

During July the Church of England has been in the National News in a major way. The General Synod was meeting at York for its residential session (other Synods are held in London and the members do not spend all day living together as well as speaking and debating). Undoubtedly the most important matter under debate was the whole issue of women possibly being ordained to the priestly ministry of the church. The trigger debate was whether or not women ordained abroad should be able to exercise their ministry in this country. The implications were vast. Seldom can an issue of the church have so gripped the general public in recent times. Television and Newspapers considered it an important topic. As a whole the issues were faithfully presented and many wondered whether there would be a rift in christianity in this country on a scale not witnessed for over three hundred years. In the event the subject was voted on as far as allowing women ordained abroad was concerned (permission was not given) but other matters were held back until next February to allow time for clarifying certain details of the arguments. Each of us who reads this ought to pray about the situation because in the end it will affect us all. A decision will have to be reached eventually, and each one of us will have to make up our minds as to where we stand. The Bishop of London, in whose Diocese we are, is firmly against the ordination of women to the priesthood; the Bishop of Kensington, in whose Area of the London Diocese we are, is firmly in favour of the ordination of women. So we cannot find an escape in looking to the Bishops! Nor can we say that one Tradition of the Church is wholly set one way or the other. An increasing number of Roman Catholic clergy (including one leading Jesuit who preached at a funeral in St. James just two years ago) are in favour. There will not necessarily be a refuge in that direction for all time (although there could in the short term). Furthermore if there is a breach and another christian community begins based on this one plank it will not be easy to heal. Bishop Mark reminded us of that at his charge to Clergy and Churchwardens in June. Church History is strewn with the wreckage of those who have broken away from the current mainstream church and have then become evermore isolated as the years have gone by. One of the lessons of the present century is that unity amongst christians is a very precious thing. Let us not waste that lesson this time round. We can and must pray for a solution which will be in line with truth and reason. Sometimes it seems to me that theological utterance are more the result of individual personal temperaments than of solid scriptural exposition or revealed truth.

The English have been (and sometimes still are) adept at allowing others to make their decisions for them in matters of Faith. Why rock the boat? Does it really matter? They are probably right . . . etc., etc., . . . There comes a point where we do each and all of us, have to make up our minds for ourselves on matters of principle and faith. This issue is one such. If you ask me what I think, I think the Bishop of Kensington is right. Other christian expressions have found that the world does not fall apart when women are ordained. I have changed my thinking over the years. We can receive truth and still explore the great riches which God has yet to reveal to us. Anything else it seems to me is a static and stagnant faith which will surely die.

## GOD'S PROMISES - 3

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

"Whosoever will acknowledge me before men I will acknowledge him before my Father in Heaven, and whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in Heaven". Grim words of warning these, from the Living Word of God. God is a merciful God. Christ understood the fear that drove Peter to disown him three times but Peter was given the chance to see God's love for him in Christ's face and when the next temptations came he proved faithful unto death. We have a choice; to choose Christ or to turn our backs. "No man is worthy of me who does not take up his cross and walk in my footsteps. By gaining his life a man will lose it; by losing his life for my sake he will gain it". If we worthily, out of love, take up our crosses and follow Christ's way and give our lives up for His sake we are promised we will gain life. There are times when we are called on to make sacrifices to give of our love, our time, our skills, our energies, our money; to turn away out of expediency and selfishness is to lose each time a little of life in Christ; to go on is to experience His joy and peace at the end of the way. Now the promises about receiving Christ. If we really open our hearts to Christ in belief and trust we are told we will receive the One who sent Him. If we welcome His prophets and disciples (and there are many abroad in the world today) our charity will be rewarded. "God's wisdom is proved right by results". IF WE KNOW HIS PROMISES AND TRUST THEM, our own experiences, sometimes immediate, sometimes over months and even years, will prove them "worthy to be believed". "Come to me, all whose work is hard and whose load is heavy and I will give you relief", or in the version with which I have grown up and which is dear to me "Come unto me all who travail (implying all sorts of troubles) and are heavy laden and I will refresh you". How many people through the ages, the writer included, can witness to the truth of this promise, and of its fellows. "Seek and you will find, knock and it shall be opened unto you" - this kingdom of Heaven which is 'at hand' and to which Jesus opens the way.

