

In the April edition of the Spire four questions on mission were printed which were discussed by those who stayed behind after the evening service on May 5th. We found it difficult.

First we found that the word 'mission' was so loaded with overtones that we could hardly think straight. We would have liked to have dropped the word but that was not in the rules of the game! We had visions of a missionary Church either Bible-thumping in a way fit only for the newspaper cartoonists or preaching something which was seen to be quite out of touch with reality.

Then the twenty-three people present pursued the question of whom we were being 'sent' to (since Mission means 'sending'). Many had a difficulty if they lived here and worked somewhere else. In the end we decided that the key thing was that wherever we were we made contact, personal contact, with those about us. We liked to think that we were thought of as a caring parish, where the individual was noticed not ignored.

When we considered the difference mission would make we realised that if people thought of our Faith as relevant to their lives it would make a large showing in the accounts! People support what they judge to be worthwhile. Our strongest point we decided was recognising and acknowledging our weaknesses; that in fact the church was *not* often full for worship; that in fact we do *not* know each other very well; that we are *not* welcoming enough to the occasional or first-time visitor; that our giving was *not* very generous or high; that we do *not* have much to give those in the 11-20 age bracket; that we needed the Lent Groups to continue in some form or another.

Finally we were quite convinced that we ought to continue the process of evaluation. Without it there is a danger of slipping into complacency, self-congratulation, smugness and self-satisfaction. We could have continued for much more than the 1¼ hours we took.

Perhaps some of you who were not able to be there could tell us if we have got it right? Do we show and communicate the presence of Christ where we happen to be?

Nicholas Chubb

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 1985

The Annual Church Meeting was held on 24th April at the Parish Hall. The first business, as always, was the election of Churchwardens. The election, as usual, did not take long. Mr. Ron Bridges and Mrs. Eila Severn were elected for another year of office. We thank them for their last year's work and welcome them and wish them well in the year that lies ahead.

Around 71 people were present to hear the reports for the year ended 31st December 1984. Thanks to the preparation of written accounts co-ordinated by Roger Bucknell and David Taylor we all had a good idea of what was happening in the various sub-committees of the parish — and undoubtedly all had been very active. The buildings are all well cared for and there has been a resurgence of the Social Committee who have planned great things for the future.

The Financial Report was succinctly given by the Treasurer but the message he gave us was not good. Due to the raising of the Parish Share by £4,000 we had had to dig into our reserves to find the necessary money and we could not go on doing this for long.

Then the membership of the Parochial Church Council was elected and the results were as printed below.

The Churchwardens and Vicar gave reports. We were delighted to hear that our motorbike has arrived at Milo Hospital, Tanzania, and can now be paid for.

Having been welcomed with a cup of coffee at the beginning the meeting was closed just after 9.30, one of the shortest in memory. Thanks very much to those who organised it so well and made it such a worthwhile occasion.

Results of elections to the P.C.C. 1985:

Mesdames R. Bridges, H. Bucknell, C. Kemiss, M. Leatherdale, M. Orton, C. Stevens, H. Taylor, M. Taylor, Misses A. Davis, O. Hayward, Messrs. J. Brownlee, M. Childs, J. Gostling, D. Lloyd, P. Revis, P. Roberts, L. Rockliffe, H. Severn, D. Taylor, R. Wilde.

P.C.C.

On May 9th the first meeting of the newly elected P.C.C. met at Wayside. A large amount of the evening was concerned with choosing new committees who do so much to help the parish run smoothly. We also accepted sadly the resignation from the Stewardship Committee of Margaret Leatherdale who has been a tower of strength for many years. It is not really possible to thank her adequately for all the service she has given in this direction. We are glad she has agreed to serve again on the P.C.C. after some time off it. We also heard of some plans made by the Social Committee (details in Dates to Note). But of prime importance was the discussion over Services

