

This edition of the Spire is something of an International number. We have contributions from Iran, Nepal and Tanzania as well as our more usual and domestic articles. One of the great contributions Christians can make today is to welcome the Internationalism of the world and of our country. It will be, it is, painful, especially when we gaze on the horrific happenings in every continent. Tamils in Sri Lanka, Shi'ite muslims in the middle east, Sikhs in India, continued civil war in Central America, murderous confrontations in South Africa. These and many other places come to mind.

But we do well to remember that Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan *immediately after* he had been rejected by Samaritan villages because he was on the way to Jerusalem. If ever that was an indication of how to think and behave!

At St. James's we have as our patron Saint one who did not hold back from putting into action what he knew to be right. Let us respond to that challenge and show how committed we are to what we know to be right but are often fearful of putting into action. Do we resent immigrants? Do we wish we could retire into our 'own little world'? There is great work to be done witnessing to the words of St. Paul, 'there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus'.

Nicholas Chubb

CONFIRMATION AT ST. DIONIS PARSONS GREEN

Under the circumstances which our family, friends and Christian Iranian brothers and sisters are suffering in Iran, we both and our three children have had mercy from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for being here in England. We are among many good Christian friends who have supported us and helped us a great deal not to feel homesick.

The first great day in our life was the day we all were baptised as a family in St. James's church. We never will forget dear Nicholas and Susan and others who have done their best for us, and showed us the true Christian way of life. Since that day we were like two persons, who have lost someone and were looking for him. We were waiting for the Holy moment to be confirmed desperately. We were feeling thirsty and hungry till that Holy moment.

The second great day in our life was this. It is really difficult to explain about our feelings, but the only thing we could say is when we knelt before the Bishop Dehqani-Tafti, we could see the Lord looking upon us and wanting us to be one of the Lord's Servants, and when we took bread and wine for the first time, we could feel love, hope, forgiveness, peace, strength and healing. We are born again and feel different now.

We would like to thank all of our dear Christian friends who came for our Confirmation Service all the way to St. Dionis Church, and to those who were praying and thinking about us on that great day of our life.

We are really grateful to all of you.

God be always with you, and bless you all.

Ali and Sherry

LINK LETTER No 8

Dear Friends, During the last few weeks the streams have been getting smaller, the ground drier, the air dustier and the mountains duller. Occasionally, when the sky has clouded over we have hoped for rain, but it hasn't come — that is, not until just now. The thunder started several hours ago and the sky began to get darker. The first drops appeared and were quickly soaked up by the dry ground. The rain got heavier and then the hail stones started falling. (The children love trying to collect as many as possible!). Now the rain is easing off and the clouds are lifting. The air has been cleared and the dust washed off the plants, leaves, roofs, etc., leaving everything clean and shining. By morning the hills and mountains should be much clearer than they have been for months. The contrasts (wet and dry, clean and dirty, clear and misty) make me appreciate all the more the wonders of this world that God has created for us. Last Sunday Jean and I returned from a trip out to a remote village in the western part of the country. That trip was full of contrasts.

We left Kathmandu on a night bus for Nepalgunj which took about 14 hours. Nepalgunj is a hot dirty town in the Terai (flat lowland area of Nepal) with open sewers, mosquitoes and flies everywhere. After one night there we took a cycle rickshaw out to the airport (a 40 minute ride). From there we flew in an 18-seater Twin Otter plane up-country for 25 minutes to Chaurjahari airstrip. From there we trekked for two hours through rice and wheat fields along the Bheri river valley before crossing the river and climbing for one and a half hours up to Jajarkot town on the ridge. We spent two nights in Jajarkot town as we had to register with the police and the district officer. Then began our long trek northwards to the village we were to visit. Jean and I left Jajarkot at 6am with a guide (a primary school teacher returning home) and a porter. We walked down to a stream and along the valley for a while before beginning the long upward climb. At 10.30am we stopped at a small house for breakfast/lunch and had to wait while it was cooked up from scratch — rice, daal and potato curry. At 12.30pm we were on our way again, the upward path getting steeper and the sun hotter. After some time we began to pass through rhododendron forests where all the trees were out in bloom — beautiful, beautiful flowers in different shades of reds and pinks. Somehow this gave me the strength to reach the top of the ridge which is about 8,000 feet, (the airport was 2,000 feet). After that we started on the downhill trail. The mountainside fell away sharply on the right of the path, an almost sheer drop of about 3,000 feet. We stopped at a stream to refill our waterbottles and wash our feet, then descended through magnificent pine forests to a river. By this time it was getting dark. We forded the river then followed it for some time. In the darkness I was glad we had someone with us who knew the path. I followed him blindly, putting my feet where his had been. At 7.30pm we arrived at the small village where the teacher (our guide) works. After some rice and yogurt Jean and I were only too pleased to be able to unroll our sleeping bags and stretch out on the hard mud floor of his room and sleep. 13½ hours on the road, even including a two hour 'rice' stop, is a long time! Next morning we were very relieved to realise that our destination was only one and a half hours walk away up the hill.