Praise be to God

*Margery Orton*

## YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP OUTING TO CHAPEL FARM

June 1986

It was with some slight (only very slight) misgivings that I joined the Young Families Group outing with my three school-age children, since I was not sure how a coach full of very young children, and babies, would travel - I need not have worried, we had plenty of room, and the journey, though short, was one of the quietest I had been on. We arrived at our destination in Dorking by late morning, having been escorted from the foot of Box Hill by a member of the farm team. Chapel Farm was once a working farm, with dairy cattle being its principal concern, but also with a traditional country farm mixture of other animals. In the last four years the farm had become uneconomic and a change was necessary. Fortunately for all of us "touries" it has become a "tourist farm". We were able to feed the tame lambs, walk through farm meadows and look at the cows, watch the geese and listen to an informative talk from our guide before returning to a pleasant and safely enclosed area for lunch (with a quick dash for cover into the hay barn when we were caught under the only cloud that burst). Following our picnics we were taken on an interesting short tour of the surrounding Downland in the farm trailer (specially adapted to seat about 50 quite adequately) and pulled by a tractor. On

our return we still had time to look at the other smaller penned animals, like turkeys, rabbits, guinea pigs and hens, as well as visiting the pigs, donkey, pony and goat. There was not a child in the group who did not seem to enjoy most, if not all, aspects of this outing, and certainly, my three children plus my young niece and nephew were all healthily tired by the time we returned to St. James's church at about 4 o'clock.

Thank you all those who organised this outing and allowed us "post-toddler" mums and children to join you.

*Coryn Robinson*

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

At the May meeting of the M.U. our members heard a talk on the Quaker religion. It was new to most of us although the speaker was not, for she was Janet Robinson, known to most of St. James's members. She made her subject so interesting that we hope she will return on another occasion with another subject.

The annual outing this year was on June 4th and we visited St. Michael's Convent at Ham. The weather was fine, if a little cool. We were given a short history of the convent and the work of the sisters, and then had a delicious tea. After this we were able to wander in the pleasant gardens and the visit ended by attending evensong in their chapel. I am sure we all felt very refreshed on our journey home.

At the July meeting - July 2nd - there was the usual festal service at which Hannah Stanton preached, followed by tea on the church lawn.

There is no meeting in August but we re-assemble on September 10th with a biblical Bring and Buy sale.

*Jean Wilson*

## **SS. MICHAEL & GEORGE - FULWELL**

**Pilgrim - A Pop Cantata for Children based on John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress**

To prepare for a performance sometime in September, there will be workshops throughout August on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10.30 to 12 noon at the Parish Centre, Wilcox Road, Teddington beginning on August 6th. Workshops will include puppet making, models, collage, acting, games, prop and scenery making, musical instruments. Open to all children over the age of 5 years. Not essential to take part every session. For further information contact:

Pam Atkinson (979 6166) or Bridget Fairbairn (941 4991)



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## **TOGETHER FOR CHRIST**

**A CELEBRATION OF  
THE ONE LORD BY CHRISTIANS  
IN WEST LONDON**

**SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 12.00 noon - 5.00pm  
at St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham**

## PARISH OUTING - 28 June 1986

We could not have had a better day for our journey to Brixworth to visit the church of All Saints where Nicholas had his living before coming to Hampton Hill.

The weather was sunny and warm, the farmlands as we drove by coach through Hertfordshire into Northamptonshire, were fresh and green with young corn stretching to the horizon, with once or twice vast streaks of scarlet poppies in the distance. Surely these must have been purposely left to bloom to enhance the landscape. Farmers had let lie fallow corners of fields, these too were havens for daisies, poppies and other wild flowers.

