

Some of the words written in this place in the August 'Spire' have caused a few eyebrows to be raised and a few comments to be made. I am sorry if I have given offence to some. This was not intentional. The reference to Greek Tragedy may well not be familiar to some readers so let me explain These Plays are some of the greatest literary masterpieces of all time and centre round the lives of great and important people of legend. In them the main characters are seen to come to a sad and often lonely or painful end because they have a fatal flaw amongst their characteristics. So something that is a strength becomes a weakness and the cause of their undoing. Oedipus's love for his mother went terrifyingly wrong (he married her by mistake) hence 'Oedipus Complex' in today's language; Clytemnestra's possessive love for her husband caused her to murder her own children in revenge. These are but two examples of how great people's strengths can be their own undoing. Strength of character in itself is admirable but if it is allowed a free rein and is uncontrolled it can be a vehicle of division and destruction.

The Gospel account of Jesus being tempted in the Wilderness for forty days may now appear to be more relevant than ever before. It was just this sort of power that the Devil offered Jesus and which He so emphatically rejected. He also offered wealth and the opportunity of considering Himself 'Fireproof' from all physical calamity; the angels would save Him from hurt. But Jesus rejected this sort of false trust in God too. He made it quite plain that He turned His back on all of the accepted human standards. His way was to be something quite fresh and different. Later in His ministry Jesus rejected the offer made by His disciples to call down fire on His opponents and the offer to be made king with an army of wellwishers leading an insurrection against the occupying Roman authority. Instead He persevered with demonstrating a new way of Love, by embracing with His love both those who opposed Him (the rich and the strong) and those who were the outcasts of society at the time (the poor and the unattractively ill like the lepers).

No-one has succeeded in following Jesus anything like perfectly. Certainly 'The Church', however defined, has conspicuously failed over the centuries to be anything but a patchy disciple of Jesus. Occasionally individuals have appeared who have seemed to grasp the wonderful Good News which Jesus brought and have modelled their lives better than most of us on Him. These people we call saints. They have not just been pious pray-ers. They have been people who by their close communion with God have transformed their lives and our society in a dramatic way and they have achieved much. Let us be inspired by their vision and learn from their discipleship. Let us never be caught out admiring the standards which Jesus so patently rejected. It is so easy to be caught unawares.

Nicholas Chubb

'Give me a hundred men who fear nothing but God, who hate nothing but sin, and who know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified and I will shake the world'.

John Wesley

THE OVER-RIDING PROBLEM OF MENTAL STRESS

You will probably remember in the August issue of the Spire the article on the "Most Urgent Priority" of the great problem of mental illness, psychological, emotional and stress-related disorders in Britain today.

A famous psychiatrist has said that in his experience those patients who have Christian belief to help them in their troubles are the most likely to rise above and conquer this crippling and agonising disability.

In this context I proffer a meditation written 15.7.84 after a certain amount of reading – and experience – in this field.

*"God created us for Himself and our souls are restless until we find our rest in Him".**

"Poor soul", how often have these words expressed pity for someone in distress, "a poor lost soul" is another such phrase. "Poor soul".

The soul is the part of us that houses our intellect, our will and our emotions – our emotions of fear, anxiety, anger, resentment, jealousy – these often battle with our intellect and our will and we can be filled with unrest, disease. Our psyche is sick, it needs a doctor. A psychiatrist is a human fallible doctor for our soul but the best doctor for our soul is God, through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, "Come unto me all ye who travail and are heavy laden and I will refresh you". "He restoreth my soul".

The spirit is the part of us created by God to be the home of fellowship with Him, to experience inner knowing of Him; some never enter it, for those who do there is joy and peace and a knowing and abiding love. We have a wonderful promise from Jesus that if we direct our will to follow Him and to call Him, He will come and abide with us and He will send His Spirit to join our spirit and comfort and strengthen us.

Our body houses our spirit and our soul. If our spirits are high we feel lifted up and our souls can be filled with well being. If our spirits are low our souls are cast down and often our emotions – negative emotions – seem to win the day. Our body – our soma – can be taken over by our wrongly directed psyche and we may become psychosomatically ill. Doctors are increasingly questioning whether most illnesses, possibly all illness, does not have its conception in the sick psyche.

Jesus came to save our souls, to heal the sick. He came to lead us in the way of coming to God to ask Him to receive us back to Him, to render back to Him the life He first gave us, to offer Him our souls and bodies to be a willing sacrifice to His receiving love so that He can refresh us.

