

August is a strange month in England. Because a great many people take their holidays while children are away from school much industry and commerce slows down if it does not actually cease. Parliament goes into recess. Almost all voluntary organizations take a break from regular meetings. And the church also reflects society in this movement since it is made up of people. Only one major event is entered in the church's calendar — the Transfiguration on 6th August — and this is often overlooked.

So this month's edition of the Spire has a rather different feel about it. It consists of far more snippets than usual — a bit more like the Reader's Digest — (which some will see as an improvement and others a disaster!). Look through and see what is in it and use it to ponder on.

Recently I came across a passage in a book quoting a writer in the 2nd or 3rd Century called Diognetus:

“Christians do not distinguish themselves from other men by their country, their language or their dress.

They do not belong to any particular city, they do not make use of special dialects, their way of life has nothing particular about it.

They do not set themselves up, as many others do, as champions of a human doctrine.

They do not distribute themselves in Greek or barbaric cities according to pre-arranged divisions.

They conform to local customs as regards clothes, food and life-style while bearing witness to the extraordinary truly paradoxical laws of the spiritual republic to which they belong.

They live each in his own country but like strangers in the house.

They fulfil all their duties as citizens, and put up with all their tasks, but like strangers.

Every strange land is their country and every country is for them a strange land.

In the same way they are in the flesh but they do not live according to the flesh”.

(Quoted in Carlo Caretto: The Desert in the City)

And yet christians have often seemed a threat to states and empires, just because their sights are set on another empire and will not give their entire allegiance to any one political system. So we have every right to draw people's attention to the abuse of power which is creeping into this country's politics as into other's and to resist steam-roller tactics by whoever employs them in church or state. It seems to me that Mrs. Thatcher and some others are in danger of falling prey to Hubris, the flaw which brought down all the great characters in Greek Tragedy. It has been variously interpreted as 'over-weening insolence or arrogance' or the 'pride' which comes before a fall. The most recent victim in common experience was President Nixon. It would be sad indeed as well as cause immeasurable harm, if our Prime Minister went the same way.

## FAREWELL TO ST. JAMES – 8th JULY

I am indebted to Nicholas for giving me this opportunity to share some thoughts with you on my last Sunday among this Christian family of St. James's.

Deliberately do I use the word "family", for this is truly what you people have always been for me. When I reflect upon this Church and all it means to me, two words instantly spring to mind.

One is "growth". If in a church the fruits of the Spirit are present – indeed, cared about and sought after – then the climate is a perfect one in which the growth of all its various members may progress. I am profoundly thankful to so many of you for aiding my spiritual growth by individually and corporately providing good "spiritual soil". Only the Holy Spirit however, can fertilise this "spiritual soil" which we call our church. The help I received when caring for my father, and the knowledge of your prayerful support when my husband was ill last year, was invaluable. There have been times when I felt that the Lord was "sailing a bit close to the wind" with me – but always in retrospect His timing is always perfect, and He knows exactly how much one can take.

The other word which springs to mind is "value". How diverse you all are in the ways in which you have helped me, – and how I value each of you individually, for so many human and spiritual qualities. As I reflect upon the great – in worldly terms – ridiculous value which Christ puts upon me – so I too value others. There is so much of value in this place. What a constant wonder it is – this work of the Holy Spirit which takes the inert clay or "dry bones" of what we are and breathes life into us.

The love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit rescues and preserves our humanity – without Him we can do nothing. The Spirit alone enables us to be "all things to all men".

Sometimes He asks of us merely that we encourage someone regularly, at other times we are required to listen and to reflect back truthfully and faithfully. Constantly the roles are reversed – we minister and are ministered to. Many are the forms of ministry – yet one sustaining and enabling Spirit.

I remember with gratitude and praise that wherever I go, God goes with me and I shall merely be joining another branch of the same great family.

It has been my immense privilege to have seen so many facets of Christ in those I have known in this place. The photograph of this lovely church will constantly remind me of you.