The village of Brixworth seemed to be hidden in the surrounding greenery, quietly nestling near the church which stands on higher ground. An imposing and attractive building dating back to early Saxon times, with a stair turret and high tower surmounted by a steeple and topped by a gold weather cock.

We were welcomed by the present vicar, the Rev. A.J. Watkins, after which Nicholas gave us a potted history of the church, pointing out the Roman tiles on the arches and showing us a relic found in a box in the south wall, a small bone believed by some to be from the throat of St. Boniface. The history of All Saints is too long to be detailed here even if I were able to do so.

After looking round the church we adjourned to the nearby school. Here we ate our lunch and were served with tea, coffee and cold drinks by Friends of the Church. Duly refreshed we set out on the next part of our journey to the Stoke Bruerne Canal.

Stoke Bruerne Canal was a kaleidoscope of colour, people, little locks, the waterside houses, museum and brilliantly coloured canal boats, all shining in the hot sun. Those of our party who wanted or were able to, boarded, or rather stepped down into, the "Indian Chief" which was waiting for us and we spent over an hour gliding through the newly opened tunnel, 1 3/4 miles from end to end, and then back again. It was cool and restful and from the commentary given the tunnel was the longest on British waterways.

On returning to the locks we could browse around the big "Arts and Crafts" marquee and although we could and did buy refreshments on the boat we were again supplied with drinks by our organisers. Thanks must go to them for a day which went like clockwork and to Nicholas and Susan for giving us the chance to visit their former home.

*Dorothy Weston*

## INTER-RELIGIOUS MEETING FOR PEACE IN CHINA

"China has become an actual and potential peace maker and is playing an important role in keeping a balance between different countries in the world", said John Taylor, Secretary-General of the World Conference on Religion and Peace at a press conference in Beijing (Peking) during WCRP's first International Council Meeting (25 June - 1 July).

Among about 130 religious leaders from 30 different countries there were three of us from the UK, Donna Adamson, a Baha'i from Byfleet, Professor Harmindar Singh a Sikh from Greenford, and myself. We travelled by Tarom, Romanian Airlines, via Bucharest and Karachi. It was my second visit to Beijing, having gone there on a WCRP Peace Mission to the Chinese Government in 1982, the only one of the five nuclear weapons powers to invite us to come and discuss with them the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament.

There is certainly an attitude of open friendliness in China today. After the end

of ten terrible years of persecution during the Cultural Revolution all the religions in China are enjoying a vigorous revival. Christian churches are packed to the doors every Sunday, with duplicate services in the morning both filled to capacity.

In such an atmosphere it is exhilarating as well as extremely rewarding to be at the centre of the world's oldest civilization, enjoying a way of life that has much to commend it. We were received like a visiting governmental delegation. The Chinese reception committee of WCRP had excelled themselves in their preparations. Our conference hotel was some 35 miles, or an hour's drive, out of Beijing, and every time we drove into town it was a spectacular sight. Our procession was led by a police car with lights flashing, followed by ten big black governmental Mercedes containing our leading officials, then five coaches with the rest of us. (Bishop Okullu of Kenya, contemplating the fleet of Mercedes parked outside our hotel, remarked whimsically: "I wonder what would happen if socialism ever came to this country!")

We had no less than four official banquets, the first in the Great Hall of the People, where we held our first plenary session, and where later in the week we were formally received by one of the Vice-Presidents of the People's Republic of China, complete with television lights and cameras (we appeared on the news that evening in Beijing).

Every meal in China seems to be like a banquet, with large round tables with a revolving centre piled with a varied and constantly replenished collection of plates with pieces of cold and hot meat, chicken, turkey, octopus, jelly fish, sometimes surmounted by a whole river fish, perhaps carp, ending with soup (shark fin), water melon or even ice cream. I obstinately persevered with chop sticks all the time - at least they encourage slow eating and small morsels. I actually lost a little weight while there! Those of us not content with orange juice or 'coke', wine and beer were served (regardless of inhibitions about the fruit of the grain and vine) together on the "widow's cruse" principle, with waiters or waitresses constantly hovering to replenish one's glasses alternately. Somehow it didn't seem to go to one's head.

