

Most of you have probably heard of the Seven Deadly Sins: Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Anger, Sloth. Seven seems to have been a special number in old times and there were also Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord) based on a passage in Isaiah (11.2). There are also Seven Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Absolution, Extreme Unction, Ordination and Matrimony) recognised by the Western Church from the 12th Century, although the Church of England in its Thirty Nine Articles (XXV) says "There are two Sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel, that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord. Those five commonly called Sacraments are not to be counted for Sacraments of the Gospel being such as have grown partly of the corrupt following of the Apostles, partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures" You may be able to think of other lists of seven important things. Similarly forty was a very special number in the Old Testament, the Jews were forty years in the Wilderness, the rain on Noah's Ark lasted for forty days and nights and Jesus is described as spending forty days in the Wilderness at the beginning of His ministry. So we could go on. And of course the Church has inserted this length of time into its Calendar when recommending Lent.

However in the end these numbers are traditional and arbitrary. They are not essential to our belief but only helpful guides to our understanding of various truths or helpful to our religious practice. So what do you think are the most important Sins of our time? What are the most important truths to which we need to hold?

Recently an article was published which considered not so much the abstract as the particular vices of our time which need to be combated, including things like drug taking/pushing, mugging, living together unmarried, homosexual practices, tax evasion and fraud, financial supremacy as being the sole justification for an action, survival at the expense of others

We have also had the publication of 'The Nature of Christian Belief' by the Bishops who are also members of the General Synod. What do you think are the irreducible contents of the Christian Faith? Does it matter to you either what you believe or what others believe? Is it enough just to behave 'decently' towards your fellow men and women? Does it matter if you are/are not homosexual? How do you react to the new concept of meeting someone who might have AIDS? Do you condemn? Do you back away as far as possible? Are you frightened? Is contracting the disease a divine punishment for behaving in a sinful way? That is undoubtedly how it would have been seen in ancient times.

I hope that some of you will be prepared to make some suggestions in a form that we can publish in the Spire. It would make interesting reading to gather together details of what you think are the most important shortcomings in the life of people to-day and what are the basic, necessary ingredients of the Christian Faith. Please take up the challenge for yourself if not for the magazine and thereby grow in your perception of what it means to be a Christian.

PRAYER n PRAISE

Starting on Sunday 21st September and then on every Sunday at 8 pm a new Service using modern "Rock Gospel" style of music. This type of music will probably have greater appeal to the younger people in the area but we welcome people of all ages who prefer a less formal setting for worship and prayer. The Service will last approximately 45 minutes and could be a help to those who cannot attend the earlier services because of work or family commitments.

Leaflets giving information on this service are available at the back of the Church. If you know anybody who may be interested or who you think may be interested give them a leaflet or put it in their letter-box. "See you at PRAYER n PRAISE".

Paul Revis

GOD'S PROMISES - 4

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

St. James spends some time in warning us of the damage our tongues can do. They can hurt, wound, speak things which are not true and even if true are much better unsaid. They are a great cause of everyday sin. Christ warns of this "The words that the mouth utters come from the overflowing of the heart. A good man produces good from the store of good in him evil within produces evil. I tell you this: there is not a thoughtless word that comes from mens' lips but they will have to account for it. For out of your own mouth you will be acquitted; out of your own mouth you will be condemned." Here is a way of following Christ every day of our lives - to speak good or to speak that which is not good. It is our choice, with His help, to witness for Him or against.

Who does Christ call his family? "Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, my sister, my mother." If we truly pay heed to Christ's instructions and believe His promises we can be sure of being one of His kin.

Now what about this strange statement: "the man who has will be given more and the man who has not will forfeit even what he has." Unless we realise that Christ has been talking of the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven it is difficult to make merciful sense of the promise; but if a man has some grasp of the nature of the Kingdom and seeks and knocks he will find more. If a man does not want to, or cannot be bothered, even the stock that he has will wither and die away. This is made even clearer by the parable of the sower which follows it, and that of the mustard seed and the yeast. If we strive "to make ourselves less so that Christ may grow more" then we have His promise "if a man will let himself be lost for my sake he will find his true self." Peter for example, found that his true self was not the frightened waverer but the rock on which faith and a church could be built.

Now what about faith in the power and love of God? Christ assures us that even if we have a grain of the right sort of faith and understanding - only as big as a mustard seed - "Nothing will prove impossible for you." THIS IS A PROMISE OF GOD. To claim this promise we really have to believe in His Power, in His love and in His promise that He is, indeed, present with us and in us and will be "to the end of time."

