

Earlier this year we had a meeting to discuss the possible formation of House Groups in the Parish. We had an interesting introduction to the topic by the Vicar of St. Augustine's, and one of the Group Leaders in that parish. We are due to have another discussion on 24th September when the P.C.C. will take the matter further. Is it an avenue along which we at St. James should travel? What is different about these Groups from others which we have had? Why? What? Who? When? Where? Haven't we got some groups already? Didn't we have some useful groups in Lent?

If we look at those churches which are most 'successful' we are almost certain to find that they have their strength in small gatherings of people, who meet regularly together between the times that they congregate for worship. We have become so used to large buildings that we tend to take these as being the best way of working together. But is this so? If we look at the way the first christians met they gathered only in small numbers for fear of the police. (This still happens to-day in some countries where christianity is looked upon with suspicion if not hatred.) Look at the way John Wesley started up his 'classes' to instruct people in the basics of the christian faith and to study the Bible. And if we look at the places in the world to-day where there is an explosion of christianity, yes an explosion, we shall see that the enormous growth all happens in small gatherings of about 10 or so. Where is this happening? In Zimbabwe and Uganda, in Brazil, in China, in Hungary, in Russia, in Singapore and Korea, in Chile, in Mexico, in Colombia These are just the countries to which I can find easy reference.

How might our church be different if we had many groups? We could expect everyone to be a member of one group or another and for it to be the exception rather than the rule for the people not to belong. That might mean that we knew some of our fellow christians much better than we do now. (I am often struck by just how many of our regular worshippers do not know each other.) It would mean that our christian instruction and learning had continuity and depth. It would mean that not just a few had 'expert' knowledge but that we shared the leading much more widely than at present. It would mean that when newcomers to the area arrived at St. James we could help them immediately find and get to know christian friends. How many new people have you welcomed to the church recently?

After each of our Lent Courses there has been a gentle request from a few people who have not previously been members of a group if there could be another. So far this has not happened, but I feel that the impetus and the desire is there and we must find ways of harnessing this force.

On a flippant note I heard the following recently; 'If Our Lord had intended us to go metric, He would have called 10 disciples, not 12'. On a serious note it is about this number that is probably ideal for a group. Smaller than this becomes a clique; larger makes it difficult for all to play their part.

Do think about it and talk to your friends.

Nicholas Chubb

The Family of St. James's

On Sunday, 26th July, many people gathered to give thanks and praise for the life and example of St. James our Patron. Emphasis was placed on the family - our close family and the wider family of God - and it seemed to me that we are very fortunate at St. James's, not only to have a beautiful place of worship - a home - but also to have an interesting and varied family with which to share old and new ideas.

The form of the Service was quite different from the norm for St. James's Day, taking on a more modern approach, with much lively singing led by Margaret Revis and a select orchestra. As the congregation arrived, Margaret was singing through the hymns so that people could familiarize themselves with the words and tunes to enable them to sing with more gusto during the service, which was led by Alan Taylor.

Margery Orton admonished the reading about it being "easier for a rich man to pass through the eye of a needle than to enter the Kingdom of Heaven", reminding us that we have too much clutter in our lives, which must surely come between us and God. Alan aptly followed up this reading using his sons Christopher and Oliver to illustrate just how much rubbish we do accumulate on our journey of life when in reality we need so very little.

Prayers were led by families and I thought Caitlyn Robinson and Geoffrey Nunn did particularly well. To round off the Service, the Liturgical Dancers led us in a dance round the church for all to join in to the hymn "Bind us together Lord, with chains that cannot be broken . . . Bind us together in Love", until we were all joined as one family with each other and hopefully with the Lord.

The Service left me quite refreshed with thoughts and hymns floating round in my mind and the Lord continuing his work in his mysterious way, and afterwards we enjoyed the traditional tea on the lawn with the opportunity to meet many old friends and to make new ones. We were especially delighted to see Dilys, who was visiting her son Richard after another spell in hospital, and to find her remarkably cheerful, as always. Thank you everyone.