"Come forward, you are thirsty, accept the water of life, a free gift to all who desire it."

* St. Augustine of Hippo

M.O.

'I would suggest that all of you Christians begin to live more like Jesus Christ, and you practise your religion without toning it down and that you put your emphasis on love, for love is the centre and soul of Christianity.'

Gandhi

VIVA THE MADDISON CLINIC

It was with relief and thanksgiving that we heard of the reprieve from threatened closure of the Maddison Clinic. It seems that if plans which run counter to the well being of people are met with enthusiastic, determined and well-informed opposition the powers that be can be persuaded against making shortsighted and ill conceived mistakes.

Many thanks are due to Toby Jessel for his active support all along and particularly for calling the "clinching" meeting. He had certainly done his home-work and was most impressive in his grasp and command of the situation.

Len Rockliffe and Vera have been upholders of the Clinic for many years and Len has worked hard and unremittingly for the interests of the elderly. The Rockliffe Room which has given support and comfort to so many is only one tribute to Len and Vera. Over this last issue Len, as Chairman of the Maddison Clinic's League of Friends, has spent himself selflessly, and it is difficult to express adequately appreciation for the hours he has put in. May the heartening success be worth the effort Len — it has certainly assured that the vision and foresight of John Maddison will continue to brighten the lot of the elderly for whom in these materialistic days there would else have been a depressing outlook in this area.

Well done. My husband and I have cause to be grateful to the Clinic and are so happy that the fruits of all John's caring, hard work have been saved from dying with him.

Margery Orton

CAR QUIZ AND PICNIC

Are you sitting comfortably behind the steering wheel? Then I'll begin:

1. Not a French King's ordnance, but which British monarch visited this spot?
2. This lady curator was obviously held in high esteem.
3. Who is buried upside down overlooking his beloved Dorking?

With such fiendish questions were drivers and passengers faced on the St. James's Social Committee's car quiz and picnic at the end of July. The day dawned sunny and stayed that way during a fascinating 50-mile spin in the afternoon. Our family, for one, is grateful for being introduced to the pleasures of the less busy areas of Box Hill. And a couple running an antiques shop in Walton-on-Hill are probably still perplexed at the number of people asking that day for an explanation of the name of the house next door.

The journey ended at Nonsuch Park, Ewell, with tea, a spot of cricket, and the ill-famed cherry-stone spitting competition (not as easy as it looks). Many thanks to Roger and Hilde Bucknell and family for the quiz, to all the other organisers, and congratulations to winners Huw Taylor and passengers.

As for those questions (only a sample of what we had to suffer!): a visit to Roy Grove, Hampton, will provide the answer to the first; a trip to Oxshott Heath and a walk up a steep hill will solve the second; and the grave of Major Peter Labelliere is to be found at the top of Box Hill.

Chris Richards

FROM YOUR MISSION PARTNER

Dear Friends, It is now the monsoon season here in Nepal with at least some rain almost every day. The paths are wet, muddy and slippery, and washing takes several days to dry. For the Nepalis, this is a very busy time of year ploughing the fields and transplanting the rice. Our school has holidays now as the children are needed to help in the fields with rice planting. I have taken the opportunity to get away from the village for a few weeks and away from my leaky house during the worst of the rains!

At the beginning of July, Jean and I went to Darjeeling for a holiday. Darjeeling is a hill town in India near the borders of Nepal, Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan. Many of the people in the area are Nepalis and were pleased when they realised that we spoke their language. Over thirty years ago when Nepal was a closed country, a lot of Christian work went on in border towns such as Darjeeling. Several of the pastors now living in Nepal came from Darjeeling and their relatives are still there. Now there is a large Nepali Christian Church in Darjeeling and several smaller Christian groups.

We left Kathmandu on the night bus leaving at 5.30pm, hoping to arrive at the border at 6.30am the next morning. Roads in Nepal are very few as they are so difficult and expensive to build because the country is so mountainous. In order to go east, we first had to go 110km due west and then south before we were heading in the right direction. Unfortunately we didn't choose one of the better buses as we got four punctures, — each taking about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour to change followed by an hour's stop at the next town while the tyre was repaired. We eventually had to abandon the bus and were transferred to a local bus for the last four hours arriving at the border seven hours late. At the border we eventually found the offices to get our passports stamped and baggage checked. After that we got a jeep taxi to Siliguri, the nearest town at the bottom of the Darjeeling hill. By this time it was 4.30pm we had been travelling 23 hours and had had enough. So we spent the night in an Indian hotel. Siliguri is less than 1,000 ft above sea level and we were glad of the cold showers and electric fans.