May the strength, love and peace of our Lord be always with you all.

Bea Page

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## WORLDVIEW – POVERTY LINE

Recent statistics on poverty around the world reveal that 500 million people suffer from malnutrition. The World Bank estimates that some 800 million people live in absolute poverty. Each year 17 million children under the age of five die. Three quarters of the world's population live on one fifth of the world's income.

## PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

As a visitor from Hanworth, I was not sure what to expect when I attended the special evening service on June 24th. My main reason for coming was to see the Liturgical Dance Group at work as we too have a group at St. Richard's.

I sensed an air of expectation and excitement — nobody was quite sure what exactly was going to happen. However, if the rest of the congregation enjoyed the service as much as I did, they would have gone home very contentedly.

The mixture of music — new and not so new — dance, prayer and talks — three very different ones — worked well.

The music group performed with confidence and joy — and gave a strong lead in the congregational items. The beat was strong — but not too heavy — suited to a wide variety of tastes.

The dance group helped us to see John the Baptist at work — preparing the way of the Lord. Their use of mime and dance was well thought out and well choreographed. The music of "Get up and Dance" was so compelling that it drew many of the congregation — myself included — to get up and dance. St. James's has got me dancing before St. Richard's!

The talks were good and varied. Each of the speakers had a different style and a different approach to their particular section.

Finally, Alan Taylor did a grand job guiding us all safely through the service and helped us all to feel at home.

I hope St. James's will have more such services — and invite the neighbouring churches. I certainly want to come again.

Kerry Emmett

## 3rd HAMPTON HILL SCOUT. GROUP

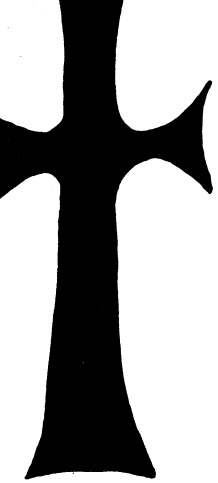
Our Group Scout Leader, Mike Childs, has been involved in Scouting man and boy. He went through Cubs, Scouts, Rover Scouts and various appointments as a Leader. Mike took over as Group Scout Leader from his Dad, Stan — now our Group President and one of the founder Scouts of 3rd Hampton Hill — and as such is responsible for all Scouting activities in the Group.

One of the duties of any Leader is to complete various training courses to keep abreast of the changes in the movement and develop their own skills and leadership ability. Mike has recently completed this training and the event is marked by the presentation of the "Wood Badge".

This "Badge" consists of two wooden beads on a leather thong and is worn around the neck. It symbolizes the original beads captured by the our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell from a local Zulu Chief — Dinizulu in 1888. The original necklace consisted of hundreds of beads, and the beads, long since exhausted, of course, were presented to adult leaders upon completion of their training course.

On Friday, 22nd June, our District Commissioner, John Donaldson and his wife Marguaritte visited our Troop meeting to present Mike with his "Wood Badge" and a Certificate. Following a short chat from the D.C. Mike renewed his promise and the formal presentation was made. The boys gave a very hearty three cheers and spontaneous applause. That was it. Not much for many years of experience, many months of hard work and many hours of concentration, but yet again was an example for the rest of us to follow. Congratulations Mike.

Greg Martin, Scout Leader



For Christ's sake  
share!

HAMPTON DEANERY  
LAY TRAINING  
AUTUMN 1984

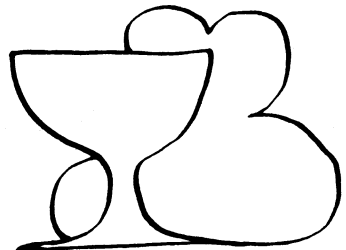
'What has holiness to do with the price of bananas?'

- a chance to look with Christian eyes at  
facts and faith in an unfair world.