Margaret Cranston

DANCING IN THE ABBEY

On 2nd June a group from our church visited Ealing Abbey where we had been notified that there was to be a special presentation by the Epiphany Dancers at one of the morning Mass Services.

We were all impressed by the vast complex of buildings (the Abbey uses many of its rooms as a prayer centre) and we seated ourselves only just in time for the start.

The service, although Roman Catholic, was very similar to our own, so we were able to join in most of the responses despite none of us having picked up a service book as we entered!

The three dance presentations were integrated closely into the service. One was on the theme of gifts and giving, with a solo sung by a guitarist. This we felt was a little difficult to understand without some explanation beforehand, since the words were not easily heard.

The second theme was familiar to us all — the Lord's Prayer. It was clearly interpreted and the graceful movements of the dancers were a pleasure to watch.

The third piece was simple and was about the joy that should be reflected in the face of those who lead a Christian life. This was so evident in these dancers who are obviously dedicated to this lovely form of worship.

We met afterwards for a coffee and were able to chat with the dance group about some of their techniques and methods, and they would be only too pleased to arrange a visit to our own Liturgical Dance Group to give help and guidance.

I am not a member of this group as yet and I'm certainly not a natural dancer, but having always enjoyed watching the dance group presentations, I have now been sufficiently moved to consider participating in this meaningful expression of devotion in our worship.

Coryn Robinson

BIBLE CAKE

- 4½ cups of Kings 4 v22*
- 1½ cups of Judges 5 v25*
- 2 cups of Jeremiab 6 v20*
- 2 cups of 1 Samuel 30 v12*
- 2 cups of Nabum 3 v12*
- 1 cup of Numbers 17 v8*
- 2 Tablespoons of 1 Samuel 14 v25*
- 1 teaspoon of 11 Chronicals 9 v9*
- 6 of Jeremiab 17 v11*
- Pinch of Leviticus 2 v13*
- 1 cup of Judges 4 v19*
- 1 teaspoon of Amos 4 v5*

Usual creaming method with plenty of beating. Bake in a slow oven for 1½ hours.



MILO MISSION HOSPITAL

My dear Hannah, Thank you for your last letter. I would like to confirm now the safe arrival of Honda Motor bike with its safety helmet and some basic spares, I was in Dar physically to take its delivery and Benaiah, our Medical Assistant is already making use of it. I am arranging to get a photograph taken which eventually will be sent to you for the people to see. I would like to thank you *all* again for making this gift possible, a motor bike here is not a luxury but a necessity and especially so when we need it for supervision of our outreach dispensaries.

The work in the hospital is going on fairly well with a lot of patients, and the rebuilding programme is in good progress, a tipper lorry has been made available to help speed the handling of building materials from all over the place. Hannah, I can't really express my gratitude enough to the friends of St. James at Hampton Hill for their kindness in keeping this hospital open through prayers and gifts. Please remember me to all those who know me and not forgetting the new arrival in the Parish.

Love and prayers from us all.

Gideon Mhagama

Dear Hannah, Greetings in the name of our Lord. I am very glad and grateful to inform you that the motorcycle has arrived safely and it is already on the road. It is really very useful to my work. I can easily supervise our Static Clinics, follow up on defaulter patients especially tubercular and leprosy patients and also enable easy transport for me from my house to the hospital because I am staying 1.5 Km away from the hospital due to few Staff houses in our hospital compound.

Please convey my thanks to all who donated money for buying this vehicle for me. I will send you a photograph sometime when it is ready, so that it is shown to all those who contributed money for this very useful vehicle.

Wishing you all the best.

Benaiah Kilwale

EYES FOR THE EAGLE

Our brass lectern in the shape of an eagle often catches people's eyes. He stands proudly bearing the bible so that the Word of God can be read clearly to all who listen. Recently he has appeared even more eye-catching. Chrissy is not sure whether the team of brass cleaners have been even more energetic in recent weeks or whether she is seeing better. Whatever the reason she thanks God for her improved sight of our imposing lectern and hopes that many others have shared her delight.

