

How does a Parish Church celebrate a Birthday? By having a 'good time'? By looking nostalgically at the past? - remembering the 'Good Old Days'? By looking to the future with trepidation/hesitation/confidence/courage? Hopefully with a bit of all these things; in fact past present and future all have good and bad elements. The Bishop of London's famous remark at the consecration of St. James in 1863 "A barn of a Church in a wilderness of a Parish" showed that there was much to be desired in several directions, and certainly the physical condition of many of the people and the buildings left a great deal to be improved. It is one of the odder quirks of human nature that we so often regard the past as much better than the present. (Did you read the bits and pieces in last month's magazine from hundreds of years ago?)

We can find many things discouraging at the present - very few teenagers attending worship, no Youth Club, a falling Electoral Roll, not meeting our financial targets; and yet on the other side of the coin we saw a lively set of Lent Groups, an increase in the number of adults who are feeling their way to what the Christian Faith is all about, an increase in the giving for Christian Aid in the parish (and area of Hampton) as a whole, an awareness of the issues of the day. And the future presents us with a blank wall to be faced, a financial mountain to climb, a jungle to be cleared, or opportunities for growth and realising our potential. It all depends on how we choose to look at things.

St. James's Day is a good point each year to reflect on these things. We have much to be thankful for, especially the lives of the faithful christians who have lived here in the past and *who are still living here*. Yes, we do have saints living among us now! We can be enormously thankful for the privilege of being able to worship freely as we wish, unlike christians in some countries. And we can rejoice in our companionship with christians from other traditions.

What of the future? We still have plenty of room for regular worshippers each Sunday and even at Christmas time the church is seldom so full that there is standing room only! Is that an impossible ideal? Nothing is impossible with God. Is it fanciful? Not really. There are some (admittedly not many) churches which have to organise overflow accommodation. Why should St. James not be one of them? Perhaps in our hearts we don't really want to be "Successful", or wouldn't know what to do if we were. Is it possible to achieve our financial potential - and more - so that we can do more than survive but actually contribute substantially to improve the lot of the people everyone admits have no real quality of life in this country or overseas? Bob Geldof has shown what can be done by ordinary folk. The Epistle of St. James lays great stress on the harnessing of Faith to Action. What better time than now to do as we are exhorted?

St. James's Day is 25th July. However we celebrate it on Sunday, 20th July, to enable people to be with us before the school holiday season starts.

A PRAYER FOLLOWING CHERNOBYL

Oh My God, how great thou art. Be with mankind all over the world, save them from the hounds of Satan which snap and snarl around them. O dear and caring Lord, out of the atomic disaster at Chernobyl bring good so that the innocent shall not perish in vain. Let the leaders of the peoples heed the warning and turn back from the abyss of nuclear warfare while there is yet time - and if this - let them turn their backs on all warfare and study how to help each others' peoples and not how to destroy them. Oh Lord let those that have share with those that are blighted so that every grain of wheat supplied may not be used as a vehicle for profiteering but may be supplied in generosity and so be like the grain of mustard seed to reap a harvest of love and trust between nations. O Lord, out of this tragedy sow the seeds of Thy salvation that men may come to feel for one another, help one another and serve the common good.

Oh Lord open up the surplus food mountains to the afflicted and out of how people meet this present need show the way to the better path of forgiveness, charity and present help, one nation to another in this time of world trouble and in the days to come - so that there may *be* days to come.

Oh Lord, thou art Almighty God to whom all things are possible. This must surely be Thy will. Oh Lord make speed to save us, make haste to help us. The world walks blind in darkness, open thou our eyes that we may see Thy way and walk in Thy light - for Christ's sake, who died that we might live. Amen.

THE COVENANT PLAYERS - 18.5.86

As an introduction David Ingram mentioned a few facts about the organisation which is based in Los Angeles. It has about 450 players who pursue their acting ministry in 57 countries and nine languages, travelling for 10 months of each year. He and his wife Dawn (with their little son) are currently at the London headquarters in the Mile End Road. Their talent and forcefulness as actors was impressive.

The form of the plays, acted without scenery and with very few props is a modern type of mystery play. The opening one was "Who's in first?", and was based on the words "I was glad when they said . . . let us go up to the house of the Lord". It portrayed the arguments which are often raised when church attendance is suggested. The conclusion was that "it is a chance to meet with the Lord and it grows on you".

The next one was centred on the Upper Room, in which the disciples were lodging in Jerusalem after the resurrection and depicted the wife of one of them. ". . . waiting for they don't know what, away from our home town with loads of essential work left undone, followers of a dead prophet". She just could not understand their "fascination with all this God-talk". It bewildered her why they were bothering. Her closing words were "let someone else do it - and that's my final word".

