

Peace is a word which is on many people's lips. Looking at the world from a Christian standpoint it is hard sometimes to realise that it is not by any means an idea which is universally welcomed or encouraged. There are vast numbers for whom the concept of peace is not only foreign but also not wanted. Perhaps this is where many of our efforts to secure peace fail; we fail to understand the strength of those who want to dominate, to get their own way, to have their point of view prevail and are more than prepared to allow that some suffering will take place. Possible pain seems not to be in any way a deterrent, whether for themselves or for other people.

We can see this in very many countries round the world. Jews, Muslims, Sikhs for example expect revenge and violence to be an integral part of life. They do not want peace; and certainly not peace at any price.

This year the Week of Prayer for World Peace is from 20th - 27th October. Locally it is being celebrated in St. James, Hampton Hill on Sunday 27th October with a service at 6.45pm. We hope to have contributions not only from all the local Christian denominations but also from those of other faiths. Canon Gordon Wilson will be preaching. If we believe that Peace is an idea worth pursuing then I hope that you will be at this Service. Peace is not so much an absence of war as a state in which all men and women not only respect others but also actively promote their good. It is positive rather than negative. It seeks to unite rather than divide. Is it the one quality which we need to have if we are not to destroy our planet which Christians think of as God's Creation?

Nicholas Chubb

CONFIRMATION

There is much debate at the present time in the Church at large about Confirmation. One of the basic problems is that in the Acts of the Apostles the 'Laying on of Hands' with prayer is recorded as taking place both *before* and *after* Baptism. From the early days Baptism and Confirmation were regarded as two parts of the same sacrament. It was only as increasing numbers of the children of adult believers were presented for Baptism that arguments began to fly as to whether it was proper to baptize those who could not yet speak (infants) and could not therefore make verbal response to a question such as 'Do you turn to Christ?' or 'Do you renounce evil?'. Many of the divisive and acrimonious debates of Christians in the Early (i.e. up to about 300 A.D.) Church revolved round these issues. Could God's grace be effective in a young person who did not know (humanly speaking) about God? Did a person have to be intellectually conscious of what was happening to be able to receive the Holy Spirit?

Gradually various traditions of the Church settled for one of four positions.

1) The **Orthodox Church** decided that it was possible for an infant to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in its fullness. Therefore a baby who is baptized is also anointed with oil and has hands laid upon him. He receives the bread and the wine of Holy Communion from the earliest days.

2) The **Roman Catholic Church** decided that a child should not be "confirmed" in its baptismal promises until he or she was about 7 or 9. It was expected that the child would be brought regularly to worship and receive communion and grow in grace.

3) The **Church of England** developed the practice of Infant Baptisms with Confirmation being delayed until the age of about the onset of puberty, or the beginning of the teenage years. This has recently been argued by some to be about the worst possible time for Confirmation, because of the usual upheaval which is taking place in a person at that age.

4) Various **Protestant** or **Independent Churches** who broke with the "Mainstream" churches adopted a view that only a person of adult years and understanding could properly respond to the challenge of Christ. Only as a grown-up could a person unequivocally answer 'I turn to Christ' and say 'I renounce evil' with the determination and expectation to keep that promise. Chief among the denominations who take this view are the Baptists.

So what do we do at St. James?; In recent years the emphasis has been only to prepare for Confirmation those who are in their late teenage years and older. I believe that there is a considerable case for accepting children earlier than this **provided** that the child has a will to proceed of its own and is not pushed into the situation by parents who believe it is '**the right thing to do**'. Some young children do have a remarkable gift of direct access to God which ought to be nurtured and encouraged, others ought not to start until they are grown up.

I hope that we may have a Confirmation class next year and take our Candidates to a neighbouring Church. But no pressure will be applied. We are not in the business of fudging statistics; we are in the business of helping and encouraging people of every age to be Christians.

Nicholas Chubb

A MEDITATION

Everything that God is, the Spirit is, so do not be afraid with sudden fear for the Spirit has been sent to be with Man, to come to him in the Power of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. When in doubt, when in danger, when in sorrow, when in anger, when in agony of mind, when separated from your fellows by the invisible veil of deep distress, call on the power of the Holy Spirit believing that God is with you and it shall be unto you as though the Trinity are upholding you and marvellous things shall take place. Often they will take place in your soul which, fainting, shall be restored to you; often sudden weakness shall be swept away and be replaced by calm strength and confidence; often lack of patience, irritation and even rage shall be replaced by calm, by understanding, compassion and love where a moment before love was not.