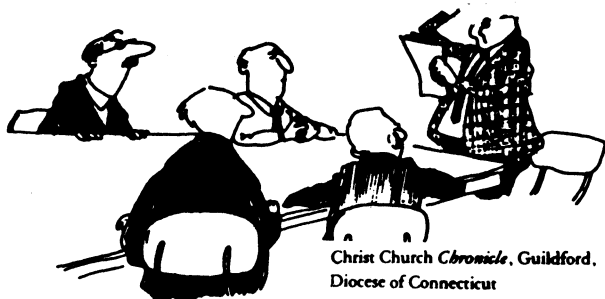
NEW FORM OF SERVICE

After experiencing two services of a different kind on 3rd March and 5th May, the P.C.C. decided that on each First Sunday in the month, beginning in June, we should, for a year, hold an "Informal Service" at 9.30 a.m. It would last *not longer* than 45 minutes and be of such a kind that it would be attractive to children and adults. The structure would be very simple and from time to time we should introduce new ideas.

On the same Sunday the Parish Communion would be in the evening.

The P.C.C. also decided that from this autumn the evening service would continue to be at 6.30 p.m. i.e. the service times would *not* change with the clocks.

"Our constitution specifically states that the Will of God cannot be overturned without a two thirds majority vote."



Christ Church Chronicle, Guildford.
Diocese of Connecticut

Memorandum

JMC

TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph
Woodcrafter Carpenter Shop
Nazareth

FROM: Jordan Management Consultants
Jerusalem

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely yours,
Jordan Management Consultants

THE NEW ALTAR FRONTAL

When Nicholas approached me last summer holding out a very sad and fraying stole, and with a pleading look in his eyes, I said that I would make another for him — the existing one was quite beyond repair. "Of course", he said, "the matching frontal is in the same condition, I tremble everytime it is changed in case it falls to pieces".

I have always greatly admired the beautiful white frontal but had to agree that to repair it would not only be a time consuming but exceedingly expensive exercise. Gold thread, even the 'imitation' variety (only type available today) is very expensive. So, the stole replacement grew to include a new frontal and burse and veil for good measure.

Apparently, since the new 'set' was first used on Easter Day, there have been several enquiries about the symbolism of the design and Nicholas asked if I would try and explain my thoughts in this direction.

The design, which was approved by the standing committee, I based on "St. James the Fisherman" wanting to incorporate the shell emblem of St. James (extremely difficult not to end up with it looking like an advertisement for a well known oil company!).

The colour scheme was chosen for me by the beautiful terracotta mosaic tiles of the chancel. As the high altar is not frequently used for communion I felt the frontal should blend with the background as a whole. I wanted the cross to be the dominant feature rising out of the turbulent sea (world) and the 'waves' to appear from the distance of the nave as bowed heads. I suppose it really developed as the "Fisher of Men" with the cross drawing up the net from the world of fish (men/women).

Apparently someone asked why the fishes were outside the net; in all honesty, I must admit they just balanced the design better that way (could they be 'the ones that got away'? or perhaps they're trying to join in).

I must just add that I thoroughly enjoyed the exercise (and technically it was indeed 'an exercise') and have been quite overwhelmed by the kind response to my efforts. I would like here to formally thank Jack Gostling who made me not only the frame to work on but the one to mount the frontal on; both were excellent. Lastly, my gratitude to Mrs. Jennings of the Hampton School of Needlework who was a great source of help and encouragement and a wonderfully experienced "sounding board" for my ideas.

Margaret Lawrence

3 CENTURIES OF CHURCH MUSIC

Handel — Bach — D. Scarlatti

The year 1985 celebrates the 300th anniversaries of the births of the great composers Handel, Bach and Domenico Scarlatti. How do they concern us? None were English — though Handel came to England from Germany at the age of 25, and two years later settled here, and most of his works were written for London Concert audiences — chiefly opera and oratorio. His first post, however, was as organist at the Calvinistic Cathedral in Hamburg. Though he was a Lutheran, in London he was a regular worshipper at St. George's, Hanover Square, and is known to have frequently played the organ at Westminster Abbey. He composed 16 organ concertos, and other organ music.

Domenico Scarlatti was Italian, and, whilst in Rome, held the position of Director of Music at St. Peter's — composing church music. Most of his life was spent in Spain, and he is known especially for his harpsichord Sonatas (about 500). Some of these were intended for organ — some might have been.