After that we were challenged by "Anybody know the way?" When we are at the crossroads of life and challenged by the Spirit, there are many distractions and misleading directions; but when the lost feeling comes over us the bible must be our guide. We should not be daunted by the steep and difficult way, because we

shall never be challenged beyond our capacity, and it is not necessary to understand fully, but just to have faith and trust.

Finally Peter was vividly portrayed, after his denial of Jesus, when he was filled with remorse and feeling utterly crushed, seeming to himself to be a worse person than Judas. Suddenly he was at peace and felt that Christ was in him and had forgiven him, even though he could not see him and only sense his presence. This gave him courage to go back to the other disciples and wait for the command which was to come, and which we now know resulted in the gift of the Holy Spirit at the season which we call Pentecost.

Jean Western

WORKOUT FOR SPORT AID

I was feeling thoroughly out of breath and extremely hot - and the Workout was to last for another 20 minutes - how excruciating! And what a lovely thought to go home to a relaxing bath and a nice cup of tea! I would need a long sit-down to feel really comfortable again!

And that is just why our brief exertion (which seemed anything but short on the day) was so worthwhile. We are so lucky to live where we do. Feeling comfortable most of the time is the norm here. The people we did our exercises for never have any physical comforts to look forward to. Deprivation of every kind - all the time - that is what life in Ethiopia is like.

Thank God for the reporter Michael Burke who brought the tragedy to the world's notice for the first time, and for Bob Geldof who has managed to stir the world into action to try and help effectively. Something in his forthright approach speaks to everybody's conscience. Collecting sponsors for Sport Aid proved so easy - he has made people everywhere care. The higher collection results for Christian Aid Week may well be a spin-off. Somebody told me how in Canada in connection with Live Aid last year their local playgroup had decided to appeal for blankets - and they were literally swamped by the totally unexpected generosity of people's response.

Our own little local effort which was run very much on the spur of the moment brought about 30 participants of all ages, both sexes and varying fitness to the Church Hall on June 1st (never mind if you can't make the official time on May 25th - all the money collected goes to the same cause, said the Central Organisers). We strained ourselves for 45 minutes under the able leadership of Eila Severn and Pat Young and raised a total of £350. Thank you everybody who participated or contributed sponsor money. It was great fun and truly worth it.

Hilde Bucknell

FITNESS NOT FATNESS A Pastor in the Argentine laboured hard and his church built up to 600 members. Then a word from the Lord came to him that the church was not growing, just getting fat. 'What do you mean, Lord?' 'Well, first you had 100 people who do not love each other, now you have 600 who do not love each other. That's not growth; just getting fat'.

From Church Army 'Frontline News'

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 12-17 1986

The sum of money collected by the volunteers of St. James's came to £830, which is a very pleasing increase of £200 over the 1985 figure. The URC and St. Francis de Sales also participate in the house to house collections within our parish and collected another £215. So the grand total collected by the three churches in Hampton Hill is a very satisfying £1045.

An extra effort was made this year to cover all the roads allocated to St. James's. I hope that all collectors have now received the official letter of thanks printed by Christian Aid, which will show their own contribution to the total. Some roads are of course much more productive than others, but I must emphasize that every sum collected is so welcome during the counting process. Thank you all collectors, to everyone who gave and to Carol Kennedy for sharing in the organisation of the week.

Ann Davis

MOTHERS UNION

Last month, the Mothers Union invited several young mothers and their children to lunch at Wayside, where Mrs. Rosemary Johnson, the London Diocesan President spoke to us about the work of the Mothers Union. We were surprised to hear of the variety of their activities, including holidays for deprived families and a 'message home' service for young people who have broken away from their families.

An informal discussion followed, and it was felt that there was room within St. James's for a group of younger women, under the auspices of the Mothers Union. Initially we would probably meet one evening a month and have speakers on a variety of topics. It may also be of interest to meet occasionally during the daytime with our children, possibly in association with the monthly Pram Service. We then went across to the Church for a short combined Pram/Mothers Union Service. Thank you very much to the Mothers Union for an interesting and informative lunch.

Susan Horner

ST. JAMES'S DAY 20th JULY 1986

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

4.30 pm Special Service Preacher: Rev. Anthony Potter

Parish Priest, St. James, Twickenham

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING EVENING

The Box opening evening for the Children's Society will be held on Monday 7th July at 68 Park Road from 7 pm until 10 pm. If you have a box please bring it along and enjoy a cup of coffee while you wait and a chat with your friends. Last year we made £214, let's see if we can better it this year.