Margery Orton

SEYMOUR HARRIS'S INSTITUTION

On Saturday 26 July a large contingent from St. James's, SS. Peter and Paul, Teddington and SS. Michael and George, Fulwell, set off in two coaches for Wittersham, near Rye, in Kent. We were going to attend the Institution and Induction of Seymour Harris as Rector of Wittersham and Stone-in-Oxney with Ebony. When we arrived at the Rectory, we were provided with a very welcome cup of tea by Dawn and a band of willing helpers. It was a warm afternoon and most of us sat outside watching the younger children present enjoying themselves in the spacious garden.

Then it was a short walk to the beautiful old village church of St. John the Baptist, Wittersham, where the Archbishop of Canterbury was to lead the service, assisted by the Archdeacon of Maidstone. During the first part of the service (the Institution), Seymour was asked to make the Declarations of Assent and the Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience - and was formally given the duties of the pastoral care of the parish by the Archbishop. Seymour was then led to the church door by the Archdeacon and the short ceremony of the Induction took place. At the end of this part of the service, the new Incumbent tolls the church bell to signify his taking possession of the parish. It is said that the number of chimes will equal the number of years the priest will stay in that parish - if so, Seymour will be at Wittersham for at least ten years.

Seymour was then welcomed formally, but I felt very warmly, by the churchwardens, neighbouring clergy, lay readers and a representative of the people of the parishes. The Archbishop, in his sermon, reminded us of some of the basic principles of a parish priest, pointing out that there are times, including Royal Weddings, when we all need to be reminded of some very basic facts, and clearly establishing the twin roles of a priest as a man of God and a man of the people.

A final hymn and we were invited to partake of the bounteous spread laid out in the school hall. Here we were joined by the Archbishop and Archdeacon and were able to meet them and some of Seymour's new parishioners before departing to meet the coaches. At this point there was a slight hitch as the coaches, having parked down a rather narrow lane, we unable to get out on to the main road due to a parked car - however, we were soon on our way, and I came away with the impression of a day of joy at the warmth of Seymour's welcome and of sorrow at our own loss.

Gill Gostling

It was good to see so many of our friends from St. James's here for my institution as rector last Saturday. It was a great surprise and pleasure too when, a few days before we left Fulwell, Nicholas called with the beautiful framed picture of the church, and a cheque. Having left the parish some six years ago that was the last thing we might have expected and we were very touched.

They are still talking about the wonderful service down here in the villages and the vast number of visitors who came. There was a good write-up in the local press under the heading "Archbishop in new, smaller role", with a photograph sub-titled "Robert Runcie and Seymour Harris at Wittersham on Saturday". But enough of all this name dropping.

Sunday was a busy day with three Eucharists and two Evensongs, but nevertheless there seemed no particular element of hurry to it. I have just spent the best part of my first week taking stock of the situation and walking around the villages meeting and chatting to people, or trimming the hedge (a useful pastoral accessory) and passing the time of day as people go by.

I am sorry that it was not possible on Saturday to spend much time with those who came on the coaches, but you all know that if you feel like a day out in rural Kent you are very welcome to call on us here, although it might be sensible to 'phone first. Or how about a parish picnic sometime? Once again, thank you for the remembrances of our many years at St. James's.

Seymour and Dawn Harris

SAVE CHILD BENEFIT?

"Save Child Benefit" is a group of organisations who have come together because of their concern about the future of the child benefit scheme. The current situation is that the child benefit is not keeping pace with the rise in the cost of living, and the government wants to cut it back further in order to spend more on means-tested benefits.

Means-tested benefits are decried by "Save Child Benefit" as "complicated, difficult to understand and unpopular", whereas child benefit is "simple, well-understood and popular". If we have means-tested benefits it will be through a system called family credit, claimed from the DHSS and paid in the father's wage packet. This does not seem to them to be a good idea, but seems likely to be so complicated that many people will not apply for it even though they are entitled to it. These people will therefore be worse off than they are now. "Save Child Benefit" also points out that the family credit system would deepen the poverty trap, by the effect that as gross income rises benefits are withdrawn and net income thus only rises to a smaller extent.

"Save Child Benefit" asserts that as parents with children we all deserve tax-cuts given in the form of a reasonable level of child benefit. This must depend on what child benefit sets out to do. If it exists to prevent poverty, as "Save Child Benefit" also asserts, then it should be concentrated where it is needed and remarks about tax-cuts, though beguiling, are red-herrings. Hundreds of thousands of parents a long way above the poverty line enjoy child benefit. Surely that money would be more appropriately used to increase benefits for those children whose parents cannot otherwise afford to feed and clothe them adequately?