Bach, and a lot of his ancestors, spent their lives as Church Musicians in the Lutheran Church in Germany. They lived in Thuringia (now in East Germany) — and John Sebastian was born at Eisenach, spent his school days at Ordruf and Luneburg (listening to and learning from the great master Böhm — and walking 200 miles to Hamburg to hear Reinken). He was organist at Arnstadt, Mulhausen, Court Music Director and organist to the Duke of Weimar — and by now he had written most of his large output of organ music, to be played during and after the Church services. As Court Music Director to Prince Leopold of Cothen he had no organ (the Sunday services were Calvinistic with only stern psalm tunes). Here he wrote most of his orchestral works and piano (harpsichord then) music. Next he went to Leipzig to the St. Thomas School, and was director of music to the two Leipzig Churches, and to play at each on alternate Sundays. Here he wrote 300 or so Church Cantatas, and more organ music — also the St. John and St. Matthew Passions and the B minor Mass — all of his magnificent music written for Church use.

So we have Handel attending Church of England for most of his life — Scarlatti the Roman Catholic — and Bach a staunch Lutheran — and at St. James I am performing music by all three during 1985 — before and after service and during communion. Ecumenical music possibly!

When you read this I shall be away on a tour of homage to Bach and Handel in East Germany, visiting Halle (Handel's birthplace) and Bach's various habitations — with concerts and recitals at Leipzig, Eisenach, Dornheim, Dresden and Berlin.

Olive Hayward

FINANCE

You will already have read of the problems we face this year, since our Parish Share has been raised from £12,000 to £16,000. We are not alone as a parish in having a stiff increase in front of us this time round and we are not alone in wondering where it is all going to come from.

What is a Parish Share?

It is the sum of money which the Diocese of London asks each parish to pay towards the maintenance and work of the Diocese as a whole. It includes some money for the stipends and housing of the clergy, some money for social outreach (one parent families, for example), some money for educational outreach (Church schools and workers to support projects in parishes), administration (including the continuous work of the Synods of the Diocese) and some money for the General Synod of the Church of England (paid through the Diocese).

How is it assessed?

Nobody seems quite to know the answer to this! Some mathematical elements are used, but there is also an element of guesstimating. Not all parishes have the same support in numbers, all have different "degrees of affluence". We have the mixed privilege (financially speaking) of being judged to be a parish in the highest band of overall income. So the demands on us are considerable.

What are we going to do?

At the Special Meeting of the P.C.C. on 18th April it was decided, eventually, to try and meet the new target. Some had distinct misgivings, based not without reason, on the totally unprepared for increase. (Should it have been possible to forecast £4,000 on top of last year's £4,000 increase? We doubt it). What the meeting did reveal was that:

- (1) Some people had not raised their level of giving for 7 years,
- (2) If those who did not now covenant their regular giving could convert their gift to a Covenant then £1,000 would be raised without anything more being done other than signing a form,
- (3) That overall, with some magnificent exceptions, our giving on the whole was low,
- (4) During the year some members of our Stewardship Pledged Giving Scheme would be moving away,
- (5) Thanks to Covenanting we should be claiming over £4,000 in Tax from the Inland Revenue (last year it was just under £4,000).

The urgent plea now is: please reconsider your position and see if you can help. If you would like someone to help you "think through" the situation please ask.

CHURCH CHOIR

Oh dear, how sad it makes me when I read about why it is thought we have no choir at the Parish Communion at 9.30!

When the Service was introduced the decision not to have a choir was positive, not negative. It really is fundamental to the whole nature of the Service where we ALL contribute equally with our power to pray, to sing, to love and to give of ourselves in many other ways. It is the being together as one body which is important, and the emphasis is on being together.

There are a great many points I could raise about other Churches and what they do, but this is US, so please, before we scrap what many of us over the years have learned (and we did have to learn) to love do give this subject far more prayerful thought.

Eila Severn

TRADCRAFT

A young colleague of mine recently spent nearly three weeks with his wife in various parts of the Indian sub-continent under the auspices of Tradcraft – an organisation which, as many of you will know, exists to encourage craft workers in the under-developed countries by providing proper marketing facilities in the western world and a fair return for their work. He has agreed to talk to us about his visit and to show slides illustrating the people he met and the places he saw. The talk will take place on Tuesday 2nd July in Wayside at 8 pm and we have been able to arrange for goods made in the areas visited to be on display and available for purchase. We have often felt that we should learn more about Tradcraft and the way it works – this will be an excellent opportunity to do so: please come.