Everything that God is — wisdom, power, infinite understanding, pitying mercy, divine forgiveness — the Spirit is. He has been revealed in Christ. He is your gift from your loving Father through His obedient Son. Let your mind be stayed on this constant presence; give to Him the innermost being of your soul. Offer Him yourself in all your weakness, uncertainties, sins and loneliness. There is no gift more precious to Him than a humble, believing, repentant and contrite heart which yet rejoices and knows with increasing certainty the glory of His forgiving understanding presence.

Strive to stay always in the hope which you have grasped in Christ, never let it go far from you, let it be to you the one jewel which you will give all else to have in your possession. Search for it, find it, bury it safely in your innermost being so that it may take root in you, grow in you, and through God's generous Grace, give faith fruit and a rich harvest to the Glory of the Lord.

***"Prayer can transform everything. Pray and have faith.
Then you will experience the miracles of God."***

Margery Orton

MONEY MATTERS (Doesn't it?)

Many will be aware (via ACM, PCC and this magazine) that this year St. James's will be struggling financially and almost certainly will not be able to meet its full obligations to the Diocese through the Common Fund Assessment. Quite probably the giving to Charities will not be increased and may be reduced.

There are two reasons, principally, for this situation. Firstly the Common Fund assessment has been increased by approximately 40% over 1984 (which was itself 50% higher than 1983) to £16,810. Secondly our giving to the Church as individuals has not increased very much and the average contribution per family is very low.

Despite inviting the Archdeacon to our PCC in July to find out why such a substantial increase has been required from us, we shall probably not make much progress in getting it reduced. We can however do something about the low level of our personal giving. Please do now urgently consider the situation and contact Mr. Wilde using the tear off slip below.

We had hoped to approach everyone personally within the context of considering the totality of our response to God — the use of our time, our abilities and our possessions, but the urgency of the financial situation has overtaken us.

Giving money to the church for its immediate local needs and its wider witness is not just a question of reluctantly parting with a few pence per week, but a response to our Creator in acknowledging the source of our material well being.

Please do respond — quickly.

Alan Taylor

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As from I shall be giving £. per week.

Name

GROUPS YOU CAN JOIN THIS AUTUMN

One important thing to come out of the Lent Groups' experience was the belief that it would be healthy for Church Life and for the spiritual lives of its individual members if they attended a mid-week group. There are several already in being to which you would be welcome:

Koinonia

The meetings take place on **Monday** evenings, in the Vestry at 8.00pm, commencing on 16th September. Our aim is to deepen our Christian fellowship, and commitment and we do this through prayer, praise and fairly loosely following a theme, which this term is Personal Faith. Everyone really is welcomed; please do come.

Alan Taylor

A small group for "prayer and praise and thanksgiving", petition (Ask and it shall be given unto you) and silent contemplation (be still and know that I am God) meets at 30 St. James's Road from 2-3pm on **Tuesday** afternoons. We give special emphasis to healing prayer. We haven't a name yet but perhaps our group could be called "The St. Julian Group" after St. Julian of Norwich as it is based on the belief that, in her words "Prayer one-eth the soul to God".

Margery Orton

Good News Group

We meet on alternate **Wednesday** evenings at 8.00pm, and our next meeting is on the 9th October. We would welcome anyone who wishes to join us in our Praise, Prayers, Bible Study and Fellowship.

Don Rawlins

The Heart of the Christian Faith

Continuing on from the Lent Study Groups, regular fortnightly meetings have been held at the home of Hannah Stanton, 30 Burtons Road. The theme of the discussions, which are informal and free-ranging, is from the book by Donald Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury "The Heart of the Christian Faith". Anyone wishing to join the Group would be very welcome and would find it most interesting and enjoyable. The meetings are on alternate **Thursdays** from 10.30am to about 12 noon. The dates in October are the 10th and the 24th. Do come along!

Dick Waltham

Thursday Afternoon Group

Freda Moses would be glad if anyone would like to join the Group which meets at her house, 19, Longford Close, on alternate **Thursday** afternoons at 2.15pm. Discussion begins with the Bible but by no means ends there! In fact a wide variety of topics come under review and those with all sorts of experience and opinions will be welcome. The first meeting of the session is on 3rd October.