STEWARDS OF THE ENRICHED COMMUNITY

A report of the 1985 Lent Groups

At the core of our discussions were the questions: what is our role as Christians in the community today? and what is the role of our church? Thinking about the survey and talking about it with others, within our groups and outside them, including non-believers, greatly helped in the formulation of our views. What emerges is that we, as individuals, should witness to Christ in our daily lives and that the primary function of our church should be to develop and increase loving, understanding relationships between ourselves and God and between ourselves and our neighbours, both within the church and in the wider community. A part of this should be to bring comfort to the suffering and another aspect should be outreach to bring others who are seeking a deeper meaning for life into our fellowship. As many are now turning aside from present-day materialism, the time is now ripe for this.

Our aim in fulfilling these roles should be to live lives that others will wish to emulate; to try, in today's world, to become "people of the way" as the early Christians were called. We should positively try to do right, not merely concentrate on not doing wrong, and demonstrate the joy of vital Christianity. We have to overcome the barriers to satisfactory relationships, to communicate our vision and to teach people to love. We must live our ordinary lives in extraordinary awareness.

How can we achieve these aims? The general (but not unanimous) view was that small groups — perhaps for discussion or teaching of particular subjects or perhaps for particular areas (as the Lent groups themselves had been) would be helpful as an introduction to Christian fellowship, but some felt that there was a danger in such groups becoming cliquy if they lasted too long. It was widely recognised that set liturgical forms can be daunting for those without some church background, and so there was a need for our pattern of worship to include services that were straightforward and easy to follow, yet meaningful and instructive, especially for families with children. We need not only to attract people to these special services but also to ensure that the services are appropriate and that we are welcoming so that they will come again.

It was believed that a church magazine was an important part of communication with the wider community and that Newcomers' parties of some form, especially involving visiting, would increase our contacts with those outside our fellowship. Another suggestion was to try to maintain an open church where visitors would always be welcome, and indeed, to use the church building more widely as a centre for the community. We could do more in specialist counselling fields, such as marriage or bereavement counselling, and become more involved generally in helping our Vicar in pastoral care, eg of the sick, elderly and lonely. A specific need identified by almost all was for a youth group in the area; and it was thought that this and other proposals might well be approached jointly with other churches.

It was recognised that many of these proposals were easy to make but will not be easy to carry out; they often raise still more questions. As one group pointed out, the coming of Christ marked a revolution which spread across the world: we should allow it to spread now and not try to fit it to our ideas. We should be led by the Holy Spirit who is the source of loving awareness of the world about us, of God and of each other.

MOTHERS UNION OUTING

On Derby Day, Wednesday 5th June 1985, a coach load of M.U. members and friends (of which I was privileged to be one) set off for a visit to the Manor House at Chenies, Richmansworth, Herts. The countryside through which we drove was delightful. The house itself was rebuilt in the time of Henry VIII by the first Earl of Bedford (later Duke of Bedford) and both Henry and later his daughter Elizabeth I often stayed there. The furniture, tapestries and needlework are well preserved and there is much beautiful china and porcelain on view. The house has a very lived-in feeling. We were all interested to be shown a priest's hole at the end of an underground passage, the entrance to which lies in the formal garden. The Physic Garden contains many plants used in past and present day medicine. Those who visited the upper floor were fascinated by an exhibition of dolls from before Queen Anne's time to modern times – Princess Diana in her wedding dress (there are only five of these in the U.K.). The Church of St. Michael in the grounds proved of great interest. We were able to see an exhibition of flower studies by a talented local artist, buy herbs and partake of tea and home-made cakes before leaving for home. Thank you Dorothy for arranging such a pleasant event.

L.R.

ASCENSION DAY

The evening service was a happy occasion, for although we were remembering the day when Christ finally withdrew from the group of disciples, yet WE know that the Holy Spirit, whom they awaited, did indeed come to them, and also comes to us in this present age. We were linking into the service of celebration following the lent course, "Stewards of the Enriched Community", which has pinpointed so many things which need to be done. Just prior to the consecration of the bread and wine, the liturgical dancers gave a very moving interpretation of the activities within the community, showing how disjointed these can be when each person acts independently, there was no clear plan for the dancers, and then, gradually they joined into small groups dancing to various routines, finally merging into a pattern of actions in which all had a part to play, culminating in dancing down the centre aisle and involving most of the members of the congregation in the dancing. I am sure that we all afterwards received communion in a more than usually warm feeling of thanksgiving.