Ron Bridges

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This year the Parish Summer Outing will be to Oxford and Blenheim on Saturday July 13th. The coach will depart from outside the Church at **10.00am promptly** and we hope to begin the return journey about 5.30 pm. The cost will be £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children and this will include cold liquid refreshment e.g. Squash, Coke, Beer, etc. Please bring your own food. Depending on the weather and what people want to do we may just drop people off in Oxford to be picked up on the return journey, while the remainder of the party proceed straight on to Blenheim, or picnic all together in Oxford and then split up.

There is plenty for everyone to do at Blenheim and people in wheelchairs can be accommodated provided we have prior warning. Entrance to the House is £2.40 (group rate) and for those who do not wish to tour the House there are many attractions outside including narrow gauge and miniature railways, motor launch trips, a newly opened Butterfly House and Plant Centre, and an adventure playground. Tea can be arranged as a group if people wish.

Helen Taylor

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING EVENING

The Annual Children's Society Box Opening Evening will be on Monday, June 24th at 68 Park Road as usual. There will also be a Bring-and-Buy Stall. Bring your box along and while we empty it enjoy a coffee and have a browse through what we have to offer you. Anyone who would like a box please contact me.

Helen Taylor

THE ROAD TO EMMAEUS – THE EVENING OF OUR WORLD?

(Luke 24.13-35)

"The day is almost over", they said and pressed him to stay with them. "You cannot go any further tonight, it is not wise to be out after dark; the roads are not safe – remember the man who was mugged on his way to Jericho? And anyway, we all feel tired and despondent. There does not seem to be much purpose to life – everything feels threatening, dark and useless".

And then what a change after they had recognised that Jesus was alive, that God had kept all the promises set down for them in their holy scriptures. They set out again straight away on their return journey – full of energy and courage, ready to brave any possible dangers. There was purpose to their lives again – the immediate joyful task of telling the other disciples the good news; and of course with Jesus alive the future held promise.

It struck me when I heard this reading again on the second Sunday after Easter that it somehow reflects our own situation today. Some might say the day for this earth and for mankind is almost over. We are surrounded by inescapable mortal danger. The nuclear threat, pollution, population explosion, exploitation of natural resources – we have not much of a future. But with Jesus alive we are entitled to feel full of hope. All God's promises stand; He holds our future in His hand and His work gives purpose to our lives. We have plenty of time to act, and there are enough tasks to keep us all very busy indeed. And with Christ as our Lord potential dangers and threats take on a different colour. In the light of the resurrection there is indeed hope yet for us all.

Hilde Bucknell

WEL-CARE

What is Wel-Care? This was a question asked by one of the parishioners at a recent meeting in the Church Hall.

"Wel-Care" once known as the Churches Moral Welfare Organisation now comes under the auspices of "The Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility". This Board endeavours to provide for specific needs within individual communities that are not always provided within the statutory system of Social Services, and Social Workers employed by the Board in co-operation with those in local Social Service Departments. We are not in opposition with but in addition to the local Social Services.

"Wel-Care" provides a specialist service for the single mother and her child, and is often called upon by the statutory services to provide this service on their behalf because of the shortage of resources and expertise within the statutory system. "Wel-Care" provides casework, groupwork, counselling, advocacy, training, consultancy and research as well as residential hostels for mothers and their babies. The funds for this very important work are provided by the various parishes within the Diocese on a quota basis.

St. James's Church comes under the Hampton Deanery and the area office is at 15 Bulstrode Road, Hounslow, Tel: 01 570 3594. Margaret Bickmore, the Principal Social Worker is aided by Shirley McLeish on 3 days a week, and Angela Ball. Shirley is responsible for work in the Hounslow Deanery which stretches from Feltham to Chiswick and Angela for the Hampton Deanery which covers Hampton, Twickenham, Teddington and Whitton. All are practising Christians who feel that to carry out their profession in a Christian agency is a great privilege. They do however, also believe that the body of Christ's followers known as the church, has a real role to play within the community, and want to encourage more parish involvement.

