

November seems to be a month for remembering a number of significant things in both the religious and secular calendar. I am always grateful for the fact that the Church has seen fit to start this gloomy month (at least in our part of Northern Europe) with a Festival to recall the thousands of unknown christians who have been the life of the church over the centuries. November 1st is called All Saints' Day and it enables us to thank God in a positive way for all those for whom we have great cause to be thankful, for those who in difficult times have not surrendered to the testing of their times and have 'kept the Faith' sometimes losing their lives to do so. Increasingly it seems we are entering into another era when it is difficult to be a practising christian and occasionally positively dangerous. For many years now we in this country have watched with admiration those who have witnessed courageously in places far from us. Now we are much nearer the front line. We are certainly not any longer free from violence and terrorism as a country. We also can see injustice occurring much more frequently around us in the fabric of society. So it is good to be reminded of the faithfulness of past christians and to thank God for them.

Then 5th November, Guy Fawkes' Day, will have an added dimension to it this year following the callous and deliberately horrific bombing at Brighton during the Conservative Party Conference. The effect of that blast will be felt for many years to come in our political life. No-one, but no-one except those who planned the attack, can do other than condemn the outrage. Innocent men and women were killed or mutilated. Perhaps it helps us to understand some of the frustrations which people feel when they feel that their legitimate hopes are thwarted. (This does *not* justify the violence.) We have witnessed these things in Poland and South Africa and Central America to name a few. We must never fall prey to the selfrighteous concept that we can never offend people, that our laws never oppress or are never made contrary to international interpretations of justice. I hope that this recent horror will serve to keep us on our toes.

Lastly 11th November helps us to remember the ultimate uselessness of wars. We certainly do need occasionally to stand up and defend the oppressed with all the strength at our command. But we also need to remember that we must never be lured into war until all possible avenues of negotiation have been exhausted. We seem to be going through a phase at the moment of glorifying war, at least in some sections of the media. These people never seem to do anything to reflect the incredible physical and mental suffering that results from armed conflict. All that is shown is the courage and daring of the successful combatants and the skill of the weapons manipulators.

Let us use this month for the proper use of Remembrance in all its aspects and learn from the horrors of days past.

Nicholas Chubb

## BETTY STEWART

*After the St. James's Day presentation to Betty she wrote a letter thanking us all for her gifts. We put this in church for all to read. However some seem to have missed it and some who contributed have not been able to come to church since, so we publish the letter in its entirety.*

71 Ormond Drive, Hampton

24 July 1984.

Dear Everybody,

Thank you so very much for all my lovely presents.

You could not have given me anything which would have given me greater pleasure than the excellent photograph of St. James's Church taken from such a good angle, with the beautifully written inscription on the back.

When Nicholas presented me with the photograph I thought that was all, and was so surprised to receive in addition the cheque and the most lovely floral decoration. I intend to buy a new sewing machine with the cheque, as I would like to spend it on something which I will use often and which will last for years.

The flowers were so lovely I did not want to leave them at home, so I took them to hospital for the day on Monday, when we were having a Thanksgiving Service. I put them in front of the altar where everybody could see them. As I looked at them during the service, I remembered you all, and thought to myself that "they" may be closing my hospital, but St. James's Church with its beautiful services and its loving care and fellowship was still there, and that was certainly something to be very thankful for.

With my love and thanks to you all.

Betty

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## THE 23rd CHANNEL

The TV is my Shepherd, I shall not want. It makes me lie down on the sofa. It leads me in the paths of sex and violence. Yea, though I walk in the shadow of Christian responsibilities, there will be no interruption, for the TV is with me. Its cable and its remote control, they comfort me. It prepares a commercial before me in the presence of my worldliness. It anoints my head with humanism and consumerism: my coveting runneth over. Surely laziness and superficiality shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house watching TV forever.

*Adapted from an item from St. Timothy's, Fort Worth, USA*

## **WORLD RELIGIONS**

We have been privileged so far to hear three talks by practitioners of the Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist faiths. These are part of a series of talks organised by the Hampton Council of Churches, being introduced by Nicholas Chubb. Interest has been demonstrated by Hampton Methodist Church being nearly full on each occasion.