The Prayer Circle

This Circle — a group of people who pray in their own homes for those in special need was formed before St. James's had any regular groups — is now augmented by the members of these groups. If you know of anyone (including yourself) who is in special need, in body, mind, or spirit, then many people will join their prayers to yours. You have only to ask. "Pray and have faith and you will experience the miracles of God". Contact Margery Orton 979 5868 who will pass on your request.

Liturgical Dancing

The Liturgical Dancers now meet regularly on **Wednesday** evenings at 8pm in church. Trying to express various aspects of faith in dance has proved to be a helpful and rewarding experience and we are grateful for this meaningful form of worship in our lives. If you think this might be for you, please come along and join us. We are currently preparing for a full-length service based on dance, which is planned for Advent.

Eila Severn

Mid-Week Afternoon Pram Service

This autumn will see a new feature: a regular mid-week afternoon Pram Service. All mothers with babies, toddlers and pre-school children are invited to come to church at 2pm every **3rd Thursday** in the month. There will be time for a chat and a coffee to begin with, and the service itself will finish at 3pm to give the mums a chance to get to various schools in time to pick up older children. The first of these short, very informal services will be on 17th October. We have seen a very full church for the last two children's Crib Services at Christmas. The same mums and children might well enjoy some short, happy visits to the church throughout the year. The new Pram Services are in addition to those held by the Young Families Group, which fall on Thursday mornings. By choosing a different time we hope to suit those mums who cannot make a morning service.

Sunday School

Sunday School started again on 8th September. Any Sunday is, however, a good time for your children to start. We would especially like to welcome any children from the age of four years up who have not been with us before. We will be split into three age groups for our activities, but starting altogether for prayers and songs. Do please bring your children along. We meet each Sunday at 9.20am, except the first Sunday in the month, when there is an informal, short family service in the Church. This is especially geared to children and we make a very special invitation to both children and parents. On the other Sundays, the children can either be collected from Wayside at 10.00am or after church (10.30 ish); we are very happy to take children to join in the last part of the Parish Communion. At the Sunday School a team of experienced leaders teach the children through stories, singing, modelling and other activities, something of the Christian faith. We are following a new scheme of work called Faithquest which promises to be helpful and stimulating. If you have any queries about the forthcoming programme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pam Atkinson

Reminder

During October a number of Ecumenical House Groups are meeting throughout the week in Hampton and Hampton Hill to consider the ARCIC papers. For details please contact Helen Taylor, 979 7042.

ST. JAMES'S YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

Programme for Autumn Term.

Meetings every Thursday at Wayside,
25 St. James's Road from 10.30am - 12 noon.

September	5	Toddlers Club (T.C.)
	12	Annual Party – Pram Service
	19	Cadeaux Toy Party
	26	T.C.
October	3	Come and meet 'Laura' who makes and designs children's clothes. She is bringing some samples from her autumn range.
	10	The manager of Johnson's Shoes, Mr. Geoffrey Platt, is coming to demonstrate the importance of fitting shoes carefully for our children.
	17	T.C.
	24	Half Term – No meeting
	31	Mrs. Nancy Safford from the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital (Nawtch), one of the Association's founder members is coming with slides taken at West Middlesex and Queen Mary's Hospitals.
November	7	T.C.
	14	Come and meet Shery Sazegar, a trained beautician, who is willing to advise on the use of cosmetics.
	21	T.C.
	28	Jane Spurrier is coming to help us make things with the children for Christmas
December	5	T.C.
	12	A talk from the National Eczema Society on recognizing and helping to care for any skin complaints we or our children may have.
	19	Our Annual Christmas Party.

THE BOMB

***A thought that arises from two separate,
unconnected articles in last month's Spire.***

At this moment in time there is certainly a great lack of trust between the nations of the world and to abandon the deterrence of "the bomb" does not appear to be prudent. But are we as Christians ever asked to be humanly prudent? Christ's teaching of the sermon on the mount is not very prudent. If we refuse to have recourse to this dreadful weapon in simple, childlike obedience to God, we can do so because He assures us that the most extraordinary, unbelievable, miraculous things happen when we turn to Him in faith. We can – and must – abandon human defences and trust ourselves to God in prayer instead.

