

Each year we look forward to a spell of Autumn weather which is often known as "St. Luke's little summer". It is a spell of a few days of fine weather before the characteristic gales and storms start blowing. It is so called because the Church remembers St. Luke each year on 18th October and often the day falls within this short time of sunshine and balminess. But of course St. Luke is known better for other things than for good weather! He was one of those who became an early follower of Jesus. He is not mentioned in any of the Gospel stories by name, although there is a Gospel written by him. His name occurs three times in the writings of St. Paul from which it appears that St. Paul valued his company highly. He was one of those who stayed with him when many had obviously deserted him 'only Luke is with me'. He was also a doctor "Luke the beloved physician". He appears also to be the writer of the Acts of the Apostles which is both a continuation of his Gospel and also a first-hand account of St. Paul's journeys, "we" being a characteristic word of some passages.

It is certainly from St. Luke that the Christian Church gets much of its inspiration for its medical and healing work. Some of you will have been at the Thanksgiving Service for the Teddington Memorial Hospital on 14th September. Since the theme was to do with healing and health and hygiene the rest of this article will be some extracts from the sermon I preached on that occasion.

"I must admit to being surprised to learn that the first known record of a hospital is in Sri Lanka in 437 B.C. I had expected there to be a reference to something akin to a hospital in the ages of the Greek civilization linked either to the God of Healing or to Hippocrates who flourished about 460 B.C. and whose code of practice has been accepted in western medicine ever since. Then my mind jumped to the hospitals built as a result of the Crusades when the various orders of Knights, notably St. John of Jerusalem, founded institutions which cared for those who were on pilgrimage to the Holy Land or who were wounded in the fighting. Then I remembered that every mediæval monastery had an Infirmary where the sick were cared for In our own country there are scores of examples of hospitals which have been built since then as a result of the initiatives and hard work of individuals or groups of people who would not be daunted by the problems which stared them in the face What was won the day in fact has been hygiene. That may seem an odd thing to say, but in the New Testament one of the words used to describe health is hygiene for it is used not only in the sense of cleanliness but also in the context of the health of the community. This is exactly what Peter and John demonstrated in the reading from the Acts (ch. 3 v.6). That stemmed directly from Jesus who spent all His ministry re-educating the people of His time, be they Jews or Gentiles, rich or poor, physically healthy or physically wretched Jesus was at pains to show that the Love of or for God must be shown in concrete action and this is what he did. He did not just mouth platitudes, or say how nice it would be if everyone were well. He actually healed people even if it meant breaking the rules like healing on the Sabbath Day, even if it meant mixing with untouchables like lepers or Samaritans, even if it meant opposing taboos like giving equal status to women, even if it meant angering the establishment and receiving angry threats against His Life"

Nichols Chubb

Thanksgiving Service for Teddington Memorial Hospital 14.9.86

Teddington Memorial Hospital is very special to me, so I was delighted when Hannah Stanton offered to fetch me to St. James's for the service of Thanksgiving for its preservation and building extensions.

I remember the fund raising occasions in my young days, the building of the hospital, the evacuation at the beginning of the War 1939 - . Then the arrival of the shocked Dunkirk boys and later of some of London's airraid casualties. To many other elderly people of Teddington this hospital must be like a post of their very existence and it is difficult to imagine Teddington without the Memorial.

So I came with a particular warmth to this service and was glad to see a comfortably full church with the Mayor and Mr. Toby Jessel among our guests, also hospital sisters and local doctors. As a special treat we had smartly uniformed trumpeters from Kneller Hall to add volume to some of our hymns and as a introduction to the service. Olive Hayward being away, Charles Dobson was at the organ. attractively printed little booklets gave us the order of the service and the hymns, so there was no need for other books. It was a simple, cheerful evening with Bible readings by Mr. Toby Jessel and Dr. Neal-Smith. Prayers were led by Father Keith Brighan, Vicar of SS Peter and Paul in Teddington, and an appropriate prayer read by Mrs. Vera Rockliffe. I wish I could pray as they do.

Nicholas at his best I think, gave us a sermon that needs to be remembered. Among other things what it gave to me was that no only must we have bricks and mortar, but also love and caring both in the hospital and in the community.

At this point I think should give a loud community "thank you" to all those who worked so hard to keep our hospital, both in an official capacity and as private individuals, and to the Health Service who at the last realized its immense value. Of course we all thank Mrs. Pam Bryant who has never faltered in her tremendous efforts.

It is exciting to think that we are about to enter a New Era.

Alison Thompson

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS TEDDINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

In March 1985 the League of Friends launched an Appeal Fund in the amount of £285,000 for a project of modernisation to this valued hospital.