The next morning we got a bus to Darjeeling. It took $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours and the road climbed up to about 8,000 ft. There is also a narrow gauge railway that goes up the hill to Darjeeling but the train unfortunately doesn't run during the monsoon. We understood why on our return trip after two weeks of almost continuous rain. The road had been closed for several days while landslides of rock and mud were cleared from it. In places the road itself had begun to slide down the hillside!

We had a lovely holiday, a good rest and a chance to do some reading. No good views unfortunately as it was either raining or we were actually in the clouds. Still, it made a nice change to be cool and to be able to sleep with several blankets on my bed. We visited the zoo, the botanical gardens and the Nepal church. We spent a lot of time wandering round the shops and markets. As Darjeeling town is built on a steep hill we were forever climbing up or down. The streets run parallel to each other and are connected by steep stairways. From Darjeeling we also had a two day trip to Kalimpong from where we could look out over Sikkim. Kalimpong is about 3,000 ft lower than Darjeeling so for two days we were below the clouds and actually saw the sun.

On our return from Darjeeling to Kathmandu we spent four days in the Terari (the flat lowlands of southern Nepal) staying with Andrew and Coby

Bulmer (CMS) in the village where they have been working about 20Km N.E. of Jonakpur. It was very interesting to compare that village (Madhubassa) with our village (Makaising) as it is very different. It is very hot on the Terari, especially at this time of year, and the land is very flat. In Makaising we haven't got enough level ground for a football pitch! Madhubassa is small village (just 35 houses) with just one tribe of people (Magar). Makaising is much larger (over 200 houses) and includes people of different tribes and castes including Brahim, Gurung, Magar and Newar.

I am now in Kathmandu doing language study before returning to the village to start school in just over a weeks' time.

When I first came into Kathmandu four weeks ago I realised that since before Christmas I had only been able to get to one church service, and that was in Nepali so I only understood half of it. Jean and I listen to tapes together and we meet for fellowship with Christine and Tove at least once a month but its not quite the same. (How much I took for granted before I came here!) Yet, wherever we are and whatever we are doing "The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue. Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. The Lord is all I have and so in Him I put my hope. The Lord is good to everyone who trusts Him". (Lamentations 3 v22-25 GNB).

There are some things that are hard to describe in letters. I hope to be back in England for leave by this time next year so that I will be able to explain things more fully. God is at work in the village and visible signs of His work are just beginning to appear. The seed has been planted and the harvest is just beginning. One family have thrown out their idols and refused to do any sacrifices declaring that they are going to worship the one, true, good God, others too are thinking seriously about what they believe.

"Those who rush to other gods bring many troubles on themselves. will not take part in their sacrifices, I will not worship their gods.

You, Lord, are all I have, and you give me all I need, my future is in your hands". (Ps 16 v4,5 GNB).

With much love,

1st August, 1984

Margaret Cranston

KOINONIA

Some of you are members of this fellowship group already, some of you have come to a few meetings and some of you, we hope will join us all on Thursday evenings in the Vestry starting on September 27th at 8 p.m. This autumn and winter we intend to consider and talk about faith in some of its many aspects as we find it in the Old and New Testaments, as it works in our own lives and in the world. Meetings will continue to be informal with time for prayer and thought, as well as singing and discussion — all of us who are members of the Koinonia are looking forward eagerly to the renewal of our weekly Thursday evenings which have been much missed during the last few months and we hope that some of our other friends from the Church will join us. Come along and discover whether this is for you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

We met on Saturday afternoon, July 21st in Bushy Park. It was a blisteringly hot day: Gill and I arrived promptly to find that nobody from the Sunday School had turned up, not even my own children. We gradually assembled near the car park closest to our destination – the Woodland Gardens.

Our party of seven adults and eleven children started their trek, Hannah of course clutching a handful of hair brushes bringing up the rear – on an educational note we did try to observe and catch at least one of the many grasshoppers along our path.

On reaching the gardens, we found a shady place by the river, spread our rug and sat down to have our picnic (I think the ducks ate more than us). No children fell into the water, although one or two disasters were narrowly averted. The boys quickly found the water sprinkler and proceeded to wash their hair, soon joined by the more daring of the girls. But as it was so hot nobody was too concerned and they did dry off quickly.