	27 <sup>th</sup> September 'WHAT IS REAL AID?'
Thursdays	11 <sup>th</sup> October 'SLAVES TO TRADE?'
7-30 pm	25 <sup>th</sup> October 'AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?'
	8 <sup>th</sup> November 'MONEY & THE BIG GUNS'
	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 'HOLINESS & JUSTICE'

Arranged in conjunction with Christian Aid, World Development Movement & C.M.S.

SS. Peter & Paul Church  
Teddington



contact :- Colin Davies 977:6728

## **BRITAIN'S MOST URGENT PRIORITY**

**THE PROBLEM** — Mental illness, psychological, emotional and stress-related disorders cause one in four of the population to receive treatment each year.

Of the 20 million people who visit their GP's each year, it is known that at least 25% will be treated for identifiable psychiatric disorders and that a further 10-15% of GP consultations will concern 'hidden' psychologically-related illnesses.

This may only be the tip of the iceberg. The extent to which unresolved stresses in peoples' lives can impair their performance both at home and at work, and lead to mental or physical illness, is rarely appreciated. Take sickness absence from work, for example. The Office of Health Economics claims that sickness absence due to 'strains, debility and headache' increased by 500% between 1955 and 1980. The cost to industry of days lost through stress-related illnesses and mental disorders currently runs into hundreds of millions of pounds annually.

Alcohol misuse — not generally considered to be a mental health problem — currently accounts for more male admissions to mental hospitals in Scotland than ANY OTHER KIND OF DISORDER. Since the early 1970's admissions to English mental hospitals for alcoholism and alcoholic psychosis have DOUBLED, whereas admissions for most of the primary categories of mental illness — schizophrenia, psychoneurosis, personality and behaviour disorders and senile dementia — have showed little or no change.

**THE CHALLENGE** — In 1982 voluntary donations to a selection of 200 major charities monitored by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) totalled £392 millions.

As in previous years, the position of the mental health charities in the charitable league, gives cause for concern. According to the CAF the largest slice of the charitable cake went to foreign aid charities — £72 million, or 22 TIMES AS MUCH as to mental health. Cancer charities received £47 million or 13 TIMES AS MUCH, and animal charities £24 million or 7 TIMES AS MUCH.

The AIM of the Foundation's promotional strategy is to improve significantly the climate of awareness of key mental health issues, thereby encouraging greater support from business and industry, charitable trusts and members of the public.

The CHALLENGE facing the Mental Health Foundation is to break through the £1 million barrier — thus securing an annual income capable of meeting the increasing demand for our funds from research centres and community based projects.

**WHO WE ARE** — the only charity in the UK which raises and allocates funds without a commitment to providing services. We thus have the advantages of flexibility in dealing with a wide range of mental health bodies, a non-partisan approach to priority areas of mental health care, the ability to act as consultants and advisers to sponsors and applicants, and a policy making role in defining key areas of interest.

*For further information please write to:* Major General Bob Loudoun,  
The Mental Health Foundation, 8 Hallam Street, London W1N 6DH.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

In the December 1983 - February 1984 edition of Home & Family we read an article entitled "Out of the Rut . . . ." which seemed unusually interesting. It spoke of a way of deepening communication between man and wife and enriching a marriage. The writer expressed her delight at the experience of the weekend spent with her husband and how much they had gained from a new understanding of being a married couple. Since their first experience four and half years' ago they had helped other couples to increase their awareness of each other by helping lead weekends.

We felt that it not only seemed good in itself, but also might be a help to others in the future if we could say we had experienced it. So off we went to Old Alresford for the weekend of 25th-27th May. (Some of you will know the house already).

It had been quite a struggle to get there making all the necessary arrangements. The drive down was in pouring rain. We were tired when we arrived on the Friday evening. Then there was the business of meeting 20 or so new people and of not knowing the programme beforehand. If we had expected a slow winding up into top gear we were disappointed! After a very warm welcome we were plunged into the work and that did not stop until we left on Sunday evening.