Yvonne Childs

Harvest Festival - 4th October

This year we shall have one of our Children's Eucharists which we have developed over the last year, since the date is the first Sunday in the month. So the service will be shorter than usual for the Parish Communion and yet enable everyone to feel that we have celebrated in the right way. Last year's experiment with asking people to bring money and NOT produce will be repeated. Nearer the time we shall have envelopes available for everyone, including the children, to give something extra which we shall give away to those in need. The P.C.C. has not yet decided to which particular cause the money will be given but it is likely it will go to those in need in London. So if you have not received an envelope and you wish to give, please ask for one. No particular plans have been made yet for the evening service. On Saturday 10th we shall have our Harvest Supper which is always very enjoyable. Please book the date now.

From Soweto to Hampton Hill

On 14th June the congregation at Prayer 'n' Praise was honoured and privileged to hear a talk from Father Tom Stanton on the subject of Soweto, that area of the world where his ministry is carried out, and currently one of the most controversial places on earth.

To hear first-hand accounts of the atrocities which are carried out by the Government of South Africa, from the lips of one who has come face-to-face with them on numerous occasions, was indeed for this listener both a shocking and humbling experience. Shocking in the way the Minister's descriptions of his experiences left me with a sense of shame that black fellow human beings were being forced into a life of subservience by rich white human beings who saw no wrong in the practice of apartheid and all the indignity that such a system entails. Humbling, in the way this humble yet incredibly strong Christian minister spoke matter-of-factly about everyday experiences which made any troubles in my life seem trite and insignificant by comparison.

Later, Tom was to point out what was at the heart of his talk, apartheid is totally at odds with everything that Christianity stands for, and by preventing instead of encouraging sharing, the South African regime can only be seen by the outside world as a repressive and wholly un-Christian dictatorship.

Apartheid exists simply as a way of keeping the money, and therefore the power, in the hands of that white minority which practises it, and as it relates to exploitation of the poor by the rich, is no different to the age-old sin avarice.

Tom Stanton is a giant of a man, and though getting on in years now, is not about to give up the fight in Soweto for the relative tranquility of home and the more familiar problems encountered by a Christian minister here in England. He is at present recuperating after surgery and hopes to be back at his church later in the year. He told us it was the duty of all Christians to expose injustice, and to call upon any who are perpetrating apartheid to repent, for without this there can be no reconciliation in South Africa.

As I shook hands with a man I was greatly moved by, I felt that soon he would be going back to face one of the sternest tests of all Christian belief, in essence that of good versus evil. The church, he told us, has a great power in South Africa, and therefore can be a force to bring about the changes that are necessary there.

He closed by asking us to remember them in our prayers, as he would be remembering us all at St. James's in his. This we must all do, for as true Christians we can send him, through the power of prayer, the strength and clear vision that will enable this man of God and his followers to overcome the uncertain future that lies ahead of them in Orlando West, South Africa. Peace be with them.

Brian Short

Tom flew back to South Africa on 5th August. We look forward to seeing him again next summer when he returns for a medical check-up.

A Canterbury Pilgrimage

We knew a little of Canterbury before but we didn't realise what delight we would get from our pilgrimage. No, we didn't walk there! It was a short break (Monday to Friday) but we learnt so much, not just about the Cathedral, but also the historic origins of the City, the Priory and St. Augustine's Abbey.

It was in St. Augustine's College that we stayed and that was a joy in itself. Formerly restored as a Missionary College it is now part of The King's School. From our bedrooms we looked out on a beautiful green lawn around which were other old buildings. We ate in the 13th century refectory and worshipped in the delightful old chapel.

