

Unfortunately the reports of the debates of the General Synod will not have been printed in time for this edition of *The Spire*, so we cannot comment on what went on before September. But the mention of the Synod raises the question of the role that the Church is expected to take in the life of the nation. Is the Synod expected just to organise the internal life and workings of the Church of England? If that is so, then its power is severely limited by the fact that in many matters it is still answerable to Parliament and to the Queen through the Prime Minister. We have seen that recently over the appointment of some Bishops. However some people get very upset and accuse the Church of "playing politics" when the Synod or some other Christians start discussing matters which affect the health of the nation, such as poor housing, or the treatment of patients in the National Health Service. It seems to me that if the State continues to control the Church in whatever form then the Church has a right to speak out and criticise the State. In the final analysis both the Church and the State are made up of people and they overlap of necessity. While people need not belong to the Church they must belong to the State. To think that the two are entirely separate is to live in a fool's paradise or, to use the words of George Orwell, to indulge in "Doublethink".

This being a month of general holiday it is not my purpose to be controversial! Let's have some time of relaxation from the cut and thrust of normal life. One thing that does not go away however from some people is illness. We have included in this edition an article on The Churches Council for Health and Healing. Do please read it. Some may think that this is to be controversial. But it cannot be. If we read the New Testament with any sense of understanding it will be seen that healing is at the centre of Jesus's activities. Furthermore it is clear that he expected his followers to continue healing after he was gone as they had begun to do while he was alive. What is really under debate is the methods of healing we are to employ. We have become so used to "western" medicine with its concentration on the exciting scientific discoveries that we have failed to hold on to the older discoveries. Interestingly more and more of our doctors are realising that what we need to do is to hold onto the best of all traditions and discoveries for the benefit of those who suffer. At the same time those who are strong in faith and prayer need to accept gratefully the knowledge and skills that are being discovered all the time.

We also have an article of an approach to Mental Health which may be new. More and more people who have either a mental illness or are mentally handicapped are being cared for "in the community", i.e. by the families and friends of the ill. This new approach is called Advocacy Alliance and is particularly relevant to us who have Clarendon School and Normansfield Hospital near at hand. Do read the article and think about the points raised. It may be you could get involved at some level. The writer would be glad to come and talk to groups about the work of the Alliance.

We cannot let this edition of *The Spire* be printed without expressing our very warmest thanks to Hilde Bucknell for all the many hours of hard work she has put into its production over many years. Some of you will know that the family is moving far away to Somerset during August. It is hard to believe that Hilde will no longer be involved in the month by month putting together of all the

multifarious bits and pieces. Some of us will have to work a lot harder in order to see that The Spire comes out on time. She was a fund of ideas, a prompter of writers to meet their deadlines, an author of many articles and a typist of many handwritten manuscripts. Above all she radiated an enthusiasm for The Spire which kept us going when we flagged or wondered whether it was all effort well spent. Thank you, Hilde, for your contribution. We hope that you will continue to receive copies of it regularly and that perhaps you will occasionally write an article for us from your "retirement" in the West Country.

*Nicholas Chubb*

**Canon Gordon Wilson,**  
**Chairman of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship**

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship was 50 years old on June 11th, 1987. It is its Jubilee year, having been founded on June, 11th 1937 at a meeting inspired by the Rev. Dick Sheppard.

For some years now Canon Gordon Wilson, who lives in our parish and attends St. James's, has been Chairman of APF. In the Church Times, in the issue of June 19th, there was his picture with the Archbishop of Canterbury and with the Secretary of APF, the Rev. Sidney Hinckes. Gordon had led members of the APF Governing Body on a birthday visit to Lambeth Palace and a birthday present was given to the Archbishop, a book "Peace Together", a collection of essays to mark the APF's Jubilee.

The Church Times in its next issue printed a full page article by Gordon entitled "Peace with Honour", "Christianity as a Pacifist Faith". He writes "APF was born out of the surge of protest against war of which Dick Sheppard was the most famous, charismatic and eloquent spokesman, in reaction against the terribly inhuman slaughter of the First World War. This mood was given expression by the 1930 Lambeth Conference in words which have been repeated by every Lambeth Conference since then: 'War, as a method of settling international disputes, is incompatible with the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ'."