We tempted them homeward with a few quick ball games and safely returned all the children to their parents amid cries of "can I have an ice cream"

Our special thanks go to Tony and Penny Hennessy, my brother Nick and his friend Mandy and of course Rachel Lloyd for helping to make the afternoon a success.

Pam Atkinson

THE CHURCH CHOIR

A discussion will soon be held concerning the Church Choir and its function – or non-function as at present at morning service – for choral Eucharist. I feel that, as organist and director of the Choir, I should now put forward a few comments. Since I know of no other Church which has a Choir, and does not let it help the congregation to make the music of the service a worthy offering to God – I cannot get any comments from practical experience elsewhere of this state of affairs.

Not everyone is a singer (as some of our congregation tell me), and not everyone is musical. Similarly, we are not all mathematicians, or linguists, but in the latter cases we are pleased to know that our bank officials can cope, and our interpreters will speak for us. What, then, is against having a choir to lead and help the congregation – and, during the communion of the people, probably sing an anthem? As a Gradual, we could have a Psalm – which isn't practical with a large congregation and no choral leadership (after all – the Choir practises weekly in order to give a good lead to the music).

We ought to have a goodly number of junior members (and their parents) in the choir – and recruitment to a Church Choir which only sings at Evensong and not at the main service is extremely difficult.

Perhaps I should "blow my own trumpet" a little, and say that I am a qualified and experienced organist, and have played and deputised in quite a large number of churches – and am also a qualified and experienced choir trainer and conductor of children's and adults' choirs and choral societies and orchestras – as well as being an orchestral player.

We could, and should, do so much with music at St. James's.

Olive Hayward

BISHOP WAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Bishop Wand School, which opened in 1969, was founded to provide secondary education according to Christian principles, in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England, in the old "South West Middlesex" area. Now a modest-sized comprehensive school of 630 pupils with its own Sixth Form, it admits 120 children each year. About 50 come at 11+ from the London Boroughs (mainly Richmond and Hounslow), and 70 at 12+ from the administrative County of Surrey, (mainly Spelthorne).

Bishop Wand is a Voluntary Aided school, maintained by Surrey County Council: it is, of course, non fee-paying. It offers a broad-based secondary education up to the age of 14, followed by more specialised two-year courses leading to G.C.E. Ordinary Level and C.S.E. examinations. In the Sixth Form there is a choice of 18 Advanced Levels, together with a variety of one-year courses including Ordinary Levels and Secretarial Studies.

The School is known for its sound academic standards and examination successes, for its strong pastoral, caring emphasis and for the positively Christian stance it takes in moral and religious education. Children from the full comprehensive range of academic ability are welcomed – from the high-flyers who will eventually go on to University (as many do each year), to those who need special help from the Remedial Department with basic English and number skills. It has a fine reputation for music, and for sport (particularly Rugby Football). Playing fields surround the school and there is an excellent indoor heated 20-metre swimming pool.

The school is readily accessible from all parts of its catchment area; Upper Halliford station, on the Shepperton line, is a few minutes from the school and local bus routes are within easy walking distance.

Interested parents are invited to write to the School for a brochure, or to ask for an interview with the Headmaster, D.G. Jones, M.A., Bishop Wand School, Layton's Lane, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 6LT. An Open Evening for prospective parents has been arranged on Tuesday, 16th October, from 7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

D.G. Jones

"BABY-SITTING"

Amongst the many valuable activities of the Community Care Group is the "one-parent baby-sitting group". As you all know, some from your own sad experience, there is an increasing number of one-parent families in our society and one of the deprivations suffered by those concerned is the lack of social life. It is very difficult to leave children in the evenings if you have neither a partner nor sufficient money to afford a professional sitter and the people in the one-parent family group (they are all women, but obviously there must also be single fathers with the same difficulty) rely on volunteers to help them to lead a more normal life. The group of people who do occasional baby-sitting is quite small and we need some more helpers to enable the single mother (mostly left alone through no fault of their own) to go out occasionally to evening classes, meetings or to join friends in the sort of social activities which most of us can take for granted. So if you feel that you could give a few hours sometimes, please do volunteer. Ring Audrey Moran, the organiser of the One-parent Group, on 977 9570. You will be doing a great service and I know that you will enjoy yourself and make new friends among the children, whom you will find co-operative and well-behaved. You might be an honorary auntie or grannie by Christmas!