Helen Taylor

AREA SYNOD

This was held in St. Clement's Notting Dale, one of the Churches in our own Inner City area of Kensington. We were there to discuss the Report 'Faith in the City', so it seemed appropriate that we should meet in one of the localities in which we were most likely to get mugged! A rather lack-lustre Sir Richard O'Brien (Chairman of the Working Party which produced the Report) emphasised that the Committee had made it quite plain that it was *first* criticising the Church and only *second* the State for the situation. He also spelt out how much we needed facts on which to base any decisions. What was most impressive however was the witness given by five young people of non-English parentage (although they had all I think been born in Britain) of what it felt like to be not white skinned. Harassment by police was commonplace and the most obvious cause for complaint. They had all also felt picked upon at school and discriminated against for no reason except colour.

The Church in which we met had been stripped of all pews (plenty of flexibility for seating any number of people for any purpose) and there was plenty of evidence of a lively church community in the form of photographs of parish functions and artwork of various kinds. We came away in no doubt at all that poverty and deprivation and inequalities due to race are substantial problems which we have to tackle and cannot duck.

Nicholas Chubb

THE BISHOP'S VISITATION

The clergy and churchwardens of the Deanery were recently invited to a "visitation" by our Bishop, Mark Santer. Apart from giving guidance to us all for carrying out our vocations and duties, he gave us his views on the ordination of women (the gospels provided no reason why they should not be, but, for the sake of unity in our own church and the prospect of a wider unity between Christian churches, the move should not be rushed), and on the report, just published, of the House of Bishops, "The Nature of Christian Belief". He distinguished between assent and interpretation: many might assent to a given creed, yet interpret that creed differently. The report, no doubt with the Bishop of Durham in mind, refers to the need of bishops to be "Apostolic pioneers", and Bishop Mark pointed out that questioning of the tenets of our faith by bishops has a long history. He spoke of Synesius of Cyrene in Libya who, having been a pagan philosopher with a Christian wife, was pressed in 409AD to be Bishop of Ptolemais. Despite holding certain unorthodox beliefs which he would not abandon, he was nevertheless consecrated by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria without being asked to sacrifice his intellectual honesty - without, as it has been said, "engaging himself to give up either his wife or his doctrines"!

A spiritual man, Synesius was the original author of one of our hymns, including the following verse:

 "Lord Jesus, think on me,
 Nor let me go astray;
 Through darkness and perplexity
 Point thou the heavenly way."

It is hoped that the text of Bishop Mark's talk will be made available to those who would like to read it.

CELEBRATION EVENING (In the Power of the Holy Spirit)

On Saturday 7th June, members of our congregation were invited to St. Stephen's Church, East Twickenham. This was a follow-up of the Seminar on Healing which took place earlier this year.

The evening started at 8.00 pm with worship in song led by Lulu Williams. She led us in adoration, bringing us nearer and nearer to the Lord, for three quarters of an hour. After this her husband Rick spoke to us for some time. He read the piece from Isaiah which our Lord read when the scroll was handed to him in the synagogue:

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the humble, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to those in prison; to proclaim a year of the Lord's favour and a day of the vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to give them garlands instead of ashes, oil of gladness instead of mourners' tears, a garment of splendour for the heavy heart."

Rick pointed out that this was what Jesus came to do. There are many people who are held captive through various sins which impede them receiving the healing of Christ. The Church has to proclaim the Good News. We cannot pick and choose those parts of the Bible which appeal to us, and discard that which we do not like. The Church has to preach the Gospel, and heal the sick.

Rick spoke for about forty-five minutes, and then there was a period of ministry. The healing team moved among the pews praying for those who needed help, and those who wished to receive a greater filling of the Holy Spirit were asked to go to the north side of the Church. A number of us went over, and they prayed for the Holy Spirit to come upon us. This was a very moving experience. They also prayed for the development of a healing ministry at St. James's Church. All in all this was a wonderful, inspiring and uplifting evening.

MEETING IN CHURCH ON JULY 9th

Rick Williams and some of his team are coming to our Church at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 9th July, to lead us and build up our confidence in this important ministry.

Every member of the congregation is invited to come along to hear about this ancient ministry which is being renewed in many churches today.

Don Rawlins

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTIES - First Saturday morning every month

These are not news any more but still very important and thoroughly worthwhile. You need only come for one hour; your help will always be appreciated. If you have never been before, don't feel shy - just turn up: you'll soon be shown how to make yourself useful.