The work to be undertaken included in the first stages, the complete modernisation of the Casualty and Out-Patient Departments, building a new Patients Waiting Hall, Toilet Block, League Shop, and the provision of a new Administration Block, Staff Dining Room and New Staircase.

The Hounslow & Spelthorne Health Authority undertook the electrical, mechanical and engineering work which included a new heating and telephone system, also the complete upgrading of Chappell Ward and the Main Kitchen. This work spread over approximately 3 years will cost the Health Authority in excess of £500,000.

On 17th December 1985 Mr Toby Jessel MP, cut the 'first turf' which heralded the commencement of work.

Since then great progress has been made and parts of the hospital have taken on a new look - careful planning and co-operation between everyone concerned has enabled the hospital to continue its function throughout the building work.

June 21st 1986 saw the laying of a stone in the front wall of the hospital to commemorate this modernisation work.

Great care has been taken to retain the familiar front facade of the hospital together with the delightful wood panelled Main Entrance Hall.

Excitement is now in the air as we move towards completion of the first stages (described above).

The emphasis has always been on patient comfort, and without doubt the design and furnishings of the whole scheme, together with our caring staff, will ensure this.

We are planning the official opening of the new Waiting Hall, League Shop and other completed parts on 29th November.

We have of course done very well, but cannot rest on laurels - we are still a long way from our original target figure.

The next stage is the new X-Ray Department, together with some work above the new staircase. The League of Friends have already discussed further plans with the Health Authority for future upgrading in other parts of the hospital.

We have a wonderful opportunity in this area to be involved in the provision of fine facilities which will greatly enhance the standard of care for which the hospital is renowned.

We have reason to be thankful to the Founders of the hospital for their foresight. It is hoped that ours now will stand future generations in good stead.

The League of Friends greatly appreciate support of their endeavours which has been demonstrated by so many people.

We do need ongoing support if we are to achieve the ends for which we strive. Our appeal fund stands at £182,000 (Sept. 86).

Many many thanks to you all.

Pam Bryant, Chairman (01-977-4206)

ANNOUNCEMENT *'The Story of Teddington's Hospitals'* Written by L. Arthur Wyatt and published by the League of Friends. This book spans the years from 1874-1985 and contains 9 pictures. It is well worth a read and preservation for posterity. Price £2.95 and available from the League Sales Table at the Hospital and both Teddington and Hampton Wick District Libraries. Also by telephone contact Pam Bryant (01-977-4206) or Arthur Wyatt (01-977 5646).

GOD'S PROMISES - 5

Peter tells us "His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and true religion. Through His might and splendour he has given us His promises, great beyond price and through them you may come to share in the very being of God". Do we treasure the promises as "great beyond price"? Are we rich in the promises of God or poor in that, through the ages, we have not recognised the treasure within our grasp?

We are told we must have the trusting faith of a child to 'believe with no doubt in our heart'. We are promised that "if two or three agree on earth about any request" that request will be granted "For where two or three have met together in my name I am there among them". This is a promise of God and has to be believed. Christ knew that this sort of faith is very hard for Man who tends not to trust in God but to rely on his own understanding which just is not great enough. "If you can believe" He says "then nothing will be impossible for you". To achieve this sort of belief we have to get close to Him in prayer, listen to His words by reading them often to familiarise ourselves with them and believe them and live with them in our minds. If we really do this then experience will show us how true they are and "worthy to be believed". Christ says "I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, with no inward doubts, and it will be yours". However, he tells us sternly "You do not know either the scripture or the power of God". If we do not know God it is hard to experience Him. His word, through Christ, is all important. "Heaven and earth will pass away, my words will never pass away". "Those who believe it ... will find salvation ... faith will bring with it these miracles, believers will cast out devils in my name and speak in strange tongues (why therefore be afraid of and distrust the gift of tongues) the sick on whom they lay their hands will recover". These are promises of God and people all over the world are once again experiencing their truth. In sickness, if the doctor's prognosis is death have we the faith to trust God's word rather than the doctor's and to pray for healing and life? Which do we believe in most the power of cancer for example, or the power of God? Everyone has a time to die and most of us have a time to suffer but it is sad to die before that time or remain in suffering because there is no-one at hand to pray the prayer of faith and to heal according to Christ's command. People are afraid to exercise the faith that is in them for fear of what their fellows might think or say but again Jesus has a comforting promise "if a man lets himself be lost for my sake, that man is safe". If one's true self wants to trust in God then one must be true to that self for "whosoever is ashamed of me and mine, the Son of man will be ashamed of him" but if a man will give himself up to God in trust we are promised "I tell you this, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they have seen the Kingdom of God". This Kingdom is at hand if we know and believe God's promises and "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them" and pray and have faith and act on them. If we do this then we shall experience the miracles of God and see His Kingdom here on earth. True faith does not first wait for experience or depend on feelings. True faith lies in being first prepared to find out and believe in the promises of God, to take His word as it has been given, to believe it to be true and start praising God for His Truth. True faith does not first wait for something to happen - like Thomas - before being prepared to believe. If true faith is present, even a mustard seed of it, then something will happen, in God's own way and in His own Time; "Who ever believes in me, streams of living water will pour out from his heart". People may scoff and dismiss all this as childishness but Christ has a