After the Second World War APF re-emerged in urgent protest against atomic weapons; and Gordon calls attention to two vital statements, one by the bishops of the Anglican Communion at the 1978 Lambeth Conference ending "Therefore the use of violence, is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel". And the other by the Pope speaking in Drogheda in Ireland confronting the bitter violence there: "Communities who stand together in their acceptance of Jesus' supreme message of love, expressed in peace and reconciliation and in their rejection of all violence, constitute an irresistible force to achieve what many regard as impossible and destined to remain so".

Gordon has witnessed to his pacifist faith with a courage and faithfulness which few can emulate. APF continues with its Jubilee Year with a series of services throughout the country. It is a growing, thriving group and holds the steadfast faith that its next 50 years will see further commitment and expansion, and Christianity being proclaimed a pacifist faith.

Gordon is also Secretary of the Week of Prayer for World Peace, and Chairman of the UK and Ireland branch of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, so he carries his peace work into a world-wide dimension.

*Hannah Stanton*

## **Welcare AGM, 22nd June 1987**

The Annual Report states that 1986 was an historic year! On 1st April Richmond-upon-Thames Welcare became a reality. The formal parting from Hounslow took place in July 1986.

A great deal of time during the year has been spent by the staff in establishing the groundwork for future growth. With the help of a part-time secretary from May 1986, three very willing volunteers and later, in January 1987, a second part-time social worker, Angela Ball has been able to establish this much needed resource in Richmond.

For Welcare to be successful, support from parishes, both financial and practical, is essential. Links with parish representatives over the past year have been very encouraging and support has always been readily available in a variety of ways when needed.

Work undertaken by staff for the Richmond and Barnes Deanery will be primarily with single-parent families. Funds have been generously donated by the Marrayat Trust to assist in this very important work. One of the major difficulties faced by single parents is social isolation. A coffee morning and Christmas party were organised during the year and both were very successful. It is hoped that other such informal social opportunities can be developed in the future.

After the business of the AGM we had an extremely good talk, or perhaps I should say discussion, introduced by Canon Eric James, one of the co-authors of "Faith in the City". He urged everyone who had not already read the report to do so and urged us all as Christians to be alert to, and recognise the needs of, people within our borough and parishes.

Richmond, by comparison to many inner-city boroughs, is a wealthy borough and has a fair proportion of wealthy residents. Nevertheless we still do have many of the same problems. There are a lot of homeless, single parents, elderly, lonely and isolated people. We need to recognise the needs of these people and make our places of worship, organisations, social events and ourselves more welcoming, and really recognise our neighbour.

This was my first opportunity as parish representative to attend the AGM and it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience. It was lovely to meet other parish representatives and share with them the hopes for the future. Unfortunately, I do not have as much time as I would like to give to the task. If you are interested, feel you would like to be parish representative, or would like to share the task with me to help maintain more regular contact, or would just like to know more, please contact me on 941-4723 (home) or at work (603-9438).

*Mona Gow (Parish representative for Welcare)*

## **Deanery Synod**

On 1st July, the Synod elected David Loftus of St. Philip and St. James's Church, Whitton, to be its Lay Chairman. Our own representatives are Lesley Mortimer, Charles Dobson and David Dore.

## Vietnamese Garden Party

On a hot and sunny afternoon on June 28th I again crossed the green to Hampton Court House to the Vietnamese Garden Party in aid of "Save the Children". It is such a beautiful setting and this year had the added attraction of the Shell Grotto which has been wonderfully restored: not only is it a thing of great beauty but it is historically interesting, as the house is too.

There were more people at the party than I remember from other years and among them many Vietnamese, and many of the announcements were made in their language. The band was good and very loud, the stalls were more interesting with some lovely handiwork and native food, and the Dragon Dance was much applauded. The Dragon had a new and splendid "skin".

*Alison Thompson*

## The Julian Group

We shall not be meeting during August and shall re-start on Tuesday 1st September at 2.30pm (at 30 St. James's Road), meeting fortnightly. Meanwhile requests for prayer will be speedily relayed by contacting 979-5868.

*Margery Orton*

## Mothers' Union

The July meeting was held on Wednesday 1st and as usual we had a service in church, followed by tea on the church lawn, and this year the weather was kind once more. Invitations had been sent out to some neighbouring churches and between forty and fifty people were present.

During the service we had a talk by Len Christiansen on his work in the Church Army. He is based in Hammersmith, with a motorway on his doorstep, therefore he found conditions at and around St. James's very different.