But the work was infinitely rewarding as we learnt afresh how to communicate with each other. We would recommend it unreservedly to all those who wish to deepen their marriage. It is Christian in concept and is led by a clergy couple and two or three lay couples. There were couples of all ages (we were about in the middle).

This does not tell you very much about what happened. The reason is that what happens is different for each couple, for the 'happening' occurs inside each individual and between each couple.

The cost? Only £5 registration fee is fixed. Your weekend has already been paid for by others who have gone before and who want some other couple to experience what they have found so wonderful.

About ten weekends are held each year in various parts of the country. Further details from the Vicarage.

Nicholas and Susan

## LIVE CHURCHES' PROBLEMS . . . . .

Live churches have parking problems;

Dead churches don't.

Live churches have lots of noisy youth;

Dead churches are fairly quiet.

Live churches often exceed their income;

Dead churches take in more than they dream of spending.

Live churches grow so fast you forget people's names;

in Dead churches everybody knows everybody's name.

Live churches support missions enthusiastically;

Dead churches keep it all at home.

Live churches move out on faith;

Dead churches operate totally on sight.

Live churches evangelize;

Dead churches fossilize.

*from an Oklahoma Church Magazine*

## **P.C.C.**

On Tuesday 17th we met once again to try and tie up loose ends before the summer break. We found we had to apply for a Faculty to 'dispose' of the pews which we had already removed at Christmas and also those that had been taken out seven years' ago. So we passed a resolution to that effect. We heard that thanks to the generosity of those who have been able to covenant their financial contributions to the church we have received from the Inland Revenue £3,853 in Income Tax Rebate, but that our Magazine is still losing money because we are not receiving enough revenue from advertisements. (Many thanks to those of you who still keep sending in your contributions). We have not yet received news of the motorbike we are sending to Tanzania to help Gideon Mahamaga's Hospital. The Church Uses Committee is considering ways of making better use of the space we have (for instance can we improve the children's corner, can we provide running water?). We were brought up to date on the repair of the window which was recently damaged by children (the Insurance will cover the cost). Work is in hand for installing wire mesh to hinder the pigeons from nesting in the tower and creating so much mess. The next meeting is planned for 18th September.

## **HAMPTON OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL**

We have been asked to help in giving publicity to help in saving this amenity for the community. You may have seen in the press that if this swimming pool is to be saved the need is for £25,000 to be raised by September. If local people can provide half, £12,500 then Richmond Council will provide the other half. If you are interested and can help them please get in touch with Jill Rowley, 31 Courtland Avenue, Hampton, Tel. 979-1135, as soon as possible.

## **THE CHURCH IN TEDDINGTON**

Some people have made enquiries as to what is going to happen to the Anglican Church in Teddington with the departure of the Vicar and Curate of St. Peter and Paul this month and the imminent retirement of the Vicar of Hampton Wick. At the time of writing all that can be said is that the Arch-deacon of Middlesex has headed a team of assessors which has already consulted the parishes concerned. The report is being discussed with the parishes (including St. James which borders on St. Michael and St. George and St. Peter and St. Paul. The object will be to find a solution which will serve the area well for some time and that will be acceptable to all concerned). It seems unlikely that any buildings will be made redundant but that some reduction in manpower will be recommended.

## **THE BISHOP OF DURHAM**

The consecration of the new Bishop has been "media news" recently although very few "facts" have emerged. If we have sufficient arguments on *both* sides we can continue the debate, but it is not fair to produce one side only without proper evidence.

## WELCARE

Having been our Parish Representative for a few years now I feel that the time has come to hand this responsibility on to someone else.

Welcare is a Christian social service available to anyone who needs it, but with a special interest in working with one-parent families. The offices are in Hounslow and the Welcare workers are based there, each Church in the Deanery also has a Parish representative to act as a liaison person between the workers and the general congregation. The work is financially supported by all these Churches as well as by the local authorities.

The task of a representative is not arduous — I have not been as involved as my predecessor but I have attended the A.G.M. (usually held in a local Church) been an "address" for any communications, and have occasionally delivered bundles of clothes, prams, etc. that have been donated to the H.Q. in Hounslow.