At the end of the service Nicholas invited everyone present to stay and enjoy the lovely food and fruit cup provided by the catering committee and, after a while, asked Alan Taylor to give a report about the Lent House Groups, which is printed separately. We went home with plenty of ideas on which to ponder, in the knowledge that, although we are already a caring Christian community, we must aim, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to be progressively more outward looking.

Jean Western

TO YPRES AND THE SOMME

During the May Day holiday weekend I travelled with a party to Ypres in Belgium and part of the Somme area of France. Our purpose was two-fold. First, to see some of the places and locations which are closely associated with military operations of the Great War. Secondly, to visit a number of military cemeteries to which some members of the party came on a personal pilgrimage to see a grave or a personal memorial to a member of the family. On every occasion individuals saw these graves or memorials for the first time.

I am sure that a fair description of the countryside around Ypres and in the Somme is that it is beautiful and with a strong affinity to the south of England. The land surrounding Ypres is very flat yet hillier in the Somme. Yet I consider that this land now has a uniqueness. Partly because of the thousands of military graves which can be found in large and small cemeteries of which all are beautifully maintained with the close co-operation of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and French and Belgian personnel. Partly because of the eeriness of which one soon becomes aware in today's silence and peace.

Three features of my visit remain strong in my recollection. First, my visit to the town of Ypres whose buildings all were damaged or destroyed during the war. Today, this splendid Flemish town, including its beautiful cathedral and splendid cloth hall, has been rebuilt. Truly this fact is an achievement of the human spirit as is the ceremony of the sounding of the Last Post on a daily basis at the Menon Gate. I shall remember this simple yet dignified act of daily remembrance.

Secondly, I recall the experience of my visit to four of the national memorials across the French border. These are the Thiepval Anglo-French Memorial, the Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial, Park and Tunnels, the Newfoundland Memorial Park and the Australian Cemetery at Villers Bretonneux. Each of these is very individual in architecture and character. To me the Australian Cemetery in its beautiful setting conveys a particular atmosphere.

The third feature was and is the centre of my visit. For me Tyne Cot Cemetery in the Passchendaele Area brings together every aspect of my visit. This cemetery continues to evoke a presence of the war, its horrific character and the reality of the human sacrifice which occurred during this 'War to end all Wars'. The casualties in this area during 1917 add a further dimension to a visit such as mine. The figures are staggering at 300,000 British and 260,000 German. Truly this is the one place on earth which can be likened to a calvary of humanity. Yet let us pray that from this place of suffering and death there may come to all a vision of future peace as the eyes focus on the faithfully rebuilt spires of Ypres.

David Dore

SIGN ON A CHURCH DOOR

When you were Christened your parents brought you here.

When you were married your partner brought you here.

When you die your friends will bring you here.

Why not try coming on your own?

**The Hampton Hill Association Children's Sports
and Charitable Fete on Saturday, 20th July at 2 p.m.
on Holly Road Recreation Ground, Hampton Hill**

The Hampton Hill Association is again inviting any local charitable organisations to run stalls, side shows, etc., and to keep the whole of the money raised for their own funds. The only condition is that commercial enterprises are not permitted, even if part of the profit is passed to a charity.

The Hampton Hill Association cover the full cost of hiring and marking the ground, publicity, hire of equipment and provides prizes and certificates for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd child in each class and race.

All children from 3 to 12 years of age are welcome to join in a variety of races, first race at 2.30 p.m. and there will be some novelty races for Mums and Dads, time permitting.

In the past over 20 organisations have taken part and have helped to make this annual event an enjoyable village occasion.

For details or offers of help please contact:-

Eric Carter on 979-1166 or

Don Smith on 979-1835 or

Joyce Doughty on 979-2839

ST. JAMES v ALL SAINTS Cricket Match 18th May

When Helen offered to drive us to the cricket match, I demurred slightly. Although Jeremy and Stephen enjoy cricket with their grandfather, would they patiently watch an afternoon's play? Might it rain? Could I find a comfortable position for the cracked rib I'd sustained chasing the Cruise convoy the previous week? Then I remembered warm ginger beer at the Cricket Club, hot summer afternoons making daisy chains, and the moment of astonishment followed by triumph when I accidentally bowled out the Head Choirboy (no longer my hero) on the vicarage lawn. 'Yes' I told Helen, 'We'll come'.