The work of Len Christiansen and of the Church Army is so worthwhile and surely deserving of our prayers.

The Mothers' Union does not get together in August at all and our next meeting will be on Wed. 2nd September when we will hold a flower arrangement competition, using the cap of any spray-can containing oasis as the base. The arrangement should be of wild flowers or perhaps some homely garden flowers, but nothing must be bought.

*Hettie Burgess*



## The Churches Council for Health and Healing

The Churches' Council for Health and Healing is a coordinating body which is presently concentrating on five aims:

- (1) to encourage the recovery of the Christian Healing ministry in all the Churches and coordinate its further growth and development;
- (2) to forward cooperation between religion and medicine;
- (3) to make available resources - literature, cassettes, videos etc. - for the introduction and evolution of the Christian healing ministry;
- (4) to provide teaching/training in the Christian healing ministry and to encourage regional course development;
- (5) to stimulate theological study on healing ministry.

Set up in 1946 by Archbishop William Temple, CCHH (as it is known for convenience) is presently engaged in a joint Working Party with the Royal College of General Practitioners on the subject of "whole-person medicine" and so continues its first and fundamental task as set out by Archbishop Temple, the bringing together of the disciplines of medicine and religion in ministering to those in need.

The membership of the Council represents the scope of the disciplines uniting to "minister to wholeness". Twenty-three mainstream branches of the Church are represented on the Council, while the Roman Catholic Church and the Pentecostal churches are 'observers' but fully participating in its work. The Royal Colleges are also represented - Surgeons, Psychiatry, Nursing, etc, as is the British Medical Association and the British Dental Association.

The third area on the Council are groups, fellowships and associations involved in the Christian healing ministry - the Guild of Health, the Pin Mill Fellowship, the Guild of St. Raphael, for example. The many healing homes - Green Pastures (Bournemouth), Crowhurst (the Divine Healing Mission's headquarters in Sussex), Burrswood, etc. - have representative membership. Inter-faith organisations - eg Westminster Pastoral Foundation and the Institute of Religion and Medicine - come into the "medical and allied disciplines" group. The fourth category of membership takes in the hospital chaplaincy organisations.

CCHH is directed by Denis Duncan, a minister of the Church of Scotland. Jillian Tallon assists the Director, and Marie Jelley administers the office and supervises the daily work of the Council; Rosemary Dawe has responsibility, under her, for the Video, "Health and Healing", advertising, etc. The Council's Chairman is the Rev. David Dale, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church; the Vice-Chairman is a Methodist, Howard Booth.

"Health and Healing" is edited by the Rev. David Goodacre, a parish priest in Northumberland. It circulates widely and is recognised as a journal of importance in the field of healing. Supplements on the work of the Council are issued periodically with "Health and Healing". The offices of the Council are in the new St. Marylebone Health and Healing Centre (01-486-9644).

*Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.*

*Albert Schweitzer*

## News from the Hampton Council of Churches

**Lent 1988.** The first part of the Lent Course last year was entitled "What on earth is the church for?". Subsequent to this several books were published on the results and comments that they provoked. The title of next year's course is "Who on earth are you?" and it is hoped that all the churches in the area will again join together to follow this part of "Not strangers but pilgrims" which is the overall title of the courses. A planning committee will start meeting in the autumn and will be looking for leaders, hostesses and hosts, and venues for meetings. Please think about whether you would like to do any of these things as well as actually taking part in the course. The people of St. James's have always been in the forefront of these ventures and this is another great opportunity to mix and meet other local Christians.

**Autumn Course.** The council of Churches is also organising a short course on different aspects of bereavement. There will be four talks, two in October and two in November. Details will be announced later, but this should be a popular and interesting series.

**United Service.** On October 18th there will be a united service in our own church at 4.30pm for the Week of Prayer for World Peace. The preacher will be Sir Edward Carpenter, formerly Dean of Westminster Abbey.

**Christian Aid.** The total collection in the Hampton area during Christian Aid Week was £3,627 (of which, as previously reported, the St. James's amount was £768). The total giving from the Hampton area for this year is £3893.