It is unfortunately true that such a redistribution of resources necessarily involves means testing, which is complicated and expensive to organise. It is also true that the present level of benefit must be of very little practical use to those in real poverty. Something, therefore, needs to be done. It is an issue which none of us should ignore.

Jane Dobson

SERVICE ON HEALING

What a pity that more people did not come on Wednesday July 9th. The 20 or so who did were amply rewarded. The Rev. Rick Williams, his wife Lulu and members of his team have our gratitude for the inspiration they brought to us, and Don and Muriel Rawlins for the hard work they put in to bring about the recent sessions on healing which culminated in this Service.

Firstly "our minds and souls were helped to flow upwards into the presence of the Lord" by Lulu using her guitar and lovely voice to lead us in the worship of song. We were all able to join in as the simple and moving words were thrown up on a screen. "Take joy O my King in what you hear, let it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear." I really felt that the Lord was there with us and that our worship was a cause of joy to Him.

Rick Williams speaks simply yet forcefully; led to the healing ministry by himself being healed of a heart condition by the laying on of hands by a friend, he speaks with the voice of experience of the power and wish of God to heal. There is a world-wide need and hunger in people to know something of the Reality of God and the healing ministry in particular does bring people into the practical awareness of God's nearness, love and power. Those following this ministry are being obedient to Christ's command to "preach the Good News and to heal the sick". Scrutiny of the New Testament will show that about one fifth of it is given over to healing. We 20th Century disciples are Jesus's hands and feet and have a responsibility to bring his healing to our fellows. All over the world healing services are becoming an integral part of church life where it is always revivifying as people are seen to be healed by prayer and the laying on of hands by both clergy and laity, and people are witnessing to the truth of God in Christ to heal. Members of the team witnessed to events during a visit they made to Hull the previous week; a girl with a history of cystitis completely healed, a born spastic was seen to be shaken by the energy of the Spirit running over her and bringing feeling to her left hand; a person suffering from the agony of a trapped sciatic nerve was released from pain and healed there and then

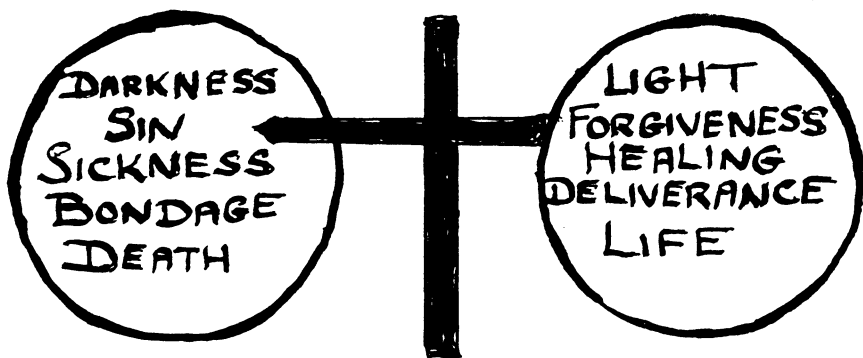
Rick emphasised the importance of persistence in prayer, often healing is an ongoing experience. Fellow Christians must give encouragement and support. Even Christ was opposed and discouraged by his brethren to the extent that he could perform no healing in his home area "because of their unbelief." God forbid that this should happen here!

We were advised to read Francis Macnutt's great classic "Healing". Persistent believing prayer is "God's radiation treatment", sickness can be seen as the seashore and God's healing comes in overwhelmingly like the tide. Satan uses discouragement and unbelief to further his kingdom.

The two circles overleaf depict the two kingdoms, Satan's of darkness and God's of light. They are in opposition one to another. Sin versus forgiveness, sickness versus healing, bondage versus deliverance, death versus life. God's kingdom has power to invade that of Satan; the cross is a bridge from one kingdom to another.

KINGDOM OF SATAN

KINGDOM OF GOD



Rick reminded us that God provides the resources through the power of His Holy Spirit, we are only the willing channels through which His grace flows. He supplied Christ with power and authority and Jesus's apostles, disciples and followers acted in the same Spirit and that same Spirit is available to us today.

The service ended with a period of prayer for those wishing to take part in a healing ministry at St. James's and with quiet prayer for those who came forward seeking healing. All was peaceful and devout. May God prosper us at St. James's and help us to be obedient to Christ and to follow His healing example "to go out and do likewise" so that God's glory may be manifested as the sick are increasingly healed and the people hear the Good News.