Apart from all this high living, we had of course a heavy programme of lectures and discussions, often about areas of severe conflict such as the Middle East, Sri Lanka, the Punjab, Ireland, South Africa with representatives from these areas being passionately involved. A great value of WCRP is that in the growing spiritual fellowship people of different religions from areas of acute tension, not hiding their strong feelings, can discuss sensitive subjects and still achieve an atmosphere of reconciliation and a sense of hope. Being English, I found myself frequently involved as rapporteur, with the difficult task of trying to render a fair account of volatile argument with the hope of producing a positive outcome. As always, we ended our conference with a multi-faith act of worship and as always it was a moving experience. Each morning as usual I joined the Roman Catholics at their mass, welcomed as one of them. In such a context ancient differences between Christians seem irrelevant.

On the day of our departure, before flying off at 7.30 pm on a 24 hour journey home, we had a coach tour to the Ming Tombs, where emperors are buried, and to the Great Wall, which I had visited on my previous visit and which is one of the sights of the world. It was thronged with tourists, many Western. If you should ever have the opportunity, China can be recommended as a fascinating alternative to the Costa Brava or wherever.

## FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICA

The events which took place in many parts of the world in the later part of June 1986 commemorated the date of June 16th 1976. On that date in Soweto, South Africa, many school-children came out of school onto the streets to protest against the type of education, Bantu education, education for inferiority, to which they had been subjected for many years; and, in particular, being taught in the Afrikaans medium, a language limited to certain groups in South Africa. The police confronted the massed children; the children, excited and protesting, threw sticks and stones at the police, the police shot back, shot to kill and a number of children died on that day. In subsequent weeks and months, for the children were not to be deterred from protesting, many hundreds were killed. Adults also joined in the protest. Two white men were killed. Figures of blacks killed were between 600 and 1000; many of these were school-children.

The children lost all fear of being killed. They said to their parents "We aren't going to take these discriminatory measure in every sphere of life any longer; you have put up with this hardship and cruelty too long." The adults were proud of the courageous stand of the youngsters, and, at length, urged on by the 1983 Constitution (passed by the white electorate only) and which indicated to blacks that never, but never, were they going to have a chance of having a say in the Government of their own country, they started to organise wide-spread protests. We have all seen on our TV screens how the police and the army have reacted. Many hundreds of blacks have been killed since 1983; this is continuing under the current Emergency, and at this time it is estimated that about 5000 people are detained.

On Sunday, June 15th, the day before the actual 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising, the Richmond and District Anti-Apartheid Group sponsored a service in memory of the Soweto school-children with the help and leadership of the Rev. Peter McCrory, Vicar of St. Annes Church, Kew Green. The service was held outside the church, it was lively and well attended, and was indeed a memorial celebration of the martyrdom of the children. The public address system was excellent: the speakers, Alan Watson, Richmond's prospective Liberal Parliamentary Candidate, son of a Methodist missionary in South Africa; Margaret Legum of South Africa; Laretta Ncobo also from South Africa, author, poet and teacher; and the Rev. Richard Harries, Dean of Kings College, London all spoke superbly, all having an intimate knowledge of South Africa. They were listened to with respect. Flowers were distributed and taken symbolically to the foot of a great cross, and left to die.

On the day itself, June 16th, a 12 hour vigil of prayer was organised in the Methodist Church in Teddington with the kind help of the Rev. Victor Vine who put the church at our disposal. Beryl Smith of the Methodist Church did most of the organising, and about 100 people came in at one time or another to pray for the situation in South Africa.

These were our local efforts and they must have been repeated in many areas all over the world. We were able to carry them through without interruption; an entire congregation was arrested in South Africa.

The Central Anti-Apartheid Movement organised a big Lobby at the Houses of

Parliament on Tuesday, June 17th, in support of the call for sanctions by the South African black leaders. Our Group encompasses both Richmond and Twickenham and contingents from both areas met our MPs. There was a good turn-out.