There were thirty of us in the group from all over the country. America and Canada were also represented. Our hosts were the school chaplain and his wife, and incidentally their two young children. The programme was well arranged with plenty to do and yet giving time for us to wander on our own. With the help of slides we were prepared to take advantage of all that we were to see: the history from the Stone Age, the Roman city, the walls, the remains of the Benedictine Monastery that was the inspiration of the Cathedral, the Cathedral itself and its beautiful stained glass windows. The lectures were given in the old crypt by experts in each subject while other experts were our guides on walks about Canterbury with its walls, gates, charming mediaeval byways and ancient churches. We were taken over the ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey, just beyond the part where we were staying, and Christchurch Priory. And oh, so much more!

Of course the Cathedral was the heart of our pilgrimage. How beautiful it is! We were fortunate enough to be taken round it early in the morning, before the crowds arrived, by a very enthusiastic Canon - a Welshman who obviously loved it all. But what we shall never forget is our visit to the Cathedral on our last night. As we approached it looked so magnificent with its floodlighting and we were privileged to have the Cathedral opened just for our party. Inside it was such a contrast for no lights were on. We were met once again by our Welsh Canon and were given a candle each. We visited various parts of the Cathedral where we stopped for readings and prayers. It is difficult to describe how we felt following in the steps of so many pilgrims through the ages to the shrine of St. Thomas á Becket. It was most inspiring.

From outside the floodlights shone through the stained glass windows bringing them brilliantly to life as we had never seen them before and giving a most mysterious light to different parts of the building. Perhaps the most beautiful of all was looking up to the ceiling of the Bell Harry Tower and seeing the gentle light on the fan vaulting and paintings there. It seemed magic!

We must thank The King's School for arranging these pilgrimages each year. We had such a happy time.

Peg and Sylvia Boarder

The World Conference on Religion and Peace

Inter-Faith Youth Peace Bus - July 17th - August 1st

50 young people from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Shintoist and Sikh Faiths set off full of high spirits on Friday, July 17th from Westminster en route for Moscow and back. By the kindness of the Rev. Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, we had a service in the Abbey of blessing for the trip. The Dean led the service and conveyed the blessing of the Archbishop of Canterbury, one of our Patrons, for the journey. Our other Patrons representing their various faiths uttered their blessings; as well as English, Pali, Sanskrit, Hebrew, Arabic and Punjabi languages were used and echoed through the Nave, - an inspiration to the young people and their friends and relatives, and attracting considerable interest from the many visitors to the Abbey.

We all joined in singing "Let us spread the Pollen of Peace throughout our world", very appropriate words set to a Corymeela tune. It was forthwith adopted as the theme song of the Peace Bus and was sung everywhere. We shared the universal Prayer for Peace "Lead us from death to life" and many visitors joined in.

The service was followed by a "photo-call" in Dean's Yard where everybody blew bubbles for peace; several newspapers pictured our Canon Gordon Wilson, Chairman of WCRP, doing this accompanied by a Buddhist monk and a Buddhist nun. A press conference at Church House was chaired by Dr. John Taylor our Secretary General from HQ WCRP in Geneva. John used words such as "Ambassadors for Peace", "Peace Pilgrims", and spoke of the hard work and sacrificial giving of time and money which had gone into the planning of the Peace Bus project.

Lunch for 200 was the next item, in the big Assembly Hall at Mary Sumner House. The Brahma Kumaris Sisters had contributed most of this with delicious vegetarian food, and the members of the Baha'i and Christian Faiths also provided extras. Mrs. Jean Wilson here did noble work. Speeches and songs were cut short as time ran out. The Bus appeared outside, the pilgrims and all their considerable baggage pressed in. One last call at Westminster Abbey to be waved off finally by the Dean, and off they went to Frankfurt, Prague, Auschwitz, Minsk, Smolensk, Moscow, back to Warsaw, East and West Berlin, to Belsen and Poperinge. Their programme was to distribute gifts, sing songs, recite poetry and drama, pray for peace, sow seeds and plant rose bushes in every place. Their object: "Their common yearning is for a world of trust and love in which nations, cultures and creeds find joy in each other's differences and find hope in weaving those differences into a tapestry of life."