**A Missed Opportunity.** At last the "Faith in Print" venture (see "The Spire", June 1987) has come to fruition and the books bought by the local churches have now been presented to the local Public Libraries. At what should have been a small presentation ceremony at Hampton Library on July 13th, but which turned out to be a complete non-event, several people from St. James's, the Rev. David Vanstone and his curate, John Vincent, saw the books handed over to the two Librarians, one from Hampton and one from Hampton Hill. Where were the rest of the local clergy, the Borough Librarian and other representatives of the Hampton Council of Churches? Where were the few words to accompany such a presentation, a prayer or a blessing, words of thanks for the gift . . . - all sadly missing on this lovely summer morning. Surely we could have done better than just have our photos taken for the local papers?

*Helen Taylor*

The "Faith in Print" venture owed much to the foresight of David Vanstone who initiated it, and to Jean Western who had the task of actually purchasing the books. In addition to funding from the P.C.C.'s, the exhibition organised by Helen Taylor in our own church raised £27 and a similar collection at All Saints Church produced a further £12 to help finance the purchases. A list of the books purchased is to be placed in church.

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*The devil doesn't care how much good  
we do, as long as we don't do it today.*

*Anon*

## Does it really matter?

The three greatest festivals in the Church's calendar are Christmas, Easter and Whitsun. Without the events commemorated by these festivals there would be no Church, no Christian faith.

Easter is the very pivot on which everything turns: the resurrection proved Jesus of Nazareth to be the promised Messiah, the Saviour of Mankind, the Christ through whom we can claim all the promises of God. Christmas celebrates the incarnation, the birthday of the man Jesus, and Whitsun celebrates the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ's followers, the birthday of the Church - the body of Christ on earth throughout the ages.

It has long worried me how people are losing sight of the true meaning of all three of these festivals. A lot is written about the fact that Christmas is becoming more and more secularised. Some Easter cards bearing the message "Happy Easter, Happy Spring" suggest that people see Easter as no more than a rather heathen celebration of the annual re-awakening of nature after the cold of winter. That in itself is of course a wonderful miracle which deserves thankful, humble awe. But the once only ever resurrection of Christ is something utterly different and incomparably greater. It is a sad sign of our times that that is not generally understood any more. The saddest fate, however, is happening to the festival of Whitsun: people outside the Church are forgetting about it altogether. My diary does not mention the word Whitsun at all. It is a movable feast like Easter, and the Spring Bank Holiday does not coincide with the Monday after Whitsunday. This year the general public's ignorance was illustrated when Harvey Nichols advertised "Whit Monday Reductions" for the 25th May. The real Whit Monday was of course on 8th June.

I am not saying that the general public can be blamed for its ignorance. But I really do think it matters: it highlights the responsibility we as Christians have towards the non-Christian community around us. We came to the same conclusion when we thought about Stewardship recently. We must develop our own system of education so that we can make sure the knowledge we hold so very dear can be passed on to our children. We can no longer rely on the state school system to provide a Christian upbringing for everybody. People who feel that Christian thinking is important are in a minority. We must make sure we have a way of teaching it if we care for those around us. If it is of vital importance to us, then it is of the same life-giving importance to them.

*Hilde Bucknell*

## Children's Society Box-opening

What a splendid bunch of people are the Children's Society box-holders! This year they have raised £300, a really excellent figure. All over the country there are 11,000 Honorary Secretaries whose job it is to open the boxes each year. The amount they and their box-holders raise is nearly three million pounds annually, which represents a fifth of the Society's annual income. Thank you to everyone who contributed, and keep the pennies coming - there are still children who need them.

*Helen Taylor*

## A Meditation

Lord Jesus, reach to me your hand -  
At the cross-roads here I stand -  
Help me that my feet don't stray  
From your straight and narrow way.

Give me your light to be my guide,  
Light it in me - deep inside -  
That through the night and through the day  
My feet don't miss the climbing way.

Ever onward lead me Lord,  
Guided by your precious word,  
That I may love as Thou dost love,  
Here on earth as high above.

Give me Lord Thy Holy Spirit  
That I Thy New Life may inherit  
And through that life show forth Thy Grace  
To my neighbours in this place.

I love Thee Lord, let it be true -  
Thou in me, and I in you.  
Let all my works be truly Thine  
That through this lamp Thy light may shine.

What glory Lord should others see  
A little of Thy love in me.  
Grant me grace that I may be  
A witness, Oh my God, for Thee.

And at the end, my Saviour blest,  
Having loved you Lord, and done my best,  
You will hold me in your hand  
And guide me to your promised land.