The first of the series was given by Rabbi Laury Tabick, a young New Yorker who very ably replaced the original speaker at short notice. He traced the history of the Jewish faith up to the destruction of the Temple, the dispersion of the Jews and their existence in tight knit communities, the liberation of the 19th century and the formation of the Jewish State. He was able to put across an enviable seriousness towards the faith, typified by the refusal of Sir Moses Montefiore, 1st Jewish Lord Mayor of London, to attend his inauguration when he found it coincided with a Jewish Feastday. 'My God comes before my Queen'. Rabbi Tabick brought along some articles used in religious services, including a ram's horn which was blown with vigour.

Our speaker on Hinduism, Mr. Kommer, gave an impression of great spirituality and enthusiasm which caused him frequently to break into sanskrit. He spoke of ascetic practices and yoga inducing a higher state of consciousness, in order to break the hold of our past deeds. Failure results in reincarnation in a form relating to the past life. He was at pains to link aspects of Hinduism to the teaching of Jesus. An idea that might appeal to many was for people in middle age to desert their families and 'go into the woods' to seek the elevated life by meditation.

The Buddhist, far from being Eastern was an Englishman, Rev. Jack Austin, who started life as a chorister in a Welsh (Llandorff) cathedral, then joined the Catholics, before becoming a Buddhist priest as he is now. He spoke of the early help he received from Justice Christmas Humphreys when there were only a few Buddhist communities in this country; now there are well over a hundred. Enlightenment is sought by extinguishing the flame and the force of desire and grasping which binds people to endless rebirth. Ethics are based on the 5 precepts of respect for life, no stealing, no unlawful sex, no lying or gossip, no drugs or intoxicants, precepts which would be of great benefit in modern life.

Though Judaism can be readily appreciated by Christians, the two Eastern religions are so different that it is hard to see the driving force behind them and appreciate their rather impersonal appeal.

Warm thanks are due to the organisers who have enabled the curtains covering these religions to be drawn a little aside.

David Taylor

## **A PERSONAL THANK YOU**

I was very touched by the number of people who sent messages to me or attended the service of Holy Communion on 20th September, the occasion of my 25th anniversary of ordination. It was a very special day for me and was made more so by my good fortune at being among such special people at this time. So thank you all very much whoever you may be for your love and kindness to Susan and me. Alison Thompson has written an account of the service in another place.

Nicholas

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING

Once again this year the people having Children's Society boxes surpassed themselves in their giving. The total for this year was over thirty pounds up on last years total, £239.51p as against £205.11p which in itself was also a record amount. Thank you very much everyone who contributed to this magnificent sum and thank you also for coming along in such numbers on the night which makes the task of opening the boxes so much quicker and so much more enjoyable. The bring and buy also raised a few pounds, £8.48p to be exact and this amount was added to the box money. I still have a couple of spare boxes if anyone would like one, and if anyone feels their box is filling up too rapidly just tell me and I will be happy to empty it any time as I do send money to the Society throughout the year from various other sources.

You may have seen in the papers that the Children's Society has sent some money to help the families of miners who are finding themselves in financial difficulties at the present time. I have had a long letter from the Society explaining their actions in some detail because they obviously feel that the facts have not been properly reported and they wish to make their position clear. No one has made any comments to me on their actions either for or against but I thought it worth mentioning the main points of the letter in case anyone has wondered quite what was going on.

Grants have only been given where the Bishop of the diocese has specifically requested it to help individual hard pressed cases known to his Parish clergy, initially in Wales but since then also in Yorkshire and the amounts of money have been small, about £500. The only criterion that has been applied is the child's need for help whether the father has been working or striking, no political judgement has been used.

Another response has been to extend the work of one of the Society's long established family centres which is in the Yorkshire mining area. The project leader there asked for more money to extend the existing provision of playgroups and holiday schemes for the children from this community and an additional allowance was allocated to this, £4,000 in all.

Given these facts I hope people will be better able to judge the Society's actions and if anyone would like to see the letter in its entirety I shall be very glad to show it to them.

A final word, we still collect jewellery on behalf of the Society, broken or whole, to be repaired and valued and then sold to swell the funds, if you have any such please give them either to me or to Mrs. Doris Childs who will be very happy to pass them on.

Helen Taylor

## FRIENDSHIP'S OTHER SIDE

I have learnt in friendship to understand three things. Firstly, I have to like people as they are, and not as what I would like them to be. Secondly, I have to face the fact that I don't like everybody — I am just not up to it. Thirdly, to remember rows and differences are not always bad. Friendship is much more credible if it can go through patches of anger, frankness, and come out the other side.