THE THIRD ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH BETWEEN ST. JAMES'S AND ALL SAINTS HAMPTON TOOK PLACE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON 8TH JUNE 1986 AT BUCKINGHAM ROAD SPORTS GROUND. THE SUN SHONE FITFULLY AND A COOL BREEZE CUT ACROSS THE LINE OF SPECTATORS' CHAIRS LINED UP BENEATH THE PAVILION WHICH HAD BEEN SPECIALLY RESERVED FOR THIS GREAT CLASH OF THE TITANS. IT WAS THE ENGLISH SUMMER AT LAST!

St. James's batted first, with Chris Taylor and David Brittain soon setting about the All Saints bowling. By the time Chris had been nicely caught behind a firm foundation had been laid. But the star of the St. James's innings was Colin Ryden who clobbered the best that All Saints could offer for a magnificent 45. By this time the St. James's score was mounting so rapidly that the square leg umpire decided to catch out John Taylor himself. What would the MCC say about that! By the time the ration of 25 overs was finished St. James's had accumulated 157 runs (including a four by Alan Taylor off his first ball), and the innings was closed with several aspiring batsmen disappointed.

It was a mountain for All Saints to climb and this called for the best woman available - Linda Bradley, a young lady whose appearance stirred memories of previous heroics and made St. James's team quake in their trainers. Slowly but steadily the runs came for All Saints, but as overs proceeded and the size of the batsmen got less (along with their diminishing age), the going got tougher. Then it speeded up as one of the St. James's bowlers (who had better be nameless!) gave away three wides in one over and Mr. Bradley reached 19. But then All Saints were down to their last man(?) in the shape of none other than 11-year old Duncan Robinson who had gallantly offered himself to make up their team. And the shape of Duncan stalking to the crease with his pads up to his armpits was very intimidating. Four runs flowed from his bat before All Saints were all out for 52 leaving St. James's the winners by 105 (or thereabouts, since the official scorer H. Severn Esq. is not too strong at figurework).

Clearly, All Saints were not going to take this defeat lightly, for it was noticed that Joe Brownlee our captain was instantly challenged for a return match next year. A most enjoyable afternoon again, although next time we would really like to get heat stroke and have to take out cooling drinks to the players.

Many thanks to Joe for establishing this fixture. We would wish him and Anne all the best for their future married life together and are sorry we shall be losing his cheery face after so many years at Hampton Hill.

Nor could we end without very grateful thanks to all those ladies of the Social Committee who provided sandwiches, cakes and hot tea to revive our bodies and spirits against the elements. See you all again next year under blazing skies!

J. Arlott

GOD'S PROMISES - 2

"He has given us His promises, great beyond price".

Welcome. Let us continue our study of the promises. Perhaps you have been doing some homework and have been finding promises for yourself. I underline them in red ink in my Bible so that it is impossible to overlook them. Hopefully, through Grace, I may grow into them and finally feel that I *have* inherited them. "They were made God's sons (+ daughters), theirs is the splendour of the Divine Presence and the promises." (Romans 9.4)

Seek - Knock" are the instructions and "you *will* receive, find and gain admittance" are the promises. Another similar promise is that if we *really* "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (and it has to be a *real* hunger and thirst like that of a soul lost in the burning desert) then "we *shall* be filled" with the Spirit of God in Christ.

"Do not worry about what you are to say. When the time comes the words you need *will be given you*, for it is not you who will be speaking, it will be the spirit of your Father speaking in you". This is a wonderful promise to remember when we set out on a difficult mission and we fear our own words will not be adequate and we do not know what to say. There are many living prophets, speaking out the word of God today who can testify that this is a true promise. They are comforting, strengthening, preaching, writing, broadcasting today as strongly as the prophets did of old. Do we recognise them amongst our neighbours, perhaps even from time to time in ourselves when God touches us?

"The man who holds out to the end *will* be saved." Some we know personally have come through great tribulation in which they have been faithful and know themselves to have been maintained, saved and made new.

Some promises contain warnings. "There is nothing covered up that will not be uncovered." We pray to Almighty God 'from whom no secrets are hidden'. Some people are ill and live in the darkness of breakdown or psychosomatic illness because of covered up wrongs either inflicted on them by circumstances or by other people, even beyond memory; or by unrecognised or unconfessed sins and resentments in the persons themselves. Some search after the meaning of things as yet unrevealed and seek and find answers which throw God's light on that which has hitherto been hidden.

"I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall wander in the dark; *he shall have the light of life.*"

Margery Orton

A MOST WONDERFUL BOOK

I am reading a most wonderful book called "The Way of a Disciple" by a man I feel I have known intimately for many years although I have never met him save through his writings - George Appleton.