If you want to involve yourself further in this very commendable work there are ample opportunities to do so. I should be happy to discuss any aspects of Welcare with anybody who might be interested and hope that somebody is willing to commit themselves to this work.

Coryn Robinson

## AN EPITAPH

While browsing round a local Churchyard recently (St. Mary's, Teddington) I came across the following epitaph:

Stranger beneath a slumbering infant lies,  
He did, indeed, issue of the cup of Life,  
But found it bitter; soon he turned away,  
And sped in spotless innocence, to God.  
Oh, Stranger, if thine heart, at times, heave high,  
In pity, and in pain, at evil deeds,  
Look onward to the last: for far beyond  
The Grave hath God appointed happiness.  
But Stranger, if thine heart be foul with crime  
And trembling with that inward wickedness  
Repent thee and remember, that except  
Thy heart become even as this little Childs  
Thou canst not enter Heaven's Eternal Gates.

All this sacred to the memory of William Forbes Ashburner, born 15th December 1817, died 9th September 1818.

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People are like stained glass windows; they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is only revealed if there is a light from within.

E. Kubler-Ross



## AROUND THE SPIRE

We send our warmest greetings to Carol and David Green on the birth of their second daughter, Lorna Fiona Carol, a sister for Harriet, born on the 6th June, all are well and we hope to see them among us again very soon.

Beth Cook, the wife of Roy Cook, photographer of many St. James functions, had a bad fall down the stairs recently and will be in hospital for some weeks, at present in West Middlesex but later, hopefully to be transferred to Teddington. Please remember the Cook family in your prayers and we hope that Beth will make a good recovery.

We wish Hannah Stanton every good fortune in her new home. The upheaval can be imagined after so long at 63 Park Road! We are so glad she is not moving very far.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptisms

29th July	Rosalind Maria Nicola Bucknell	75 St. James's Avenue
	Lorna Fiona Carol Green	60 Windmill Road

### Weddings

14th July	Gary James Hide and Karen Frances Baker
	Thomas Alexander Ireland and Carole Janice Ives
28th July	John Jamieson and Dawn Ann Brett
	David Charles Douglas Turner and Michelle Bridges

### Funerals

11th July	John Francis Crane	8 Lindsay Road	aged 40
20th July	John Humphrey Homewood	9 Wolsey Road	aged 82

### From the Register of Services

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledge Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
24th June	97	188	131	18
1st July	88	156	147	18
Rebate of Income Tax on Covenanted Pledges for year ended 5th April 1984			3853	
Pledged Giving by Banker's Order for June			449	
8th July	89	125	—	16
15th July	95	117	99	22

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To stay young in spirit, keep taking on new thoughts and throwing off old habits.

## DATES TO NOTE

### August

12		PENTECOST 9 Services as usual
14	09.30	Holy Communion
	10.30	Magazine Committee
16	19.15	Holy Communion
17	06.30	Holy Communion
19		PENTECOST 10 Services as usual
21	09.30	Holy Communion
23	19.15	Holy Communion
24		St. Bartholomew
	06.30	Holy Communion
26		PENTECOST 11 NO 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion Other Services as usual
28	09.30	Holy Communion
30	19.15	Holy Communion
31	06.30	Holy Communion

### September

2		PENTECOST 12 Services as usual
4	09.30	Holy Communion
6	19.15	Holy Communion
7	06.30	Holy Communion
	20.15	Liturgical Committee
9		PENTECOST 13 Services as usual
11	09.30	Holy Communion
	20.00	Tuesday Club
13	19.15	Holy Communion
15		Hampton Carnival
16		PENTECOST 14 Services as usual
17	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches Talk — Rabbi Albert Friedlander
18	20.00	P.C.C.
19	20.00	Good News Group
30		Harvest Festival

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Church membership does not make one a Christian any more than owning a piano makes one a musician.

*Diocese of Connecticut*