*Rabbi Lionel Blue in 'The Universe'*

## 25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Nicholas was happy. His eyes shone with delight. To be told that which you spend your entire self and life trying to do to perfection is the most satisfying and rewarding of all job endeavours is enough to warm the cockles of ones heart. To tell the other people it is so as the Rev. Higgins did must add to it.

Yes, Nicholas was happy that after 25 years of endeavour he could look upon such a demonstration of affection and approval as had brought this church full of people out on a damp dreary evening.

He had expected the golden nucleus, the hard core to be there with a sprinkling of regulars, perhaps 20, 40 even, 50 would be nice.

I didn't count I was too occupied with the meaningful service of which I was a part – I reckoned nearer 100.

The service was dignified and beautiful and Nicholas came down into the Church to give the Peace to each of us individually.

After the service there was a welcome wine cup and sandwiches, etc. in the South Aisle and an iced celebration cake cut into tiny square as there were so many.

We all signed a card and Alan Taylor made one of his appropriate and cheery speeches and we drank to the next 25 years and did not forget Susan and the family.

Alison Thompson

## STEWARDSHIP REVIEW

This will be held on November 22nd in the Parish Hall, School Road. If you are already a member of the scheme you will have received a letter of invitation to it. (If by any chance you have not received one by mistake please take this article as an invitation). But to everyone who reads this we want to thank all those who make contributions to St. James to help the church respond to the Gospel. Stewardship is about so much more than money, although we need money to achieve our aims. Stewardship is about responding to God in every way for the gifts he has given us – Life itself, the means of sustaining life. In our Stewardship Review this year we want not only to review what we have so far achieved but to look at ways in which we can respond better to God. So we shall not only be talking about money. For several years now we have looked at the work of the 'wider' church to see how our support is being effective in society. We shall not have a special speaker this year, but shall be thinking deeply about how we can in all respects become better stewards. The evening promises to be interesting and challenging as well social and informative. It really is a must for those who support St. James and we look forward to seeing you all there, if you can possibly arrange it.

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"I went to heaven and saw God. Would you believe it: she's black!"

– Wall Graffiti

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Church was as gaily decorated as ever for the services and a good number of people came to the Parish Communion and the afternoon special service. Once again a good lot of produce was brought which was distributed amongst those whom the church had served during the year, usually in some sadness. Our grateful thanks to all those who brought and to the distributors. One point raised after the event was whether it would not be a good thing, or a better thing, to distribute cans of food to those who are really *hungry* in other parts of London, or to sell the produce on behalf of Christian Aid. It is perhaps hard to acknowledge that there are those in real poverty in our own country although we do not see too much of it in these parts. Any comments on this would be welcome.

The Harvest Supper was voted one of the best ever. Helen Taylor and her band of helpers on the Social Committee had organised a splendid meal with everybody having more than enough to eat. The food and drink was followed by entertainment of exactly the right kind to help the digestion. Ruth Gostling and her friends produced a delightful light-hearted play made even funnier by the audience knowing the players in real life. The Youth Club acted out one of those effective silhouette 'operations' with enough realism to make a surgeon wince. (Is that really how it happens in hospital?). And finally Paul and Margaret with Olive at the piano led us in some singing of old-tyme favourites. (Was this really a congregational choir practice, some said). All in all a very good evening in every way.

*The following poem was written by Julia Revis, aged 9, and read by her at the afternoon service.*

### HARVEST

At harvest time we reap the corn  
They do it nearly all the morn,  
Combine harvester nearby ready  
Always slow and every time steady  
I love to look forward to harvest time  
All the gifts are yours and mine.

At harvest time, the church bells chime  
As the clock starts striking up to nine,  
Round the altar gifts we lay  
Some sheaves of wheat, a bundle of hay,  
Harvest times a special time  
That's why I made this little rhyme.

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We are called to be thermostats, not thermometers — affecting our environment, not reflecting it!

## **SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET**

The press has reported fairly fully all that went on at the Public Meeting in St. James's Parish Hall on 22nd September. Many of you who read this were present at it. But no-one has published the text of the three resolutions which were passed. They were based on some suggestions of Mr. O'Dea and were slightly modified on the night. The Editorial Board thought it would be a good thing to record these resolutions firstly to inform those who were not present of what was said and secondly for posterity's sake. The historians will thank us for this in years to come.

The following resolutions were passed at a Public Meeting held at St. James's Parish Hall, School Road, Hampton Hill, at 8.00 p.m. on Saturday 23rd September, 1984 under the Chairmanship of Rev. J.N. Chubb, Vicar of St. James', Hampton Hill.