There followed a very well supported march from Hyde Park to Clapham Common on Saturday June 28th. Our Richmond Group was there with its banners, and as Chairman I felt I must back up both the local and national effort. It was good to see groups from all over the country. Pop stars gave their services for a vast meeting which went on far into the night at Clapham Common.

We pray week by week in our intercessions for South Africa; I ask the St. James's congregation to continue.

*Hannah Stanton*

## **KOINONIA**

Koinonia is the Greek word which roughly translated means 'fellowship'. Fellowship has always been an important element of the Christian faith, sharing the Word together, praying and just generally exchanging experiences of what Christianity has meant to us. All this helps to build us up as Christians and strengthen our faith.

Koinonia will re-start on Tuesday September 23rd in the Vestry and will meet fortnightly. Anyone is welcome to come along, the subject for the Autumn session will be 'The essence of the Faith' and we hope at one of the meetings to have one of the Sisters from St. Michaels Convent, Ham to come and speak to us.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

**ANYONE FOR TENNIS?** Arrangements have been made to make available the tennis courts at Lady Eleanor Holles School on Friday 29th August from 1800 to 2100 hours for the use of the Church Social Committee.

Come along with your family and friends and not forgetting your tennis gear, and enjoy a "sporting evening". Who knows, perhaps there is a potential Wimbledon Champion in the congregation.

**VISIT TO HIGHGATE CEMETERY** On Sunday 5th October from 1300 to 1700 hours there is a guided tour of Highgate Cemetery.

As many of you will know Karl Marz and other well known personalities are buried there.

It has been suggested that there would be sufficient people interested in making up a mini-bus party to go on the guided tour.

If you are interested in going please put your name on the list which is on the notice board next to the poster advertising the tour.

As you will see refreshments will be available.

**EDWARDIAN EVENING** Advance Notice for Saturday 29th November. Great entertainment. You will be amazed at all the local talent. Further information nearer the time. Just book the date now; it is worth it.

*David Lloyd*

## PRAYER n PRAISE

A new service is being introduced in September. It will be at 8 pm every Sunday starting on the 21st September. It will use music in the modern rock/gospel style and will be of special interest to young people who enjoy this style of music. Everybody who enjoys this style of worship will be most welcome. The service will last for about 45 minutes and be followed by coffee.

The music used will be from 'Spirit of Praise' which has recently been used at parade services. At this service it will be played on piano/guitar etc. Anybody who is interested in helping on the musical side, making the coffee or handing out books and welcoming people should contact the Vicar or me.

This service will be very informal and we hope that it will appeal to those people who find the formal worship of the main services unattractive. So to those who are young in body, mind, spirit or heart we say "See you at PRAYER n PRAISE".

*Paul Revis*

## SCOUT GROUP NEWS

**Saturday June 28th** An ideal choice for an Outing, Littlecote House situated on the borders of Wiltshire and Berks. This is a 16th Century Stately Home complete with models in costume, also in surrounding country a Roman Villa Excavation with Mosaic floors. To keep the boys fully occupied, an Adventure playground, a grand train ride - the engine from the slate quarries of North Wales. An interesting collection of Roundhead Armour from the Tower of London and a display of Falconry. The day ended with a Jousting Contest in which two of the Leaders got involved, just imagine Colin as a Man-at-Arms and Margaret as a Lady of the Court - much appreciated by the boys.

All 22 Cubs and 6 Leaders voted it to be one of the best Outings ever - a day to be remembered.

District Athlete Badge took place at St. Mary's College on 5th July - all 4 boys passed.

District Cub Sports on 14th June - Gold Pack came 7th, Brown Pack 16th.

District Scout Sports 12th July - Troop came 7th.

Summer Camp for both Cub Packs and Scout Troop at Braggers Wood in the New Forest - 28th July - 1st August.