*Margery Orton (written 16 June 1987)*

## Prayer 'n' Praise

On Sunday 7 June, almost 50 people came to Prayer 'n' Praise (our biggest turn-out yet!). The highlight of the service was the first public performance of Paul and Maggie Revis's new composition. This consisted of music and lyrics linking the themes of Jesus's Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. Our usual singers and players were augmented by Susan on the flute. It was much appreciated and we are all looking forward to the next performance.

The increased congregation, and the many speakers we have welcomed, have provided a firm platform for this service, from which we hope that popularity will grow. Why don't you come and see for yourself?

*Pip and Fiona Rowett*



## Advocacy Alliance

A local office has recently opened to help develop the Advocacy Alliance project in the area.

The Advocacy Alliance recruits and trains volunteers to act as advocates for mentally handicapped residents in three long-stay hospitals in the Surrey area. This includes Normansfield Hospital in Teddington.

An advocate is an ordinary person who befriends an isolated mentally handicapped person on a one-to-one basis and learns to represent that person's interests and rights as if they were their own.

There is a small group of advocates already in existence at Normansfield and they have been able to help individual residents in a variety of ways. This has involved assistance with claiming appropriate benefits, going shopping with a resident to allow them to purchase their own clothes, and in making moves from the hospital into the community easier for that individual. Advocates aim to improve the quality of life for their partners, and to encourage them to speak up for themselves. For those unable to articulate their own needs or views, the advocate will speak up on their behalf.

There is a need for more advocates, and hopefully people will come forward as they become more aware of the local project and the importance for those isolated residents of Normansfield Hospital.

The local office is based at Sutton and the new local co-ordinator, Ian Bartlett, will be pleased to come and talk to individuals or groups about the project. He may be contacted at:

4 Greenford Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1JY. Tel: 01 643 7111.

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*We are shaped and fashioned by what we love.*

*J.W. von Goethe.*

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## Scout Group News

Congratulations to Yvonne Childs, Cub-Scout Leader of Brown Pack, who was presented on Sunday 14th June, at the Borough Camp at Walton Firs Camp Site, with the Scout Association Medal of Merit for outstanding service over a period of twenty-five years. The award was signed by the Chief Scout and the Medal was presented by the County Commissioner, Dean Sutton.

*Doris Childs*

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**CAR BOOT SALE - SATURDAY 8th AUGUST - Sale starts 10.30am**

**FOUR WINDS PRESS  
High Street, Hampton Hill**

**Cars £5 - Vans £7 - (to arrive after 9.30am) - Public Entrance 10p**

## Around the Spire

This month, very reluctantly, we have to say farewell to Hilde and Roger Bucknell and to Colin, Alison and Rosalind, although Roger will be around for some months yet while he is still working in London. After so many years of involvement in so many ways in church activities and in the wider community, they will be sorely missed. They are moving to Haselbury Plucknett, near Crewkerne. May God be with them all and may they find happiness and fulfilment in their new situation.

Zena Williams, daughter of the Rev. David and Elizabeth Bonner, had a baby daughter on 9th July, to be called Ruth Elizabeth. We wish Zena and her husband, David, and the baby God's blessing.

Chrissie Hockley has been in hospital again recently. Hampton Hill never seems the same without that familiar figure pushing her chair around all over the place. We wish her a speedy recovery.

## Pledged Giving

	1986	1987
(Envelopes and Banker's Orders) January - March	£4332	£4229
April - June	£3558	£4042

## From the Registers

### Baptism

July 19 Joseph Paul Richard Williams 10 Roy Grove

### Wedding

July 25 Robin Thomas Adamson and Jacqueline Anne Kenny

## Dates to Note

Aug.	1	10.00	Churchyard Working Party
	6	20.00	Holy Communion for the Transfiguration
Sept.	6	09.30	Speaker at both Services: John Sutton,
		18.30	Youth Secretary of South American Missionary Society
		20.00	Prayer 'n' Praise restarts after holiday break
	8	20.00	Properties Committee
	10	20.00	Hall Committee
	12		Parish Ramble
	17	20.00	Liturgical Committee
	19		Hampton Carnival
Oct.	3	10.00	Churchyard Working Party
	4		Harvest Festival
	6	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches AGM at St. James's
	10		Church Army Exhibition
	11		Church Army Speakers at Sunday Services
	18	16.30	United Service at St. James for Week of Prayer for World Peace. Speaker: Dr. Edward Carpenter, lately Dean of Westminster Abbey.

**Copy date for September issue: 9th August**