1) "This meeting of Residents of Hampton and Hampton Hill deplores the dictatorial decision of the Minister of the Environment overruling the recommendation of the Inspector who conducted the Public Inquiry on the appeal by the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity to allow Sainsbury's to develop a hypermarket on the St. Clare site and asks the Member of Parliament for Twickenham to convey this feeling to the Minister".

2) "This meeting applauds the decision of the Richmond Borough Council to consider legal action to oppose the implementation of the Minister's decision which this meeting considers would be a disaster for the residents and traders of this area and gives its wholehearted support for any action it may take to oppose the decision".

3) "This meeting appeals to the Trustees of the Charity that in the event of the failure of the Council's efforts to rescind the decision they would extend their charitable instincts towards the community in which they live and withdraw their commitment to Sainsbury's".

## **HAMPTON FUEL ALLOTMENT CHARITY**

### **— Financial Assistance to those in need**

This Charity, whose present annual income is about £7,000, exists for the purpose of relieving either generally or individually persons resident in the area of the Ancient Town of Hampton (which includes the area of Hampton Hill but not Hampton Wick) who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.

The Charity is about to consider the payment of grants for the year 1985 and, accordingly, persons falling within the categories referred to are invited to make application by the 31st December, 1984 on a form to be obtained from, and returned to, any of the following Vicarages:-

St. Mary the Virgin, Church Street, Hampton

All Saints, The Avenue, Hampton

St. James's, St. James's Road, Hampton Hill

Other persons and local associations/societies are kindly asked to bring this matter to the notice of those whom they consider might qualify for assistance.

**PEWS FOR THE ASKING** As a result of the Faculty giving us permission to dispose of the pews (or parts of pews) affected by the re-ordering of the church the P.C.C. is now offering them to all those who would like to collect them. They are scattered round the parish being stored in various people's garages etc. If you would like one please get in touch with one of the churchwardens who will be delighted to oblige! We suggest that they would make admirable garden seats or you would be able to use the wood.

**PIGEON PIE** If you see a few distressed pigeons in the parish do not be surprised. Jack Gostling, Ron Bridges and Paul Revis, ably assisted by Oliver Taylor and Robert Childs, spent two weekends recently clearing out the bucketfuls of guano deposited by pigeons over recent years in the church tower. Not a very pleasant task. In addition they have fixed wire mesh netting over all the windows to prevent the pigeons remaking their homes in the tower. Not all the windows are easily accessible, to say the least. Our thanks to them for their hard work which will mean a great improvement in the general cleanliness of the church.

**P.C.C. NOTES** The meeting picked up various threads after the summer recess. Amongst these were: The Faculty for the Disposal of our pews had now arrived (see separate paragraph elsewhere), we have purchased two new tables for the church, our Insurers have given permission for the repair work on the damaged stained glass window to be done, the Hampton Council of Churches Float and the Will and Way Group both won first prizes at the Hampton Carnival.

The Christmas Services were arranged. These will be repeated in the December Spire but are as follows:

Sunday 23rd	NO Evening service in Church but we hope to provide Carol Singing at Laurel Dene before their evening meal. Exact time to be published later.
Tuesday 18th	Rectory School Carol Service
Thursday 20th	8.00 p.m. Carols and Orchestra
Christmas Eve	4.00 p.m. Carols round the Crib 11.45 p.m. Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	8.00 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. Communion
Sunday 30th	4.30 p.m. Lessons and Carols
January 6th (Ephiphany)	4.30 p.m. Christingle Service

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS

21st October	Matthew Paul Morton Ashley	23 Oxford Road, Teddington
	Gemma Louise Whittaker	85 Longford Close
	Christopher Paul Stapleton	10 Hanworth Road
	Laura Jane Hayler	8 Hanworth Road
	Karen Alexandra Harrison	10 Parkside

### WEDDINGS

29th September	Duncan Moreton McLeod and Dominique Rene Gilberte Loral
20th October	Peter Norman Staynes and Debra Jean Edwards

### FUNERALS

10th October	Edith Russell	Laurel Dene	aged 84
18th October	William Raymond Ridgers	27 Sanders Close	aged 66

## SCOUT GROUP NEWS

**CUB CAMP:** This year's Camp was at Perry Wood near Gatwick Airport and Cubs from both Brown and Gold Pack went. Each of the three sixes, Lions, Tigers and Panthers had a Scout in charge. There was a special six called the Gazelles specially for the girls who came with us. The places we visited were Gatwick Airport, Godstone farm, Bluebell Railway and Brighton beach. There was an Adventure playground at the back of the camp where we played quite often. The Scouts built an aerial runway which was good fun. During the week we built shelters and made gadgets and went leaf collecting as well as keeping diaries. Our food was cooked for us by Mrs. Frazer and Mrs. Payne and we helped with the spud bashing and washing up. On Wednesday we went into the woods with our torches and on Friday went on a Midnight hike. On Saturday we were all reluctant to go home for a bath after such an enjoyable week.