The Rev. Jonathan Blake, the inspiration behind the project, and the leader of it, had arranged hospitality from church and inter-faith groups along the way; in Moscow they were to be guests of the Russian Orthodox Church. At one point on the return journey they arrived at accommodation where there was no food; the local Welsh Guards came to the rescue with a meal for 50 starving pilgrims at 11pm.

We here in the UK waited rather breathlessly for the two weeks until August 1st. They were to arrive on that date at 6pm at the Westminster Synagogue in

Knightsbridge. Back they came to the minute! Spot on ! A service of thanksgiving in the Synagogue took place, and a high-spirited party with food for all, not quite 200 this time!, at the Baha'i HQ round the corner, were fitting conclusions to this exciting project. It was clear from the joy and real affection for each other of the pilgrims that it had been a thoroughly united group and an unforgettable journey.

Hannah Stanton

Stewardship

At the end of the recent campaign, we have about 120 commitments, some by families, some by individuals, totalling about £19,600 in a full year (an average commitment of just over £3 per week). These, together with the earlier pledged giving, will produce an estimated total of £18,000 in the present calendar year.

The income tax recovered annually on the 80 or so covenanted pledges will, if the basic rate of tax is maintained at its present level, eventually be approximately £6,300, but this full amount will not be received by the church until 1989.

The tax-refund claim for the 1986/87 tax year has been made and paid on a provisional basis. It was for just over £5,000. Thus, although on the basis of the present commitments we expect the total annual income from pledged giving and tax refunds to be some £25,900 in 1989, the income from these sources in 1987 is likely to be about £23,000 only. The corresponding figures for 1986 and 1985 were about £19,400 and £16,600 respectively.

The number of commitments now is almost exactly the same as it was in 1986.

Ron Bridges

Littlecote Manor - Two Views

On Saturday 18th July we went on a trip to Littlecote Manor. We got there by coach and most of the church went. First we had our lunch by the little railway and all the ducks came up to us and tried to get our food. Then we went to the house, it was about the olden days. We saw some wax models of a Roundhead family, they were packing to escape from the Cavaliers. They had their own church in their house.

After that we went to look at the animals. We saw goats, pigs, horses, chickens and sheep, one pig was going to have babies on that day. Then we went to see the blacksmith, and we saw some horses waiting for the knights to come and do jousting, so we went to watch that. They tried to knock each other on the heads. Violet and Margaret dressed up as maids, they looked pretty.

Some people went to look at the Roman site to see the things that they have found underground, like keys, bones and stones.

We thought we had better go back to the coach ready to go home. We were very tired when we got back but we enjoyed the trip very much.

Caitlyn Robinson (aged 8 years)

Littlecote Manor continued . . .

After lunch by the river, we all went our various ways. I was with Margaret Revis and we started at the Roman Villa, with its Orpheus mosaic, which is still being excavated. In the museum you can see buttons, shoes, money, etc. which they have dug up. We then moved on to the Tudor Mansion House which was very interesting inside with a Cromwellian preacher in the chapel and, in another room, waxworks representing the scene in 1642 as the family prepared to leave during the Civil War. Outside the house, the gardens were as they would have been in those days with herbs for every ache and ailment.

Margaret and I then made our way to the stables where we boarded a horse-and-cart which took us round the estate. The horses stopped in the ancient village with its shops and blacksmith and we got off and went into a shop with costumes for hire and dressed as serving wenches.

Our next destination was the jousting field where we watched the knights in armour, with lances and on horses, in combat. We dutifully curtsied to the Vicar and his wife, as I suppose was done in those days. And there, when stillness comes, falcons soar the skies.

It was getting chilly and nearing our way back to 1987, so we changed back into our own dress and sauntered through the village once more back to the coach. What a splendid day was spent in "The land that's trapped in time". Thank you, David and the Social Committee.