I am the St. James's Parish representative. If you feel you can offer any help please contact me at 01 941 4723 or contact the Area Office at Bulstrode Road direct. If you require help or know of anyone who does, please do contact us.

On the April 1st I took up a full time post with Wel-Care, as the Principal Social Worker in a Hostel for very young single mothers and their babies in the Hammersmith area. At the moment we provide care for 6 mothers and 6 babies but hope that when some building work is finished we will be able to accommodate 8 or 9 girls and their babies. All the girls are between the ages of 16 - 18 years and some require a great deal of help and support to train them for motherhood and all the responsibilities they will have undertake, probably alone, for their children. We are hoping to enlist a team of volunteers to run the creche for us a couple of hours each day and eventually to have a friendly volunteer for individual girls who will act as a friend, companion, and possibly on occasions be able to babysit so that girls can go out occasionally or attend night classes or a college course to enable them to take up a career and achieve some measure of independence when their babies are older.

If you feel you would like to help in any way, either with time or with providing baby clothes, toys or equipment that your own children no longer need please do contact me or the Wel-Care Office. It may be that what you have to offer is needed at some future date, or we may know of other people in need; in any case we can channel your efforts or your gifts to the appropriate person.

Mona Gow (Mrs)
Parish Representative

AROUND THE SPIRE

Many of you will be pleased to hear that mainly due to Alwyne Loyd's unstinting efforts this magazine will go on being produced for another year at least. He has collected much of the money due from the advertisers and thereby assured our future continuation.

For a number of years now we have had a very good relationship with our United Reformed friends in the High Street. Their Minister is Mrs. Beryl Bennett. Her husband, Harold, died recently and we would like her to know that our thoughts have been with her over the past few weeks and months and that we send her our love and sympathy. Harold Bennett was the URC Minister in Twickenham so he is sorely missed there too.

Dorothy Edmonds' husband, Cyril, also died a few weeks ago. Cyril had not been well for some years and had not been seen about for quite a while. Dorothy is our Mothers' Union Enrolling Member, a task which she carries out quietly and efficiently. We send her, Martin and Peter all our love and prayers, and hope that she knows that all her friends are thinking of her at this sad time.

To all those who are ill, lonely or bereaved we send our love and we ask that they may be comforted.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

April 21st	Lee Donald Eric Cossell	24 Longford Close
	Samuel James Pearce	28 Longford Close
	Lisa Marie Campbell	19 Bishop's Grove

Marriages

May 4th	Ian Michael Morrell and Alison June Webb
	Derek James Mullins and Patricia Lynn Johnson

Funerals

April 22nd	Cyril Charles Edmonds	7 Sherwood Road	aged 69
April 26th	William Ernest Harrison	19 Burton's Road	aged 72
April 26th	Leonard Cyril Weedon	205 Hampton Road	aged 69
May 8th	Lawrence Albert Charles Darling	45 Fairlight	aged 57

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
April 7	152	252	204	131
14	94	114	162	14
21	106	151	107	66
28	97	105	92	8
	Teddington Hospital Appeal Fund		£41.22	
May 5	45	120	242	20
12	110	120	86	10

DATES TO NOTE

June	2nd	09.30 Informal Service 18.30 Parish Communion	
	9th	PENTECOST 2 Services as usual	
	11th	20.00 Tuesday Club	
	12th	20.00 German Youth Orchestra from Konstanz Concert	
	16th	PENTECOST 3 Services as usual	
	19th	20.00 P.C.C.	
	22nd	p.m. Tug-of-War against All Saints	
	23rd	PENTECOST 4 Services as usual	
	25th	20.00 Tuesday Club	
	26th	20.00 Hampton Council of Churches	
	30th	PENTECOST 5 Services as usual	
	July	2nd	20.00 Traidcraft – Talk and Sale of Goods
		3rd	14.30 Mothers' Union Service in Church
		7th	PENTECOST 6 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Informal Service 18.30 Parish Communion
13th		10.00 Parish Outing to BLENHEIM	
14th		PENTECOST 7 Services as usual	
16th		20.00 P.C.C.	
21st		ST. JAMES'S DAY 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Festal Evensong followed by Barbecue	