HAMPTON COUNCIL *of* CHURCHES

LIVING FAITH

A course of talks to aid interfaiths understanding

THE METHODIST CHURCH, Percy Road

HAMPTON - 8. pm

MON. RABBI ALBERT FRIEDLANDER

17 Sep Academic Director, Leo Beck College

MON. M. KRISHNAMURTI

24 Sep Director, Institute of Indian Culture

MON REV JACK AUSTIN

8 Oct Buddhist Priest Nishi Hongwangi of Kyoto

MON DR. M. A. ZAKI BADAWI

15 Oct Director, The Muslim College, London

MON THE RT. REV. ARCHBISHOP

29 Oct **TREVOR HUDDLESTON**

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms (all from the Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul)

19th August Magnus James Gudmundsson 19c Albert Road, Teddington
Victoria Elizabeth Louise Costis 50 Broad Street
Andrew Adley 81 Connaught Road

Weddings

25th August Stephen Paul Coxall and Patricia Jane Eden
David James Campbell and Linda Christine King

From the Register of Services

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pedged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
22nd July	100	120	108	25
29th July	135	175	82	14
		Bankers Orders for July	£494	
5th August	78	84	115	5
12th August	65	70	81	10
19th August	93	99	159	48

BITS AND PIECES

From October the Spire will appear for the first weekend in the month. We hope this will prove helpful to many of our distributors and readers. Our thanks to Norman Carter for making it possible.

One omission from the account of the PCC Meeting in last month's Spire. We learnt that Margaret Lawrance has kindly offered to make a new White Frontal for the Altar. She hopes that it will be ready for next St. James's Day. The present one is almost falling apart with use and age. We are most grateful and apologise for the omission.

St. Mark's Teddington has booked a Retreat at St. Columba's House, Woking, for the weekend 18th - 20th January 1985. The Vicar, Rev. Tony Carter 977 4067, invites any from St. James who might like to go to get in touch with him, since St. Mark's may not be able to fill all the available places. The cost is likely to be about £25.

On 20th September Nicholas will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his ordination in York Minster. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.00pm in Church. He invites you to join him at the service and a small party afterwards.

DATES TO NOTE

September

9th	PENTECOST 13	Services as usual
11th	09.30	Holy Communion
13th	10.00	Pram Service
	19.15	Holy Communion
14th	06.30	Holy Communion
	19.30	Choir Practice resumes
15th		Hampton Carnival starts from St. James's Road
16th	PENTECOST 14	Services as usual
17th	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches Talk (1) at Percy Road Methodist Church – Rabbi Albert Friedlander
18th	09.30	Holy Communion
	20.00	P.C.C.
19th	20.00	Good News Group (75 Burton's Road)
20th	20.00	Parish Communion for Vicar's 25th anniversary of Ordination
21st	06.30	St. Matthew – Holy Communion
23rd	PENTECOST 15	Services as usual
24th	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches Talk (2) – M. Krishnamurti
25th	09.30	Holy Communion
27th	19.15	Holy Communion
	19.30	Hampton Deanery Synod Talk (1) at SS. Peter & Paul, Teddington – What is real Aid?
	20.15	Properties Committee (40 Cardinal's Walk)
28th	06.30	Holy Communion
29th		St. Michael and All Angels
30th	PENTECOST 16	HARVEST FESTIVAL
		Services as usual in Morning
	16.30	Special Service and Tea on Lawn

October

1st	20.00	Stewardship Committee
2nd	09.30	Holy Communion
3rd	20.15	Hall Committee (249 Uxbridge Road)
5th	19.30	Harvest Supper and Entertainment (Hall)
7th	PENTECOST 17	Services as usual
8th	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches Talk (3) – Rev. Jack Austin (Buddhist Priest)
9th	09.30	Holy Communion
10th	20.00	Deanery Synod Meeting
11th	19.15	Holy Communion
	19.30	Hampton Deanery Synod Talk (2) – Slaves to Trade
12th	06.30	Holy Communion
14th	PENTECOST 18	Services as usual
15th	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches Talk (4) – Dr. M.A. Zaki Badawi
16th	09.30	Holy Communion
	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches AGM (St. Francis de Sales)
18th	St. Luke	
	19.15	Holy Communion
19th	06.30	Holy Communion