word for this outlook also "I tell you this, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it".

Margery Orton

HAMPTON & HAMPTON HILL CARNIVAL

On what really must have been one of the wettest Saturdays this whole summer, we held our local Carnival. The weather could not have been must worse, but nevertheless a brave procession of floats (so aptly name in the circumstances!) set off from St. James's Road almost exactly on time.

Hampton Council of Churches had a truck, kindly loaned by Gostlings, and it was filled with about thirty small creatures, mostly birds, rabbits, mice and cats. Our Church had five young members representing some of the animals accompanying St. Francis of Assisi, and the other children came from seven local churches. St. Francis himself was kindly portrayed by the father of a group of children from St. Francis de Sales.

Throughout the two hour procession very few grumbles were heard from the children; most of them, although saturated were not daunted by the weather and managed to smile. This of course raised a rewarding response from the rather damp supporters along the route. It was encouraging to see how many people had made the effort to brave the elements and come and watch.

We did not actually sing the prepared hymn en route - we felt it was too inappropriate: "I love the Sun"!

Yes, we were very wet by the end of the afternoon, and wondered if we could ever dry out both children and costumes, but it is such a worthwhile cause, and one of the few events where the local churches are seen to be united, so I do hope another float will be organised again for the next Carnival.

Coryn Robinson

P.C.C.

The related matters of the level of our Stewardship commitment and of our need to meet our Parish Share for the Diocese (the Common Fund Assessment), primarily in order to help the poorer parishes of the Diocese, continue to dominate our P.C.C. discussions. As was reported in the last issue of "The Spire", it has now been decided to mount a major Stewardship Campaign next year with guidance from a Diocesan Adviser. Also, our financial situation and priorities are being reviewed to see to what extent we can meet the current Parish Share required of over £18,000.

We have also been concerned about our provisions for making children and young people feel welcome and at home in our Christian community and for introducing them to our Christian beliefs. The "Prayer n Praise" meetings will now have started using the new "Spirit of Praise" song books, and discussions have been arranged between those involved with our children and a Diocesan Youth Adviser.

Arrangements for special services such as our celebration of St. James's Day and

the Harvest Festival have been discussed, as have such items of church furniture as display boards (where and how to fix them), the piano, which has needed to be repaired, and the lighting (our ideas on this are to be discussed with the Architect when he makes his long-overdue Quinquennial survey). It has been noted with gratitude that Bill Robinson has fitted covers to the soft chairs in Wayside, paid for mainly with money left over from the Waste Paper Collections of years gone by. It was reported that Miss Girling had kindly made a bequest of £200 to our church.

Looking forward, we meet with the Archdeacon in November to discuss with him our work on Mission Audit which was reported earlier in the year.

Ron Bridges

THE LONDON CITY MISSION

For our Stewardship Renewal meeting on 20th November in the Parish Hall we are this year inviting a speaker from the London City Mission to tell us something of the work of the wider church to which we belong. (We have previously had speakers from, for instance, the Church Army and the Spitalfields Crypt). It is very easy to question where our money goes to in helping the church in inner city areas. What does the church do? What kind of poverty really exists in London? What can we do to help? Just how much is God ignored? What do people know of Jesus?

The London City Mission began in 1835 as the result of a visit by David Nasmith, a Scot, to the teeming East End. He was appalled by the squalor, disease, lack of housing and education that he found. Very quickly people rallied to his calls for help in spreading the Christian Message. Before long one missionary invoked the co-operation of Lord Shaftesbury in founding a school. Plainly the already established churches were unable, or had not the vision, to meet the pressing needs of the mass of people. Missioners began visiting lodging houses and hospitals such as the Royal Free, The London Hospital, Guy's and Islington Fever Hospital. Then after a few years missioners started visiting places of work where many men congregated, cabstands, firestations, postal sorting offices, docks, and suchlike. They also spent some time visiting house to house and learning a great deal about the physical and spiritual deprivation of large numbers of London's population, while at the same time bringing the Good News to countless people who had never heard of Jesus. Much of the activity which brought improvements to living and working conditions in London owed a great debt to the L.C.M.

Today the work continues with of course changes taking place as new needs are encountered. So students and immigrants, visitors and dropouts, drug addicts and businessmen are among those whom missioners contact as well as the huge estates, tower blocks and parks and open spaces.

Keith Griffiths, one of the full-time staff, will be coming to tell us about this and much more on 20th November. How the Mission began in Hoxton and now has its Headquarters in Tower Bridge Road; how it works in the West End as well as the East End, both north and south of the river. It is an exciting and challenging story.

Some of you will already know that our son Andrew has been accepted to work for the Mission for one year under the 'Voluntary Evangelism by Young People' scheme.

He arranged this long after we had asked for a speaker and without knowing anything about it! Divine co-incidence?

Please come and hear and above all pray for those who work with us in proclaiming the Gospel.

Nicholas Chubb

HOW TO START ON GENEALOGY

One of the fastest growing hobbies these days is tracing one's family tree. It is also one of the easiest to start.

The best and most obvious place to begin is with what you already know or have heard recounted (beware of rumours, they often do turn out to be true but not always, so treat such information with extreme caution). The next step is to ask questions of the rest of the family, particularly the older members; it's amazing what they know, dates are especially important and the correct names of people. Auntie Lil may actually have been called Rosemary Lilian. So you could spend hours later on looking for the wrong name.

Armed with all this information the next step may be a visit to St. Catherine's House where all Births, Marriages and Deaths are registered for the whole of England and Wales and have been since 1837. The Registers themselves are not open to public view only the indices. These are heavy bound volumes issued quarterly and in alphabetical order of surname; one section each for Births, Marriages, and Deaths. Suppose you are looking for your great-grandfather - first you must know his surname and his first name or names. When you find the name in the index there may be several people with that name or one very similar to it, but the index also gives you the name of the district in which the Birth was registered. So if you know where he was born you can then eliminate all but the relevant entry. After each entry there is then a reference to the original entry which when copied out on to the appropriate form will be used to issue the certificate you require. This will cost you £5 (so mistakes are expensive) or £10 if you apply by post. The certificates may be posted to you and take about three weeks or may be collected in person after 48 hours.

The Record Office at St. Catherine's House is a very busy place. The volumes are heavy and have to be perused standing up - each one only takes a few minutes to look through but there are four for each year so having a date is important - even an approximate one is better than nothing. In Victorian times most people only had one Christian name, so looking for a John Smith is much harder than John William Smith, but better still is a more unusual surname.

When I first started out in this exercise my ambition was to get the Birth Certificates of all our grandparents, i.e. eight between us - after two years or so I have six, a seventh I haven't been able to trace and the eighth is one of several possibilities. The most unusual name has been the easiest to trace especially as they were also the only family in that town with that name; and now I am corresponding with an Australian gentleman who is also interested in people with the same name.

This is a hobby with no limits, very time consuming, also possibly expensive, but endlessly fascinating. I can recommend it. There are several books on the subject in the local library and these are well worth looking at.

Helen Taylor

MOTHERS UNION

Our M.U. members met together on September 10th after what seemed a long gap, as there was, as usual, no meeting during August. It was a very pleasant afternoon as we had a Bring and Buy Sale with a difference. All the items offered had to have some biblical significance and be accompanied by a text from the Bible relating to them. Some members had very original ideas, including Joseph's coat of many colours and, of all things, a crochet hook - it had nevertheless its accompanying text. The sale proved very enjoyable and the sum of £21.10 was realised.

At the next M.U. meeting on October 1st there will be a talk by Angela Ball on Welcare, and on October 9th the Deanery Meeting will be held, and this year it is at St. James's.

There will be more about all this in a later edition of the Spire.

Hetty Burgess

PRAYER 'N' PRAISE

The problem of writing an article two weeks before the event you are describing occurs is slightly tricky. Prayer 'n' Praise began (hopefully) on 21st September. The format consists of half a dozen songs played at a range of volumes from quiet to "I hope the roof can take it". These are interspersed with prayer, readings and a talk to give an informal intimate air to proceedings. At the end of the service there is coffee and biscuits and a chance for a chat. If you are under thirty and haven't been to Prayer 'n' Praise why not try it. If you are over thirty you still ought to come one week to see what "those youngsters" are getting up to. Either way we say "See you at Prayer 'n' Praise". Sundays at 8 p.m.