## FUTURE EVENTS

CAR BOOT SALE - Saturday August 30th at Four Winds Press, High Street. Cars £5; Vans £7. Refreshments. Raffle. Come along and sell your bric-a-brac from the back of your car. Public admission 10p. Don't miss this regular event - it's great entertainment. Further details from Roger Bucknell on 979 3529.

Barbecue on Triangle - September 20th.



Jumble Sale in Hall - September 27th.

PARADE SERVICE - October 5th, Harvest Festival.

*Michael J. Childs, GSL*

## AROUND THE SPIRE

At the Informal Service held on July 6th, Joe Brownlee and his fiancée, Anne, were presented with a cut-glass decanter and a framed photograph of the Church, as a gift from the Parish to mark their forthcoming Wedding. Joe has been associated with St. James' for a number of years now being active as a member of the Social Committee and as Leader of the Church Youth Club. It seems unlikely that they will be living near enough to see them except occasionally so we wish them well in their new life together and pray that God will bless them and their marriage.

Two of the younger members of our congregation have recently had baby daughters. Barbara Essam had a baby girl on June 20th, Ruth Helena, and Nicola Gladwin had her daughter on May 18th, Emily Rose. All concerned are well and very happy with the new arrivals, we hope they continue to prosper and we send them all our love and good wishes.

Some even younger members would like to thank all those people who sponsored them in 'Run for the World'. Oliver and Christopher Taylor raised £78 for the 'Feed the World' campaign and ran the required six miles effortlessly together with about 100 thousand others. This was a fantastic day as anyone who saw anything of it will testify, whether on Television or in the flesh. Bob Geldof and his campaign have captured the imagination of the young people as very few others have managed to do, and this should give us encouragement and hope for the future, especially for the future of those whose life looked so hopeless a few months ago.

More news of young people, first the Dobson family who have recently moved to Hampton, we trust they will be happy in their new home and that we shall continue to see them among us each week. Congratulations to Sarah Chubb who has done very well in her examinations and received her Degree last week, now she is on the way to becoming a Doctor, best of wishes to you, Sarah.

Some older members of the Church are also making the news. Alice Stacey is to be married in September to George Wallis, again we wish them well and hope that we shall see them among us for a long time to come.

Several of our Parishioners have either been in hospital, like Alison Thompson, or are in hospital still, like Mrs. Doe, or are about to go into hospital like Dilys Melville. We hope they will soon be better and meanwhile please remember the people who are ill in your prayers.

As this is being written the full amount collected from the Children's Society boxes is not yet known, but it has already become apparent that the final figure will be substantially more than the £214 raised last year, probably somewhere in the region of £330 in fact. In the last issue of the magazine it was pointed out that contributions in various areas had risen and this excellent total underlines this. Thank you to those who have boxes and keep up the good work.

# FROM THE REGISTERS

## Baptisms

June	15	Andrew James Cantouris	45 St. James's Road
		Charlotte Louise Cantouris	45 St. James's Road
July	6	Benjamin Matthew Upton	29 Dean Road
		Samuel John Curant	98 Ashley Drive, Whitton

## Marriages

July	6	Richard John Heath and Mandy Caroline Sullivan	
	19	Lawrence William Ross and Carol Brown	

## Funerals

June	18	Ernest Charles Jarvis	18 Cross Street	aged 76
July	3	Lily Constance Emily Woodhams	Laurel Dene	aged 86

## DATES TO NOTE

Sept	13	Hampton Carnival Procession		
	14	18.30	Teddington Memorial Hospital Service at St. James	
	18	20.00	Liturgical Committee	
	23	20.00	Koinonia - a Sister from Ham Convent	
	25	20.00	Stewardship Committee	
	30	20.00	P.C.C.	
October	1	20.00	Good News Group	
			Hampton Council of Churches AGM	
	5		Harvest Festival	
	8	20.00	Service of Praise including Healing Ministry	
	9	10.30	M.U. Deanery Day at St. James	
	11	19.30	Harvest Supper	
	15	20.00	Deanery Synod	
		20.00	Good News Group	
	26	18.45	United Service at Hampton Hill United Reformed Church	