Paul Drewett, Matthew Forsyth, Peter Bartolomy, Justin Colmore,  
Matthew D'Angibau, Gavin McCortney, Scott Williamson, David Grant.  
**BROWN PACK**

We have a few vacancies for boys on a Monday evening – Akela.

**TROOP:** Anthony Martin has passed his Chief Scout Award and had it presented alongside 50 other Scouts from the County on Saturday, 13 October at Purley. Congratulations Anthony. At the Scout Swimming Gala we came 12th out of 20 entries. Barry Walker did well winning the under 16 freestyle final and will represent the District at this year's County Gala. Congratulations Barry.

**VENTURE UNIT:** Is now operating on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on The Triangle and would welcome new recruits. Colin Hucklesby has now had his Warrant approved and will soon be invested as the Venture Scout Leader.

Michael Childs, G.S.L.

**FUTURE DATES:** Bonfire Party - 3rd November;  
**PARADE SUNDAY** – 4th November; Camelot Bazaar – 24th November.

## AROUND THE SPIRE

At a service on Thursday October 18th the Rev. David Bonner was licensed as Priest-In-Charge of All Saints Church, Twickenham. Since being ordained David has been attached to All Saints, Hampton and his work there will now stand him in good stead in his new appointment. The people at Twickenham have already come to know David well as he has taken many of their services during the interregnum. We at St. James's who also know David wish him all the very best in his new job and hope to be at the service to see him launched upon his new career.

Mrs. Russell, a long time resident of Laurel Dene and member of our congregation died earlier this month (October) after being ill for some time. She died very peacefully and although a quiet and unassuming member of our church we shall, nevertheless, miss her presence among us after so long. Her own family was rather small and she looked upon the people of St. James as her family, we send our sympathy to her family at this sad time.

Chrissie Hockley and Maud Girling, both of whom have recently had spells in hospital are now making good recoveries and we wish them both well. Nicky Pailthorpe has also been ill but we hope by now that he also is on the mend. The Pailthorpe family have lately moved from Teddington to Hampton and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

## FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
16th September	103	134	126	4
23rd September	91	124	172	5
30th September	106	180	162	32
7th October	120	135	117	6
14th October	102	136	70	11

## DATES TO NOTE

### NOVEMBER

- 4 8th before Christmas Services as usual
- 6 09.30 Holy Communion  
10.30 Magazine Committee
- 8 19.15 Holy Communion  
20.00 Hampton Deanery Synod Talk (4) Money and the big Guns  
20.00 Koinonia
- 9 06.30 Holy Communion
- 11 7th before Christmas – Remembrance Sunday Services as usual
- 13 09.30 Holy Communion
- 14 20.00 Good News Group  
20.00 Wayside Committee
- 15 19.15 Holy Communion  
20.00 Koinonia
- 16 06.30 Holy Communion
- 18 6th before Christmas Services as usual
- 20 09.30 Holy Communion
- 21 20.00 Wayside AGM
- 22 19.45 Stewardship Review  
20.00 Hampton Deanery Synod Talk (5) Holiness and Justice
- 23 06.30 Holy Communion
- 25 5th before Christmas Services as usual
- 27 09.30 Holy Communion
- 28 20.00 Good News Group
- 29 19.15 Holy Communion  
20.00 Koinonia
- 30 06.30 Holy Communion St. Andrews Day

### DECEMBER

- 1 10.00 Churchyard Clearing
- 2 Advent Sunday Services as usual
- 4 09.30 Holy Communion
- 5 14.30 Mothers' Union
- 6 19.15 Holy Communion  
20.00 Koinonia
- 7 06.30 Holy Communion
- 9 Advent 2 Services as usual
- 11 09.30 Holy Communion
- 12 20.00 Good News Group
- 13 19.15 Holy Communion  
20.00 Koinonia
- 16 Advent 3 Services as usual
- 17-30 Details of Christmas Services in December Magazine