EXHIBITION AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF LOCAL ARTS, CRAFTS AND HOBBIES

Saturday, October 25th 2 - 6 pm
at the Hampton Hill Junior School Windmill Road/St. James's Avenue

The Hampton Hill Association is organising this popular event again this year. It is a cheerful and friendly get-together of all those interested in crafts and hobbies of all kinds and many people will be demonstrating their crafts. Children are very welcome and there is a special corner for them to show their work and 'have a go' themselves with some artistic masterpieces. There will be a model railway for enthusiasts of all ages. In the past exhibits have ranged from needlework and knitting to pottery, leatherwork, weaving and spinning and crafts of all kinds. If you would like to exhibit (and demonstrators of the crafts are particularly welcome) contact Mrs. Joyce Doughty, 228 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill 979 2839; Mrs. Linda Bournsnel, 30 Windmill Road, Hampton Hill 979 3038 or Mrs. Sally Low (for childrens work) 17 Park Road, Hampton Hill 979 9473.

PLEASE NOTE THE YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP now meets on Tuesday mornings 10.30 - 12 at Wayside. More information next month.

AROUND THE SPIRE

Two other people who also ran in the "Run for the World" last May were Naomi Chubb and Peter Rawlins. Naomi raised £60, mainly through support from the congregation; thank you to all those who contributed. Peter had himself sponsored in his firm.

Stella and Bob Walker's younger daughter was recently married in our church, and so we wish Donna and Lee every happiness in their new life together.

A new family who have just moved into St. James's Road had a new addition to the family. We welcome Sinna and Kathy Rajan and their new daughter Nadine into our midst and hope they will be very happy among us and that Nadine will continue to thrive.

Two other families have also recently had new babies: Soo Lin and Terry Baldwin had a little girl called Angela at the beginning of September, and Richard and Barbara Essam's little Lucy was born on August Bank Holiday. Congratulations to both of them, and again we hope the babies thrive.

The three Misses Brown who left us a few months ago are settling down well in their new home. Unfortunately soon after their arrival their youngest sister, Elmer, died. Her daughter keeps an eye on them and it is good for them to have her so near.

Margaret Cranston, the CMS worker whom we keep contact with in Nepal has not been very well lately. She has been suffering from a virus infection which has taken a long time to get better and has left her rather low. Please remember Margaret and her work in your prayers; life must be rather difficult for her, and we hope she soon recovers fully.

Date	Communicants	Attendance	Pledged Giving	Other Giving
1.6	50	150	114	20
8.6	96	135	80	27
15.6	88	123	125	26
22.6	99	110	80	13
29.6	86	111	66	23
6.7	46	156	120	15
13.7	99	124	196	20
20.7	83	263	90	22
27.7	69	92	62	17
3.8	50	120	75	14
10.8	79	103	62	25
17.8	63	88	46	11
24.8	85	112	86	16
31.8	-	-	145	18
7.9	54	135	128	21
14.9	78	245	159	18

Bankers Orders - June £547; July £933; August £532.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

August	24	Andrew Robert McBride	11 Gloxinia Walk, Hampton
September	14	Benjamin Paul Brooks	57 Bramley Close, Whitton
	28	Alasdair Mackenzie Fisher	5 Hyacinth Close, Hampton
		Jessica Amy Rose O'Riordan	2 Eastbank Road

Marriages

August	23	Lee Purcell and Donna Maria Walker
September	20	Robert William Barry Charles Wyman and Jennifer Ellen Calver
	27	Herbert Charles Wallis and Alice May Stacey

Funerals

September	5	Barbara Ralph	28 Hanworth Road	aged 70
	4	Florence Louise Carter formerly of Seymour Road		aged 100
	19	William Walter Arnold	79 Uxbridge Road	aged 87

DATES TO NOTE

October	5	Harvest Festival
	7	10.30 Magazine Committee 20.00 Koinonia
	8	20.00 Music and Ministry - 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 Good News Group 20.00 Deanery Synod
	16	20.00 Organ Recital in Church
	21	20.00 Stewardship Steering Committee
	25	14.00 Hampton Hill Arts & Crafts Exhibition in the Junior School
	26	16.30 United Service at Hampton Hill United Reformed Church N.B. The time given in last month's magazine was incorrect
	29	20.00 P.C.C.
November	5	14.30 Mothers' Union AGM 20.00 Good News Group
	12	20.00 Music and Ministry - including Healing
	19	20.00 Good News Group
	20	20.00 Stewardship Renewal in Parish Hall Speaker: Mr. K. Griffiths from London City Mission
	23	Stewardship Sunday
	24	20.00 Parish Visitation by the Archdeacon
	29	20.00 Edwardian and Victorian Evening in Parish Hall
December	4	20.00 P.C.C.
	10	20.00 Music and Ministry - including Healing