Margery Orton

WELCARE AGM

After many years of being based in Hounslow, the Hampton & Hounslow branch has split into two separate entities with an overall leader Margaret Bickmore in Hounslow and Angela Ball part-time in Twickenham. The Welcare for our area will now cover the Borough of Richmond on Thames, not the Hampton Deanery only, and will draw support from and work in that part of the Borough which is south of the river and therefore in Southwark Diocese. Angela is based at 13, Rosslyn Road, East Twickenham, in the premises of the East Twickenham Neighbourhood Association.

At the Annual Meeting the speaker was the Rev. John Austin the Director of the London Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility. He spoke to us about the positive role of Social Responsibility. It was not just picking up the pieces of human debris that no-one else cared about (although that was worthy in itself). It was rather that the church had a positive duty towards deprived people and that could mean that the Church needed to change itself and, if need be, get involved in politics. He caused quite a stir and there was an animated discussion after his speech. Those of us who were able to attend came away feeling that we had a leader well chosen to give vision to the workers in the parishes. Welcare was no longer 'another interest' amongst a multiplicity of good causes but rather a central christian work which needed all the backing we could give.

One last piece of good news - our Welcare Assessment for this year has gone down!

Nicholas Chubb and Helen Taylor

STEWARDSHIP - A NEW CAMPAIGN

The meeting of the PCC on 15 July decided there was a need to embark upon a new Stewardship Campaign, and to invite the Diocesan Stewardship Advisory Service to help us organise it.

The campaign will not just be an extension of our Annual Review (which will of course still be held on 20 November in the hall and 23 November in church). It will be necessary for us to rethink and then communicate the message of the full meaning of stewardship to the parish.

It is anticipated that the preparations (including house groups) will proceed in the New Year up to Easter, with visiting continuing perhaps until Pentecost. There will be much to be done, and if the task is approached willingly and enthusiastically, much will be achieved.

In past years Stewardship Campaigns have led to great renewal in our parish and there is every reason to hope and believe this one will too.

Please pray and work for it.

Alan Taylor

ST. JAMES'S DAY CELEBRATION

A warm welcome was extended to the Reverend Anthony Potter, Parish Priest of St. James's Catholic Church, Pope's Grove, Twickenham, who was invited to participate with St. James's Church, Hampton Hill, in celebrating their mutual Saint's Day. St. James, the Apostle, who was a fisherman called as a disciple by Jesus, became a leader in the church in Jerusalem after the crucifixion.

Father Potter's sermon was entitled "Giving God the Glory", showing how every task in our lives - no matter how great or small - could demonstrate this fact.

The welcome to the gathered congregation and introduction of Father Potter was given by our Vicar. The invitation to the service had been extended to all the parish and friends.

The two readings were read by Mrs. Sue Roberts and Mrs. Margery Orton. A special song with hand gestures to illustrate the words was given, delightfully, by the Sunday School, and the "Prayer n Praise" group gave us a foretaste of their modern style of music.

The choir concluded the service with "Heigh Ho, Come to the Fair", leading the parishioners and friends out on to the church lawn for tea served by the ladies of the parish. This gave everyone an opportunity to chat and to meet Father Potter and the many members of his congregation who were also visiting us.

A very pleasant and happy occasion.

Gwen Champniss

AN ADDED BLESSING

Following on the St. James's Day Celebration, Father Potter invited Margery Orton, accompanied by Violet Clarke, to go and witness to healing, and to minister by prayer and the laying on of hands at the next of St. James's (Twickenham) regular monthly healing services.

This was followed by an invitation to Margery to go and pray with - and minister through the laying on of hands to - a group of nuns, including their Reverend Mother, at St. Catherine's Convent in Twickenham. To God be the Glory.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our Thanksgiving Harvest Service to be held at 9.30 am on Sunday 5 October will be a special family communion service, including an explanatory commentary so that all those attending will be able to take part and fully enjoy it.

During the service our gifts will be presented and it would be preferred if these could be non-perishable foodstuff or, alternatively, money put in the special Harvest-Gift envelopes which will be available beforehand. This will make it easier for us to distribute it to the needy of East London who it was agreed by the PCC should receive our gifts this year.

Our 6.30 pm service will be Songs of Praise with a difference. We hope to include some favourite thanksgiving poems and readings as well as hymns, all chosen by our congregation.

As regards the Harvest Supper, we have as yet only the date and the venue: Saturday 11 October in our Parish Hall. Tickets will be available from members of the Social Committee in good time, so please book the date.