I can do no better to commend it than to quote the Archbishop of Canterbury who invited George Appleton to write it. "Many will find this a lovely book and an immensely rewarding one. They will want to read it in a leisurely fashion - one section a day at the very most. To get the best out of it, they will read it with their Bible open. As they do, they will find their prayer-life enriched and deepened. . . ."

"For more than half a century . . . George Appleton has had his eyes up to God and his arms out to men. No wonder that his prayers have proved of help to many". I bought my copy at The Bridge Book Shop in Hounslow. It costs £1.75 (Collins, Fount paperbacks). Give yourself a treat. Go over to the big church in Hounslow High Road, browse through their splendid shop and have a cup of excellent coffee, and a snack if you want one, in their peaceful cafe with its view of the calm interior of the church. Take a like-minded friend and really enjoy the experience.

Margery Orton

PEOPLE OF MARRIAGE

People are sometimes puzzled and I think also irritated when a list of names is read out in the middle of a service for no apparent reason other than that these persons wish to get married in St. James or another church. Why is it? Most of us know nothing about the couples concerned. They seldom worship in the church, if ever. The reason is that it is a legal requirement to notify as wide a public as possible of the intended marriage in order that problems can be sorted before any wedding takes place. It is a safeguard for each of the parties. Are any objections ever raised? The answer is very seldom, but when they are the results are important. I always tell those whose Banns are to be read of one incident which happened to me about ten years ago. One Wednesday evening at about 10.30 pm I received a telephone call from the other side of Aberdeen, asking if a certain person was getting married on the following Saturday. I said 'Yes'. 'It's the first we've heard of it', said the voice. 'We are members of her family and as far we know she is married with three children'. Naturally everything had to be cancelled at very short notice, but it did prevent the young man from being totally taken in and a bigamous marriage from taking place. In another case a priest married a woman without a Banns Certificate being produced, accepting the groom's word that Banns had been read. A week after the wedding the police visited her asking if she had married a certain man on a certain date. She said she had. 'I'm sorry to have to tell you', said the policeman, 'he is already married and your marriage is invalid'. Since we were arranging details for the marriage of her son she wanted to be certain that everything was in order! So until the law alters we shall continue to read Banns out in church.

Nicholas Chubb

AROUND THE SPIRE

Since "the three sisters" move to Southampton, Laurie has unfortunately had a fall and broken some ribs. We wish her a good recovery, and we were pleased to hear that after the journey, which understandably they found rather strenuous, their pleasure at being near their fourth sister Elma is great.

Mrs. Fleet who for years used to clean Wayside has been in hospital for some time and our good wishes go to her.

Linda and Roland Bridges recently had another baby - Jonathan James, a bouncing brother for David and second grandson for Roma and Ron, was born on May 19th. Our congratulations and best wishes to the whole family.

Our thoughts are also with Brian and Sylvia Parkin who were confirmed in St. Mary's, Sunbury on Wednesday 11th June, together with some 35 other adults and children from other parishes. We welcome them into our congregation.

Baptisms

May	25	Ian William James Ross	235 Uxbridge Road
June	1	Rosemary Manson	109 Wordsworth Road
		Sarah Elizabeth Ransom	1 Westbank Road

Marriages

June	14	Julian James Dean and Kathleen May Kennedy
		David John Kendall and Deborah Annette Irwin

Funerals

June	4	Laura Louise Leaver	88 St. James Avenue	aged 82
		Alice Abbott	7 Westbank Road	aged 78
	5	Reginal Vardon Offord	17 Priory Gardens	aged 62
	6	Elsie May Dorrell	42 Myrtle Road	aged 86

DATES TO NOTE

July	5	10.00	Churchyard Working Party
	8	20.00	Liturgical Committee
		20.00	Tuesday Club - Air Sea Rescue
	9	10.30	Magazine Committee
		20.00	Talk on Healing - Rick Williams
	10	20.00	Hall Committee
	15	20.00	P.C.C. (Vestry)
		20.00	Tuesday Club - Summer Supper
	16	20.00	Good News Group
	20	To be kept as Patronal Festival of St. James	
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		16.30	Special Service - Preacher: Rev. Anthony Potter
			Parish Priest of St. James, Twickenham
	22	20.00	Properties Committee
Aug.	2	10.00	Churchyard Working Party
Sept.	13		Hampton Carnival Procession
	14	18.30	Teddington Memorial Hospital Service at St. James
Oct.	5		Harvest Festival

*TOGETHER FOR CHRIST**A celebration of the One Lord by Christians in West London**Saturday 6th September 12 - 5 pm**St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill*