

July is always a good month for St. James's because it is the time of year when we remember the Saint to whom the church is dedicated and enjoy ourselves in the remembering. St. James's Day is 25th July and we try and keep festival on the nearest Sunday. This year it means 26th July. Our arrangement of services will mean that we have our morning services as usual and that our party service will be at 4.30 followed by tea on the lawn. Even in this summer surely the afternoon will be full of sunshine! The afternoon promises to be different with plenty of music of the 'newer' type (modern now seems to be a difficult word to use. What is 'modern' church music?). We hope that a large number of you will come and give thanks for the existence of the parish and the church building. It enables us to come and meet not only those we already know but also those whom we have never met. It enables both young and old to enjoy our christian faith and life together. We have to work rather hard at making new friends; it is so much easier to relax into the company of those we know and have known for some years. But there are always strangers in our midst and for many of them it can be a daunting process gradually getting accustomed to new faces.

St. James has many words in his epistle about how to behave and speak and I feel that each year we would do well to reread the five chapters which make up the letter. The advice is so practical and sensible and is at the root of christian behaviour. It is so full of common sense - the sort of sense that everyone recognises. How about these as quotations? 'A man's anger cannot promote the justice of God'. 'A man may think he is religious, but if he has no control over his tongue, he is deceiving himself; that man's religion is futile'. 'My brothers you must never show snobbery'. 'My brothers, what use is it for a man to say he has faith when he does nothing to show it? Can that faith save him?' '..... So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is itself a lifeless thing'. 'All of us often go wrong; the man who never says a wrong thing is a perfect character, able to bridle his whole being'.

Also in July the Social Committee has arranged an outing to Littlecote Manor on 18th July leaving the church at 11.00am. Perhaps it is a good opportunity to renew our community life.

Another way forward is to see whether we cannot develop the 'home group' or 'house group' idea within the parish. By the time this magazine is published there will have been a meeting to see if we cannot build on the experience of our Lenten and Stewardship groups. Many people found these very helpful and we hope to widen their appeal considerably and make them effectual means of fellowship and outreach.

Nicholas Chubb

FRIENDLY, INFORMAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE ST. JAMES'S DAY

SUNDAY 26th JULY at 4.30pm

followed by Tea (on lawn weather permitting)

COME ALONG AND MEET 'THE FAMILY'

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - A REPORT

Our aim was to reach as many members of our church family as possible, and consult them on the problems facing us.

We took the description "family" to include all members of the Stewardship Scheme, all on the Electoral roll, and people with connections either by a fairly regular attendance at services, or through their children.

We identified two basic problems: firstly, a shortfall in our income amounting to about £10,000 over three years (and underlying this, a big question mark concerning our personal responsibility for our Church, and our understanding of what Stewardship means); secondly, a need to extend our outreach to the local community.

The 'consultation' took place in small discussion groups, each of which held three sessions at weekly intervals between 11th and 29th May. We had approached about 160 people, hoping that a majority would take part: in the event, about half this number did so, in a total of eleven groups.

As an assessment of what was achieved, this must be something of an interim report.

On the financial side, a total of 51 Stewardship pledges were made. Some of these were new members, but most were by existing members increasing their giving. Among other existing Stewardship members who did not join the discussion, some have yet to be contacted, but at the time of writing, it seems that our income is likely to have increased by a little under a third.

If at the end of the day this turns out to be so, we will have barely achieved our minimum target of becoming self supporting.

The first two sessions were planned to enable the participants to reach their own definition, or perhaps re-definition, of Stewardship, and to respond.

To some extent we succeeded in this: as one report put it: "We have a better understanding of what Stewardship can and should be about, and a willingness to come to grips with underlying financial issues". In money terms however, we have to face the facts that for every new or increased pledge, there is an existing pledge which, for whatever reason, was not increased; and also, that for every new pledge made during the campaign, we had lost a pledge as a result of removal during 1986.

The message here must be that although much has been achieved, we can none of us be complacent about money issues.

Two other messages also came, loud and clear, out of these two sessions -

- (1) Stewardship is as much about the use of our time and our talents as it is about money. It is a way of life.
- (2) We should be arranging many more social events, chiefly to attract and involve many more people in our parish activities, but also because many felt that we should not ignore the value of such events for fund raising.

This last overlapped with our third session, with its central theme of outreach:

the session which produced lively discussions, and many ideas for the P.C.C. to focus on and consider.

Among these:

- (1) Our communications, both within our Church family, and with the local community, need improving.
- (2) We need to raise our profile, and improve our image.
- (3) More use should be made of the church in the shorter term, for things like public debates, concerts, mystery plays, etc.
- (4) Longer term, we should aim to make our church a multi-use community centre, so that it is alive seven days a week.
- (5) We want to launch an appeal for £5000 to support a specific charitable project.
- (6) Much more involvement of young people, and perhaps an extension of the prayer and praise services.
- (7) A possible League of Friends of St. James.
- (8) Revive our Newcomers' parties.
- (9) A wider circulation of the 'Spire' and more use of the local press and magazines, to publicise ourselves.

An end of campaign message?

What we have achieved is only a beginning. To draw an analogy with my job, we have a set of plans and have laid some foundations: it's time to start building!

Jack Gostling

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

A Baptism and Confirmation service took place at St. James, Hampton Hill on Monday 15th June. Thirty candidates were confirmed from St. James, The Lady Eleanor Holles School, St. Mary's and All Saints, Twickenham, St. Mary's, Sunbury, St. Stephens, Hounslow, and St. Luke's, Redcliffe Gardens. Bishop Mark of Kensington presided, helped by ministers from the participating Churches.

Our vicar, Rev. Nicholas Chubb, presented ten candidates from St. James: Ian Bruff, Alison Bucknell, Pippa Butterfield, Sara Butterfield, Sarah Hayter, Joanna Hennessy, Sarah Parkin, Victoria Parkin, Julia Revis and Sally Sazegar. Each candidate was given an Alternative Service Book from St. James, signed by the Bishop, to commemorate the occasion.

The service was memorable, with a very large congregation including many members of St. James as well as the families and friends of the candidates. After the service refreshments were served in the church; the weather failed the planned outdoor venue but did not dampen spirits. The congregation mingled and chatted with each other and had the opportunity to meet Bishop Mark.

Sylvia and Brian Parkin

CHRISTIAN AID

The United Service for Christian Aid arranged by the Hampton Council of Churches took place on Sunday, May 10th, at the Methodist Church in Hampton. This service is held yearly on the Sunday preceding Christian Aid Week, and we generally have a speaker from Christian Aid.

This year we were fortunate to have with us as preacher the Rev. Martin Bax, former Chairman of Christian Aid. He took a novel approach and did us the honour of sharing some of the difficulties which confront Christian Aid in its wide-spread work of providing hope for the poor and needy of the world.

His talk was from personal experience of visiting, and was realistic. One story illustrated how our forebears had with the best intentions, caused chaos and present day misery. Christian Aid, as so often, had to cope with the legacy of history. The first story came from the Phillipines; in one place a set of workers, engaged in a cottage industry, wove very beautiful cotton material which was used far and wide for fine garments; an adjoining district was available for development for sugar plantations, but there were no workers. The industry of producing the very fine material was taken over by a Manchester firm, and the population from the weaving area was transferred, or transferred itself, to the sugar plantations and was fully employed. Now the bottom has fallen out of the Phillipine sugar industry and there is severe unemployment and distress in this area. What can Christian Aid do to help?

Another story came from Bangladesh: a tidal wave a few years ago had devastated a large area and the inhabitants were left homeless. Christian Aid came to the rescue and put up pre-fab houses. Three years later on the occasion of a follow-up visit it was found that none of the people originally left homeless were occupying the houses which had been put up expressly for them. All had been taken over by landlord profiteers.

These were 2 of the stories told to us that evening, both presenting dilemmas. I was very glad that Christian Aid was there, on the ground so to speak, working at solutions to problems such as these.

There was a poor turn-out at the service, particularly from St. James's, and I was sorry because high-lights of human distress were pointed out, and in all it was a very good thought-provoking service.

Hannah Stanton

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK May 11-16 1987 The sum of money collected by the volunteers of St. James's during Christian Aid week came to £768. Although this figure is a little lower than the previous years' total, it is a very pleasing result and a very significant contribution to the Christian Aid week activities of all of the churches here in Hampton and Hampton Hill.

I hope that all the volunteer 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. I would personally like to convey my thanks to all collectors, to everyone who gave to this very worthwhile charity, and to Carol Kennedy and David Dore for their help in counting the collection.

I am not able to continue as the Christian Aid organiser for St. James's next year, but Margaret and David Taylor have kindly offered to take over this position. I am sure we will give them our best support.

Ann Davis

The recent collection for Christian Aid's appeal for **MOZAMBIQUE** combined with the World Aid appeal for money towards water projects in the Third World raised £350. Thank you, the money will be divided between the two charities.

OUR NEW CHURCHWARDEN, LESLEY MORTIMER

My mother always told me that the busiest people had the most time. I suppose because they were geared to get on with things.

This is very much in my mind as we come to congratulate and thank Lesley Mortimer for her election as Churchwarden replacing Ron Bridges on his retirement after five years.

As I sit in church and watch Lesley, always dignified and composed I think of the busy week she must have had as Deputy Headmistress of Drayton Manor High School and of a weekend of organising her home and preparing for the week ahead. Should there be anyone who does not know Lesley I will introduce her to you:

As a local girl she was a Brownie under Mrs. Casey and then a Guide under Ruth Mills. She was also a member of the YPF. She went on to distinguish herself in her academic career with a First Class Honours Degree in German and Latin at Southampton University. She was also awarded a B.Lit. Oxford for Research in Medieval German Poetry which must have meant some hard work; but I think our new Warden thrives on work for she has a busy life: as well as the school and church activities where she used to sing in the choir, worked on various committees and now serves for the Eucharist, she is the Parish Representative to the Deanery Synod and the Deanery representative for the Area Synod, and Deanery Governor of the Bishop Wand School.

This all demonstrates a well ordered mind for she always looks calm and serene and friendly.

Lesley tells me that she felt very stimulated by one remark made by the Archdeacon of Middlesex at the service of Authorisation and that was that "One of the most important duties of a Churchwarden was to have vision, to hold on to it and to encourage others in it".

So we are fortunate once again in acquiring an outstanding personality as Churchwarden and I'm sure that we all wish Lesley a happy, smooth and interesting term of office.

Alison Thompson

MOTHERS UNION

On Wednesday June 3rd the Mothers went on their annual outing, joined by a couple of members of the Young Families Group. This year we went to Birdworld which is situated on the Surrey/Hants border near Farnham, and is an extensive wooded area housing birds of all sorts but mainly those from "foreign parts". There were budgies, parrots, parakeets, penguins and flamingoes to name but a few. We met peacocks strolling along the paths and one or two obligingly displayed their beautiful tails to us.

The birds, mostly, were housed in spacious grounds all of which were surrounded by lovely trees and bushes and the rhododendrons were in full bloom.

We were able to get coffee and snacks if we wished and there were plenty of seats around for those of us who could not walk too far. We found a jolly place for children where they could play on slides, swings, etc. and we could eat our picnic lunch if we wished.

As usual at these places, there was a shop selling mementoes of all kinds, some of which were not too dear.

On our return journey, I think we all agreed it had been a very enjoyable day.

Groups of British Birds (from the Birdworld Brochure)

Hetty Burgess

a seige of herons or bittern	a plump of wildfowl
a gaggle of geese	a skein of geese (flying)
a herd of swans, cranes or curlews	a paddling of ducks
a sord (or sute) of mallards	a spring of teal
a company of widgeon	a cast of hawks
a bevy of quail	a covey of partridges
a muster of peacocks	a nye of pheasants
a brood of chickens	a covert of coots
a congregation of plovers	a desert of lapwings
a wisp of snipe	a fall of woodcock
a bazaar of guillemots	a flight of doves or swallows
a murmuration of starlings	an exaltation of larks
a watch of nightingales	a building of rooks
a chattering of choughs	a host of sparrows

HELP !!

It never rains but it pours!

True literally, of late May and early June, the old adage is also true of our problems in keeping the churchyard vegetation under control this year.

Apart from the diversion of some of our regular helpers to the drainage renewals in May, our manpower has been sadly reduced by illness this year. First Ron Bridges, then I have been out of action, and now, sadly, Ron Metcalfe has had, for the time being, to give up looking after the War Graves area because of illness.

In consequence, the seasonal lush growth, never easy to keep under, has begun to get out of hand, and Janet and David Nunn have been fighting a losing battle to regain control.

The last straw was the breakdown beyond repair of our two trimmers - now replaced by a more powerful one, which promises to bite into the backlog - but backlog there is!

This saga shows up how thin are our resources to cope with the Churchyard.

Here is an opportunity for the "time and talents" aspect of Stewardship to come into play. Janet and David would welcome volunteer help, if only an hour or two a week, on a regular basis. For starters, would somebody like to undertake the lawns around the church?

Jack Gostling

PRAYER AND PRAISE

There will be no Prayer 'n Praise services from 26th July until we restart on 6th September. Enjoy your holidays and come back renewed in the autumn.

SPONSORED LITTER PICK

Most of us deplore untidiness and we have noticed cans, bottles and paper lying in our streets and public places which we should like removed. Now we have decided to do something about it at St. James's.

On Sunday 19 July the Scouts and Brownies are running a sponsored litter pick starting at 2 pm. The idea is to cover as large an area as possible and each Scout and Brownie will be given a plastic bag to fill. At the same time parents and friends are asked to sponsor the children at the rate of x pence per half hour. Please support this scheme generously as the money will be devoted to churchyard maintenance. We might even pay for our new strimmer which has had to be paid for out of slender church funds.

Let us show our friends The Old Hamptonians who did such good work for us in the churchyard - and raised a considerable sum for charity - that we too can do likewise.

David Nunn

SHARING THE PEACE

"I feel so stupid shaking hands with my husband". - "Then don't".

"X looks as if she doesn't want to be kissed". - "That's helpful, isn't it?".

When I read Marion's article, I remembered these two conversations, in a previous congregation.

My feelings about sharing the peace are that I give a special greeting to

- people I know well,
- people with whom there has been tension,
- people who have shown special kindness.

I hope that no-one but I and the person concerned knows which category applies!

If I felt uncomfortable about leaving my place, I should not do so. If I felt uncomfortable about kissing someone, I should not do so. Several members of the congregation make it clear that they prefer formality, and that's fine by me.

This morning I felt sad - I was aware that my usual spontaneity was affected by doubt of how many people I have been worrying with unwanted attentions! I'm very glad that Marion felt able to express her feelings about this. Should we talk more about our thoughts and feelings?

Anne Malins

PROMISES- 14

"He has given us His promises, great beyond all price and through them you may escape corruption and come to share in the very being of Christ".

This is Peter speaking, Peter the weakling who became Peter the Rock; Peter speaking to followers of the Way through the ages - speaking to us and telling us how to share in the very being of Christ by attending to His words and believing what He says. He urges us to "exert ourselves" to follow God's calling of us, "If you believe so you will never come to grief"; by grief I think Peter means never be overcome. As Julian of Norwich puts it in her Revelations of Divine Love "I did not say you would not be tempest tossed but that you would not be overcome". Peter knew, as Paul knew, that Christian service is not all gaiety and success but that it often leads to anguish, rejection and distress. But, nevertheless the closer we come to our Saviour the closer He will come to us and "we shall be afforded the full and free admission into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" which is not only in the life after this but is also "at hand" here in this life.

If you like to look at it this way, Christ's teaching, instructions and promises make the new Testament a "handbook" for the present-day "followers of the Way". If our car goes wrong we can consider the handbook and either mend it ourselves or take it to someone who knows how to make it work satisfactorily. In the same way, if our life goes wrong we have Christ's handbook to consult, Christ to go to. BUT DO WE?

John tells us most earnestly "You therefore must keep in your hearts that which you heard at the beginning, if what you heard then still dwells in you, you will yourselves dwell in the Son and also in the Father - and this is the promise He himself gave usyou need no other teacher as He taught you, then dwell in Him".

It is very hard to do this. It needs constant application because the world we live in is always trying to "press us into its mould" but we are assured that "to him who perseveres in doing my will to the end I will give authority, the same authority which I received from my Father hold fast to what you have and let no one rob you of your crown. He who is victorious I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God I will write the name of my God upon him". But there comes a warning; "But those that are lukewarm I will spit you out of my mouth be on your mettle therefore and repent, mend your ways. Here I stand knocking at the door, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in and sit down to supper with him and he with me. To him who overcomes I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear".

"Behold, I am making all things new - I am the beginning and the end. A draught from the water springs of life will be my free gift to the thirsty. All this is the victor's heritage and I will be his God and he shall be my son".

"Come unto me and I will refresh you". It is a promise of Christ.

WHAT IS NEWS?

A few months ago I travelled to Edinburgh by coach, as I have done twice a year for the past 6 years, my son always meets me pretty well on time at 5.30pm at the end of my journey.

This time it was an unfortunate journey, there was a certain amount of snow about which got thicker as we travelled north, when we got to the ascent to Beattock (A.74) the snow was very heavy and we were held up in a long queue for over 3 hours; eventually we tried to "get through", and this time we managed it, snow ploughs had cleared the descent.

We got to Hamilton, where the Edinburgh passengers - about 7 of us - changed into another bus, which was waiting for us. We arrived at midnight; 6 hours late. The bus station was completely deserted, no waiting room, no telephone, not even a seat to sit on, and no roof, it was still snowing. Of course my son wasn't there, one or two of the passengers asked me what I was going to do, I hadn't an idea, I've never in my life felt so frightened and completely lost. I felt the only people who could help me were the police, but I didn't know how to contact them and my case was too heavy for me to carry. A bus came in shortly and I asked a young couple if they could help me. The young man rushed around to see if there was anyone about or an office from where we could phone, but no luck, once again I was alone. There were three rather noisy young men across the roadway. I was terrified that they would cross over towards me. I asked God's help.

Just then a young man walked by and I asked him if he could help me. He suggested that I "put up" for the night in an hotel, if I could find one open. He offered to carry my case. When we got outside the bus station, the young couple were obviously concerned and asked me whether the young man was my son. They then discussed where we might find the hotel, which we eventually found, not very far away. My friend stayed with me till I was safely booked in.

I tried to phone my son, but there was no reply. I then fell asleep, completely exhausted and very hungry. At 5.30 am I phoned again and he was at home, having been in touch with the office at Glasgow and told that I was on the coach for Edinburgh, and would arrive at about 11.45. He had a 50 mile drive from Scone to Edinburgh. So he set off, but of course by the time he got to the bus station I was not there; and when I first phoned him, he was on his way. You can imagine how terribly worried we both were. He arranged to meet at about 10 am, after breakfast.

The point of this article is this: What is news? If I had been attacked and robbed, that would have been news, but the kindness and concern of both these young men passes unnoticed. My family and I will always be grateful to them.

That is news.

Vivienne Prentice (aged 89 this month)

SUMMER OUTING 18th July

This year's Parish Summer Outing will be to Littlecote House near Hungerford in Berkshire. The House which is interesting, is set in large grounds and there is also a Roman Villa. This was discovered when building work was undertaken. A mosaic of Roman origin was uncovered, still in quite good condition. There are also special events which take place on certain days, e.g. jousting and wild west shows in which the audience are invited to take part.

The coach will leave the church at 11.00am. Please bring your own lunch, but some wine, beer and squashes will be provided (hopefully kept chilled). The price will include the coach only. There is an admittance fee to the House if people want to visit it. There is also a restaurant and a cafe. More details will be on posters in the Church nearer the time or you can ask a member of the Social Committee.

Margaret Revis

AROUND THE SPIRE

Sons of two of our congregation were recently married and a third will be doing so in August. Megan Parry's son David was married to Pamela Pinder at St. Stephen's Church, East Twickenham on June 6th, and on the same day Dorothy Westons son, Andrew was married to Majella Kenneally at our church. Dorothy Edmond's son, Martin, ex YPF member and also leader for some time, will be marrying Lorna Del-Rio at St. James's in August. Congratulations to all these people, may they find fulfillment and happiness together.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

May	17	Kelly Anne Turner	76 Bishop's Grove
June	15	Sarah Howell Parkin	8 Carlisle Road
		Victoria Horden Parkin	8 Carlisle Road
	28	Jamie David Carrig	19 Deacon's Walk

Wedding

June 27 Trevor Allen and Tina Caroline Golden

Funerals

May	19	Frank James Harper	249 Uxbridge Road	aged 77
June	6	Albert Henry George Jeffries	130 Sixth Cross Road	aged 76

DATES TO NOTE

July	8	20.00 Healing Service (Music & Ministry)
	16	20.00 P.C.C.
	18	11.00 Outing to Littlecote Manor
	21	20.15 Final Stewardship Campaign Committee
	26	To be kept as St. James's Day
		16.30 Festival Service to be followed by Tea on Church Lawn
Aug.	1	10.00 Churchyard Working Party
Oct.	4	Harvest Festival
	10	Church Army Exhibition

COPY DATE FOR AUGUST ISSUE: 12 JULY