alex, and a new member of our Executive Committee. A very happy occasion indeed, and our best wishes and prayers are with them as they become full members of our Church.

I am afraid I must end this month's news on a very sad note – on Tuesday June 12th I learnt of the sudden death of Bert Saunders. The family have been connected with the Group over the last 20 years, first when David was a Cub and for the last 17 years Mollie has been our Treasurer. Bert often came along to our various functions and will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to all the family.

Michael J. Childs, G.S.L.

BROTHER DONALD, SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS

Brother Donald, a friar from the Society of St. Francis, spoke after Evensong on a warm, stormy Trinity Sunday. He thought the trinity – represented for school children he speaks to by the three knots in the cord of the girdle round his habit – a useful introduction to his talk. It was also, he said, a very good basis for belief, if one could get to grips with it, rather than saying vaguely when asked if you believe in God, that you think "there's something out there". God the Father is what we all generally think of as "God". But He had made himself flesh, as the Son, to make a more solid foundation for our belief. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength we need to press on with this belief as we go through life.

In particular, the Spirit is all-important in mission work, which is Brother Donald's and his order's interest, particularly in suburbia, (although he was off to Oberammergau in two days' time as part of a chaplaincy ecumenical team). The word "mission" comes from the Latin and means "sent". But they can also be "sent" who stay – as mission work in Britain inspired and aided by the Society indicates. It takes two years, we were told, from the time of thinking a mission in our area would be a "good idea" to getting to the start of the actual

two-week (or whatever) mission event. The lead-up time would, of course, also be a very valuable period. For those who might say such an idea must have little general appeal, Brother Donald has enough requests for help in organising missions to make it fully booked for this year, next year and most of 1986.

Chris Richards

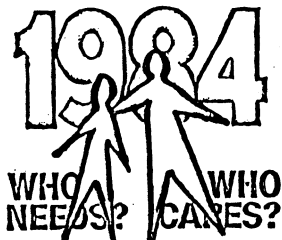
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE SHARE

"Don't buy my harvest cheap and then offer me charity!" A voice from the Third World puts the finger on the real importance of the price of our coffee, tea, bananas

This autumn you have a chance to really begin to grasp what words like 'development' and 'Third World' mean for Christians. "For Christ's Sake Share" is arranged by Hampton Deanery Lay Training Committee with the cooperation of The World Development Movement, Christian Aid, the Church Missionary Society and other agencies.

SS Peter & Paul	) 27 September	'What is real aid?'
Teddington	) 11 October	'Slaves to trade'
Thursdays	) 25 October	'Am I my brothers keeper?'
at	) 8 November	'Money and the big guns'
7.30 p.m.	) 22 November	'Holiness and Justice'

Further details/application forms soon or, contact Colin Davis 977 6728



A LOCAL COMMUNITY EXHIBITION
including Aids for the Disabled
Mounted by Richmond Upon Thames
Council for Voluntary Services

at
YORK HOUSE
17th SEPTEMBER 1984
2 - 9 p.m.

MOST PEOPLE NEED HELP AT SOME TIME
MOST PEOPLE CARE AND WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP BUT
do most people know who needs help and do most people know who cares if they need help? see for yourself.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

- working with deaf, blind, physically handicapped, mentally handicapped and mentally ill people
- community care, pressure, self-help, advice and counselling groups
- groups helping people from birth to old age!

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Health Education, Library information, Police Liaison, Community Health Council, Council for Voluntary Service

COMMERCIAL COMPANIES MANUFACTURING AIDS FOR THE
DISABLED - Homecraft, Aidcall, QED Alarms, Medic Alert

PLAY FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE UNDER FIVES - Organised by
the Richmond Branch of the Pre-School Play Groups Association.

FROM MARGARET CRANSTON, MAKAISING, NEPAL

Dear Friends, I have now been living in this village for just over a year and it's fascinating to see the cycle of village life beginning to repeat itself. At present the people are ploughing their steep, narrow terraces with oxen, ready to plant the maize. Yesterday was a special day when the children all threw red powder at each other. A festival, I think, to bring on the winter rain. The weather is gradually getting hotter and the days are getting longer. The ground is very dry and the paths very dusty as we have only had two nights of rain since Christmas.

The school has been going through a very difficult time during the last few months and is now only just beginning to recover. In January one of our teachers disappeared and four others were arrested and taken off to Gorkha jail for political (communist/anti-government) reasons what I don't fully understand. They were released about four weeks later but are not allowed to teach at the school any more. Consequently we have been very short of teachers.

The church here in Makaising is very small at present – just Jean and me. There are two boys whose home is in this village but they are studying at the university so live in Kathmandu during term time. We continue to pray for the people we live and work with and trust that God is working in ways that we cannot see in the hearts and lives of the people here. "I lift up my eyes to the hills where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker" (Ps.121 v 1-2). We do not worship the hills and mountains, the sun, moon or stars, the trees or flowers, but the God who created all these things, the God that controls all these things. The snow-capped Himalayas, the clear starlit nights and the beautiful rhododendron trees are just one constant reminder of the power of the God who created them.

With much love,

Margaret Cranston

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

20th May	Annabel Mary Thomas-Ferrand	47 Edward Road
3rd June	James Guy Forster Ormerod	76 Uxbridge Road
	Alexander Charles Dobson	11 Edward Road
10th June	Nicholas Andrew Viggor	8 Wolsey Road

Weddings

16th June	Christopher John Bridges and Amanda Jane Branch
	Norman John Burgess and Katherine Clare Geffryes
23rd June	Paul Bartram and Deborah Jane Evans

Funerals

4th June	Nathanael Herbert Diton	76 Bishop's Grove	aged 74
	Emily Rose Hannah Nightingale	29 Holly Road	aged 82
5th June	Albert Charles Wigginton	70 Hawkewood Road	
		Sunbury	aged 78

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
20th May	100	111	78	97
27th May	68	100	126	26
		Bankers Orders (May)	£305	
3rd June	159	209	178	22
10th June	139	179	69	126
17th June	111	121	148	28

DATES TO NOTE

July

10		Editorial Board		
15		PENTECOST 5	Services as usual	
17	09.30	Holy Communion		
	20.00	P.C.C. in Vestry		
18	20.00	Good News Group		
19	19.15	Holy Communion		
20	06.30	Holy Communion		
21	13.45	Car Quiz and Picnic		
22		PATRONAL FESTIVAL		
	08.00	Holy Communion		
	09.30	Parish Communion		
	16.30	Special Service followed by Tea on Church Lawn		
24	09.30	Holy Communion		
25		ST. JAMES'S DAY		
	12.00	Holy Communion		
26	19.15	Holy Communion		
27	06.30	Holy Communion		
29		PENTECOST 7	Services as usual	
	20.00	Organ Recital by Olive Hayward		
31	09.30	Holy Communion		

August

2	19.15	Holy Communion		
5		PENTECOST 8	Services as usual	
7	09.30	Holy Communion		
9	19.15	Holy Communion		
12		PENTECOST 9	Services as usual	
14	09.30	Holy Communion		
16	19.15	Holy Communion		
19		PENTECOST 10	Services as usual	
26		PENTECOST 11		
		NO 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion		
		Other services as usual		

September

7	20.15	Liturgical Committee		
15		Hampton Carnival		
17	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches Talk		
18	20.00	P.C.C.		
Exact date not known Son et Lumiere at Hampton Court				