With the All Saints' team, it was pleasant to meet again Deaconess Frances Foster and Linda Saunderson, whom I'd last seen on the Hampton Council of Churches float at the Hampton Carnival. My glasses, broken six months ago, have never been replaced, so I saw very little of the afternoon's play, except that there seemed to be an amazing number of Taylors around. It was good to talk to Ann and Cynthia to the accompaniment of ball on bat. The company was entertaining, the rain stayed away, and we all enjoyed our afternoon.

Ann Malins

P.S. We won the match.

TEMELA INTERIORS

From July until 31 December 1985 if you make a purchase and produce the TEMELA advertisement from the Spire to the shop at the time of purchase, TEMELAR INTERIORS, will donate 5% of the total nett value of your purchase to the League of Friends, Teddington Memorial Hospital Appeal Fund.

ROUND THE SPIRE

We congratulate Charles and Jane Dobson on the birth of a daughter, Margaret. At the time of going to press we understand all the family are well.

WHITSUN OFFERING

The PCC has decided that this year the offering should go to help pay for petrol for the motorbike we have provided for Milo Hospital in Tanzania. At the last count petrol (if you could get it cost about £4.00 per gallon in Tanzania). What's the use of the motorbike without petrol?

SIN

Someone once said to me, 'Why does the church keep on about sin?' I didn't think to say it at the time but I suppose it is for the same reason that a hospital keeps on about sickness. The church is there to try to help deal with it.

Sin is not just sex outside marriage or coshing an old woman in order to steal her handbag. These are the surface symptoms, but sin, the root cause, is far more deep-seated. Sin is rebellion against God. The Bible does not tell us how it originated but it was brought into God's good world by the Devil and all human sin is ultimately attributed to him.

However, this in no way diminishes Man's responsibility for his behaviour.

Sin is not only evidenced by us doing wrong things but also by us not doing right things — 'sins of omission' as they are called. Jesus summed up the first commandment as loving God with all our hearts, and minds. There is not a living soul who can say they have always done that.

God has passed sentence on sin. It is exclusion from His presence in this experience and the next. We need to be saved. We need a Saviour.

Jesus is held out to us in the Bible as the Saviour who can bring us back into a right relationship with God. He only can deal with sin. He only can deal with the penalty that our sin demands. Being sinless He was not facing exclusion from His Father's presence for Himself but he did experience it on our behalf.

'There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin,

He only could unlock the door of heaven and let us in.'

It only requires us to believe this for God's forgiveness to be ours.

From Bible Words by Peter Patterson

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledge Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
May 19th	91	116	111	10
26th	110	149	23	36
		Whitsun Envelopes	£64	
		Bankers Orders	£331	
June 2nd	55	155	214	18
9th	99	142	165	13
16th	95	132	91	10

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

May 26th	Jessica Frances Taylor	112 Tudor Road, Hampton
	Kevin Michael James	14 Byron Close
	James Keith Turner	11 Browning Close
June 23rd	Charlotte Emma Picket	7 Browning Close

Funerals

June 7th	Susan Patricia Hails	40 St. James Avenue	aged 49
June 13th	Robert Glindon	75 Wordsworth Road	aged 62
June 18th	Leslie Charles Carroll	11 Park Road	aged 71
June 21st	Dennis Lewis	3 Bishop's Grove	aged 57
June 25th	Rose Elizabeth Wilde	26 Longford Close	aged 78

DATES TO NOTE

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	
	28th	PENTECOST 9 Services as usual	
	August	3rd	10.00 Churchyard Working Party
		4th	PENTECOST 10 NO 08.00 Service 09.30 Informal Service 18.30 Parish Communion
6th		TRANSFIGURATION – 09.30 Holy Communion	
11th		PENTECOST 11 NO 08.00 Service 09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Evensong	
18th	PENTECOST 12 Services as usual		
25th	PENTECOST 13 Services as usual		
September	1st	PENTECOST 14 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Informal Service 18.30 Parish Communion	
	4th	14.30 Mothers' Union at Wayside	
	7th	10.00 Churchyard Working Party	
	8th	PENTECOST 15 Services as usual	
	11th	20.00 Liturgical Committee	
	15th	PENTECOST 16 Services as usual	
	18th	20.00 P.C.C.	
	28th	14.30 Christian Youth in Action – St. Augustine's	