Hilde Bucknell

KEEPING SUNDAY SPECIAL

It is Sunday morning; having come home from holiday late Saturday night we have no food in the house: how convenient to pop down to the Supermarket to buy the necessary. But I feel rather guilty about it, because I do not like to see shops open on a Sunday. I feel equally guilty about avoidable housework, and I know that some people frown on certain forms of entertainment. These vague misgivings led me recently to try and think around Sunday observance to come to some clearer understanding of the whole issue.

Shop opening hours

More and more shops are open on Sundays. Some of these, like furniture warehouses, are actually breaking the law as it stands now. Strictly speaking the grocer's shops in our High Street are not allowed to sell any tinned goods. Our laws date back to the 50s and allow all shops to open from 8am till 8pm on weekdays, with one longer day till 9pm. On Sundays about 20 different classes of goods may be sold. Apart from essentials like medicines these include for instance newspapers, sweets, cigarettes, alcohol, fresh flowers, fresh dairy produce and sports equipment at the establishments where the sport is played. Now, there are proposals to abolish all restrictions and allow all shops to be open 24 hours a day every day of the week. These suggestions have not come before Parliament yet but the legislation is to be introduced at the end of the year.

I do feel that that would be a very regrettable development. Obviously some people have to work on Sundays. But if all shop personnel were included that would be a large chunk of the population. And it might not stop there. People might well think of reasons why it might be desirable in some respect for other offices to be kept going 7 days a week as well. More and more people might find they are forced to work on Sundays, and our regular day of rest would disappear. One obvious immediate drawback would be that families would find it more and more difficult to spend time together. But I believe that there are more general, very fundamental reasons for keeping Sunday special.

A regular rhythm

God himself has given us the weekly day of rest. In Genesis ch.2 v.3 we are told; "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he had rested after all the work of creating." And in Exodus 20 in the 10 commandments we are given clear instructions: "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for Yahweh your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why Yahweh has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred."

(Without suggesting a literal interpretation about the act of creation we can understand what these ancient texts aim at.) After Christ's resurrection Christians soon decided to keep the Sunday, the Lord's Day, as their holy day, instead of the Sabbath, which is of course our Saturday.

I do not mean that we should advocate a taboo on physical labour, or a mechanical adherence to some petty rules. Over the centuries and in different social contexts all sorts of different stipulations and prohibitions have been regarded as vitally important. Jesus Himself criticised the Jewish authorities of

His time for their legalistic interpretation of the Sabbath laws which took all joy out of its observance. He declared that the Sabbath was made for man. And that is what we have to keep in mind: Sunday is a holy day (the original "holiday"), a feast day blessed by God and set aside for rest and refreshment. (The word holy means set apart — other). We should gratefully accept the pattern. How lovely it is indeed not to face an endless grey, monotonous uniformity of identical days, but a rhythmic change between work and rest. A change is as good as a rest, they say. As Christians we know we can trust God and accept that He orders only what is best for us. We must not allow our contemporary society to create conditions which make adherence to this pattern difficult or even impossible.

Spiritual re-creation

If God had only wanted to ensure that people give themselves sufficient physical rest to stay healthy He could have made some pronouncement about certain hours of sleep every night! But He did not do that; He ordained that we should keep one day of rest when we dedicate waking hours to spiritual re-creation — when we consciously drop our other everyday occupations and duties, however pressing they usually are, and give our minds a chance to focus on the "deeper things of life".

One might argue that every individual could keep his or her own regular day off for such personal meditations. But Christianity, and indeed all fulfilled human life is not an individual thing. We need a loving community around us to be fully human. Worship among fellow believers is the most joyful and rewarding experience. So far we have a shared day of rest for everybody — let us keep it.

Authority

And one more thought that goes even deeper: if we were to say "We don't need to keep Sunday special", and thus turn our back on one of the basic commandments, we would thereby deny God's authority over us. We would forget that we are His creatures. We put Man in the centre and claim to be the ultimate judge of what is good for us. The third chapter of the Bible describes this in such simple, picturesque terms: "We eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." I do not believe we know what is best for us — fortunately we have been given instructions. Let us follow them.