Violet Clark

Hampton Hill's Bargain Day - A High Street Bonanza -

Saturday 26th September

Car Boot Sale Organised by the Hampton Hill Association. Four Winds Press Car Park. 10am to 1pm. Bargains, gifts, home produce, plants, etc. Public entrance 10p. Cars £5, Vans £7 (reductions for charities). For further details 'phone 979 2839 or 979 8641.

Saturday Market Organised by the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group. Beside the United Reformed Church. 10.30am to 1 pm. Nearly-new clothes, bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, etc.

Book Sale Special sale of books for all ages at the Community Care Group's Bookshop, 59 High Street, Hampton Hill. Open all day.

Young Families Group

Weekly meetings at Wayside, from 10.30am to noon on Tuesdays, re-start on 8th September. All parents with their pre-school children are welcome. Further information may be obtained from Jane Wilde (941 0675), Jane Dobson (979 1810) or Jenni Taylor (977 6805).

Baptism at both ends

A Vicar announced that they would be having an additional font placed in the church so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

Scout Group News

The 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group, which is sponsored by St. James's Church, has five sections catering for young people in various age groups. Fun and friendship are amongst our aims and we would welcome new members and leaders in all sections, which meet as follows:

Beavers for boys 6-8 years, Parish Hall, Fridays 5-6pm

Cub Scouts (Brown Pack), for boys 8-10½ years, Parish Hall, Mondays 6-8pm

Cub Scouts (Gold Pack) for boys 8-10½ years, Parish Hall, Wednesday 6-8pm

Scouts for boys 10½- 15½ years, Parish Hall, Fridays 7-9pm

Venture Scouts for boys & girls 15½-20 yrs, HQ or Wayside, Mondays 7.30-9.30 pm

For further information please contact Mike Childs (Group Scout Leader) on 979 5041 or just come along to a meeting.

Cub Scout Camp - 27th to 31st July On Monday we got to the camp-site. It was a long walk to our part of the camp-site. When we got to our part we had our packed lunch. There were three half-put-up tents, but there were four Sixes so one Six had to put up a whole tent when the other three only had to put up half. That night we went on a hike and we got a bit lost. On Tuesday we went on the assault course. There was a rope during the assault course and you had to swing across some muddy water. Some people fell in! On Wednesday we went to Southend. We went in a fair. We went on the train up the pier and it started to rain a little bit. Akela, Timothy, Nicky, and Anne Booroft and I walked back a bit and it poured down so we ran to the nearest shelter. When we got back to the part where all the cubs were, Skip gave us £1.00 and we played on the arcade games. We then went to a swimming pool and then back to the camp-site. On Thursday we had a choice of archery or climbing and I chose archery. I didn't manage to hit the target but I enjoyed myself. On Friday we packed up and went home.

Geoffrey Nunn (aged 9 years)

I've never had it so Good The Theme for the Camp was King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Mike and I were KA and QG! The Sixes were the Lancelots, Garwains, Gerraints and Galahads. During the week the boys competed for points. They brought with them hobby horse heads to which they had to attach a stick and they designed coats of arms and shields ready for the Grand Tournament, when sport of all kinds took place, everyone entering into the spirit of fun and the Cubs wearing, in turn, Queen Guinevere's favour! They were very gallant!

It was a very happy camp - a good site offering archery, wall climbing, (pioneering and shooting for scouts) and a super muddy obstacle course. The weather was kind to us, except for Wednesday when we spent the day in Southend. In the amusement Park, the owner was very complimentary about the boys' behaviour and allowed them free rides on the helter-skelter. Five of us decided to explore the Lifeboat launching pad when the rain eased a little, only to be stranded at the end of the pier in the most terrifying storm I have ever experienced.

Gold Pack Akela, Maureen Hucklesby, had organised the camp from beginning to end, having just completed her Cub Scout Leaders Camp Permit Course. She had been to camp before as Cook and as an Assistant, but now it was her turn to get on with it herself assisted by a varied assortment of helpers of varying experience - and very well she did it too. Congratulations.