Eila Severn

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS

If you are wondering where this well-known phrase comes from, you may be surprised to learn that it is from the pen of John Wesley. In a Sermon on Dress he wrote "Let it be observed, that slovenliness is no part of religion; that neither this, nor any text of Scripture condemns neatness of apparel. Certainly this is a duty, not a sin. 'Cleanliness is, indeed, next to godliness' ". It is thought that the quotation that he was using is of Hebrew origin. Certainly there is much in the Old Testament about cleanliness of heart and mind as well as of things to do with sacrifices in the temple. However that may be, we are in fairly desperate need of volunteers to help clean St. James's. For a variety of reasons our present band is getting smaller and smaller. Can YOU help? Obviously the more people we have on the rota the less often the duty comes round. One idea has been to ask a family to take on a week. Others may like to join with friends. Please consider the challenge seriously and let either Judy Hewitt or the Churchwardens or the Vicar know if you can help. It need not be a burden if many people chip in.

Nicholas Chubb

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

August	10	Meghan Louise Skelton	77 Arnold Road, Woking
		Adam James Andrew Chidgzev	27 Links View Road
		James Frederick Watson	26 Wolsey Road

MARRIAGE

August	9	Kenneth Richard Ball and Peggy Sue Graham	
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FUNERALS

July	24	Dorothy Vera Simpson	1 Thirlestane House	aged 91
	25	Ernest William Branch	3 Taylor Close	aged 63
August	4	Frederick Pye	79 Pigeon Lane	aged 70
	7	Edith Bowden	18 The Wilderness	aged 79
	8	Richard William Palmer	119 Burton's Road	aged 87

DATES TO NOTE

September	13	Hampton Carnival Procession		
	14	18.30	Teddington Memorial Hospital Service at St. James's	
	17	20.00	Good News Group	
	18	20.00	Liturgical Committee	
	21	20.00	'Prayer n Praise' Young People's Service launch	
	23	20.00	Koinonia - a Sister from Ham Convent	
	25	20.00	Stewardship Committee	
	30	20.00	P.C.C.	
October	1	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches AGM	
			20.00 Good News Group	
	4	10.00	Churchyard Working Party	
	5		Harvest Festival (see article in Magazine for details)	
	7	20.00	Koinonia	
	8	20.00	Service of Praise including Healing Ministry	
	9	10.30	Mothers' Union Deanery Day at St. James's	
	11		Harvest Supper	
	14	20.00	Properties Committee	
	15	20.00	Deanery Synod	
			20.00 Good News Group	
	21	20.00	Stewardship Steering Committee	
	26	18.45	United Service at Hampton Hill United Reformed Church	
	29	20.00	P.C.C.	

INFORMATION ON CHURCH ORGANISATIONS (*See also inside front cover*)

Choir	Fridays Children, Saturdays Olive Hayward, 977 0794	19.30 09.30	Vestry
Good News Group	Alternate Wednesdays Don Rawlins, 979 3720	20.00	75 Burton's Road
House Group	Thursdays Hannah Stanton, 943 1336	10.30	30 Burton's Road
Julian Group	Tuesdays Margery Orton, 979 5868	14.30	30 St. James's Road
Koinonia	Alternate Tuesdays Alan Taylor, 979 7042	20.00	Vestry
Liturgical Dancing	Wednesdays (except second in month) Eila Severn, 979 1954	20.00	Church
Ladies Choir	Alternate Mondays Eila Severn, 979 1954	14.30	Vestry
Mothers Union	First Wednesday in month Branch Leader: Jean Wilson, 941 2949	14.30	Wayside
Sunday School	Pam Atkinson, 979 6166	09.20	Wayside
Tuesday Club	Alternate Tuesdays Chairman: Noreen McKenzie, 979 7048 Secretary: Dorothy Weston, 979 6673	20.00	Wayside
Young Families Group	Thursdays Hilde Bucknell, 979 3529	10.30	Wayside
Scouts	Group Scout Leader: Michael J. Childs, 977 5041 Friday - Troop Meeting Scout Leader: Greg Martin, 979 7265	19.00	Parish Hall
Cubs	Gold Pack - Wednesdays Cub Scout Leader: Maureen Hucklesby, 898 9609	18.00	Parish Hall
	Brown Pack - Mondays Cub Scout Leader: Yvonne Childs, 977 5041	18.00	Parish Hall
Brownies	Thursdays Lesley Brough, 783 0515	18.00	Parish Hall
Charities Committee	Alan Taylor, 979 7042		
Hall Management Committee	Jack Gostling, 979 3748		
Liturgical Committee	The Vicar, 979 2069		
Properties Committee	Jack Gostling, 979 3748		
Stewardship Committee	Alan Taylor, 979 7042		
Church Cleaning	Judy Hewitt, 979 4762		