Hilde Bucknell

THE BOOKSTALL

The function of a church bookstall is to provide a choice of books on religious subjects for adults and children, and to order books from the suppliers at the request of the vicar and members of the congregation. The three bookshops with which our book agency has supply arrangements are The Scripture Union in Richmond, Holy Trinity, in Hounslow and Mowbrays in London, and if a book is in print it is normally obtainable from one of the three shops within a week or two of the order being placed. The Holy Trinity Bookshop also allows books to be taken on a sale or return basis, resulting in a varied choice during the year. I welcome suggestions and ideas for improving the usefulness and attraction of the bookstall.

Jean Western

AROUND THE SPIRE

We are glad to hear that Sylvia Boarder is progressing well after her operation. We do hope she continues to make a good recovery.

We are also glad to know that Mrs. Dobson is out and about again after her spell of ill health in August. We hope she continues to improve.

We congratulate Irene Hall (nee McLean) on the birth of a son Jonathan David on 28th August. At the last report mother and baby were doing well.

By the time this magazine is read Lesley Hayter will have married Ian Brough. We wish them every happiness together and are delighted that they have decided to make their home in Hampton Hill where we shall continue to see something of them.

Vera Rockliffe and her daughters Barbara and Pauline would like to thank all the many people who have supported them with their prayers and expressions of sympathy following Len's death.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

August	25th	Christopher David Ford	47 Hampton Road, Hanworth
		Samantha Lisa Johnston	2 Browning Close
		Gavin Michael Weedon	70 Wordsworth Road
		Thomas David William Perry	21 Byron Close
		Gabrielle Louise Clinton	6 Byron Close
		Clare Jade Wills	6 Byron Close
September	8th	Angus Peter Gladwin	30 Park Road
		Emmeline Anouska Boyce	227 Hampton Road, Twickenham
		Elisabeth Joanne Carter	4 Seymour Road
		Daniel John Mayo	18 Sanders Close
		Jason Paul Mayo	18 Sanders Close

WEDDINGS

August	3rd	Paul Francis Angus and Suzanne Margaret Brewer
September	14th	Mark Andrew Davies and Gillian Margaret Collins
	21st	Ian David Brough and Lesley Jane Hayter
		Paul Adrian Roake and Karen Wentzel
	28th	Neil Stafford Gardiner and Donna Clark
		Terry Alan Cripps and Gillian Pamela Mott

FUNERALS

August	20th	Elizabeth Ann Rosina Frances Feast	
			150 Hanworth Road
	23rd	Frederick John Sully	aged 80
			58 Uxbridge Road
September	5th	Maurice Hutton	aged 78
			202 Uxbridge Road
	11th	Lily Haydon	aged 80
			Laurel Dene
			aged 87

HAMPTON HILL OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

AUTUMN FAIR

Saturday 5th October

2.30pm in St. James's Hall School Road

All proceeds go towards entertaining the elderly of the Parish

DATES TO NOTE

October	7th	20.00 Koinonia	
	8th	20.00 Properties Committee	
		20.00 Tuesday Club	
	9th	20.00 Good News Group	
	13th	PENTECOST 20	Services as usual
	14th	20.00 Koinonia	
	17th	14.00 Pram Service	
	18th	St. LUKE	
	20th	LAST AFTER PENTECOST	
	21st	20.00 Koinonia	
	22nd	20.00 Tuesday Club	
	23rd	20.00 Good News Group	
	27th	9th SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS	
		Morning Services as usual	
	18.45 United Service for Week of Prayer for World Peace		
28th	20.00 Koinonia		
29th	20.00 P.C.C.		
November	1st	ALL SAINTS' DAY	
	2nd	10.00 Churchyard Working Party	
		8th SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS	
	3rd	08.00 Holy Communion	
		09.30 Informal Service	
		18.30 Parish Communion	
	4th	20.00 Koinonia	
	5th	20.00 Tuesday Club	
	6th	14.30 Mothers' Union AGM	
		20.00 Good News Group	
	9th	Parish Hall "Spring Clean"	
	10th	7th SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS	Services as usual
	11th	20.00 Koinonia	
	17th	6th SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS	Services as usual
	18th	20.00 Koinonia	
	19th	20.00 Tuesday Club	
	20th	20.00 Good News Group	
22nd	20.00 Barn Dance		
24th	5th SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS	Services as usual	