Yvonne Childs

Prayers Answered

Recently, Michael and I visited Ian Richardson, a friend of our daughter Sarah, at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Ian had broken his neck whilst diving into a swimming pool in Majorca. He arrived home paralysed from the neck downwards. "Oh, Mum, pray for him, pray for him", cried Sarah when she heard the news. So we did and so did many people at St. James's and further afield. Thank YOU, and you may now give Thanks to the Lord in great abundance who has surely answered our prayers, wishing Ian to make a full recovery. Ian has now got feeling back in all his limbs and seems to be in pretty good shape considering. He manages to keep cheerful most of the time thanks to the wonderful nursing and medical staff at the hospital and despite the fact that he is well and truly pinned down to his bed. He must count his blessings frequently as he uses his mirror to look around him to see others less fortunate than himself. He hopes to be off his back by October. Let us pray that he continues to make good progress.

Yvonne Childs

Around the Spire

We send our heartiest congratulations to Bea Page who is marrying Bill Brooks at Orpington Parish Church on October 3rd. Bill and his late wife were close friends of Bea and Norman and Bill proved a tower of strength and comfort to Bea after Norman's death. Bea is giving up her nursing job and selling her bungalow and she and Bill will start their married life in Bill's house in Abingdon. They will be looking for a home in the Chalfont area later on. May their union be long, happy and blessed.

Congratulations too to Judith (née Nevill) on her marriage to the Rev. Malcolm Jones. They will be living in Wesley Manse, Shetland.

Welcome to Luke Ronald, baby son of Ron and Rosemary (née Oliver) Woodland. Congratualtions to Luke's parents and grandparents whom it gives us great pleasure to see from time to time looking so happy and healthy.

We are sorry to be losing the Hewitt family who are returning to their roots in Poole and to the church where they were married. Judy has helped with the cleaning for very many years and has organised the church cleaners for a long time. We wish all the family well.

At the time of going to press Vera Bannister is not at all well. We pray that by the time you read this she will be feeling very much better. Our thoughts and prayers are with Vera, Stan and the family.

Commiserations to Bill Robinson with badly bruised ribs and deep grazes caused when he and a friend managed to avert a serious accident. As the Robinsons were on the point of departure from their Isle of Wight hotel a small child inadvertently released the parking brake on Bill's car. Although Bill was taken to hospital and the car damaged, we give praise that things were not very much worse. Best wishes Bill for a speedy recovery and no ill after-effects.

From the Registers

Baptisms

August 2	Jared Jonathan Wainwright Phillips	30 Wordsworth Road
	Daniel Richard Heath	138 Hampton Rd W, Hanworth
	Mandy Caroline Heath	138 Hampton Rd W, Hanworth
9	Lee Roberts	23 Deacon's Walk
	Katherine Emily Gegg	77 Wordsworth Road

Confirmation

June 15	Ian Brough, Alison Bucknell, Pippa Butterfield, Sarah Butterfield, Sarah Hayter, Joanna Hennessy, Sarah Parkin, Victoria Parkin, Sally Sazegar, Julia Revis, Jane Wilde.
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Weddings

August 15	Martin Charles Edmonds & Lorna Jean Del-Rio
	Simon Leigh Brown & Lisa Margaret Roberts

Funerals

July 21	Nellie Kate Paine	Laurel Dene	aged 94
30	Sylvia Biggs	Formerly of Uxbridge Road	aged 54

Dates to Note

September 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	11.00	Parish Ramble
17	20.00	Liturgical Committee
19		Hampton Carnival
24	20.00	P.C.C.
October 1	20.00	Special P.C.C. for discussion of Groups
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
10	20.00	Harvest Supper
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
20	20.00	Deanery Synod
21	20.00	P.C.C.
25	18.30	"Ruth" Cantata at the evening Service.

Copy date for October issue: 13th September