

By the time you read this we shall have a new Bishop of Kensington, John Hughes. There are many and varied opinions about Bishops and their uses which swing from the point of view that they are an essential part of the life of the Church to the attitude that they are positively contrary to New Testament teaching. So what importance do we attach to the fact that we have a new one?

First it has to be said that we in the Church of England in this area of London belong to a Church in which Bishops are part of the structure so we cannot just ignore the matter. If we really can see no use in their presence or feel that they are an irrelevance or a positive obstruction to the proclamation of the Gospel then to be consistent we ought to have nothing to do with a church which insists that they operate! If on the other hand we take the view that nothing is really valid in the church without a Bishop's blessing or at the very least his permission then we ought to take an interest in what is happening to the institution to which we belong. After all, the appointment affects us. What he says, even if it is distasteful, has to be taken into account seriously. If he does something of which we disapprove we have to judge who is out of step.

The word 'Bishop' is an emotive one because of Church history. But in essence what it really means is 'Overseer', overseer of the local christian community. The Greek Latin word from which it is derived is 'episcopus', and the English word bishop is nothing more than the natural linguistic development of episcopus. In Old English the word was half-way with the form 'biscop'. The Bishop began as the leader and overseer of a small group of people. As christian communities grew it became more and more difficult for there to be efficient oversight. What had begun as a comparatively simple idea became more and more complicated. City-states had been the norm in the ancient world - something like a District Council in to-day's parlance. As States themselves grew and grew and became more and more like the European states we know now, it became impossible for the Bishop to exercise proper oversight in an intimate way. The job became more like that of an administrator or politician. In the Middle Ages Bishops eventually were given the status of 'Princes of the Church' and instead of being considered 'ordinary' christians with a special function were given palaces to live in and were invested with secular as well as spiritual authority and power.

Now we are experiencing a move away from the concept of the large multinational organisation, called 'The Church' towards the smaller more local idea of a self-sufficient group which worships and grows without so much reference to the larger world and to other christians. Somewhere between the two I believe the right balance is to be found. Christians must learn to flourish locally, but in union with others who share their faith. Somehow a modern Bishop has to teach and lead within a shifting scenario. It is a difficult job at the best of times, and this time is not the best.

Whatever else we do, we need to uphold John Hughes in our prayers as he begins his new ministry among us. We can help him as much as he can help us.

## Harvest Celebrations

October 4th and Harvest Thanksgiving morning service. This year it was decreed that we give money or non-perishable food which seems very practical and not wasteful but I missed the sight of large fat marrows, extra long carrots and beans, oranges and eggs on the chancel steps. The flowers around the church were, as usual, beautiful and gave me great joy and peace.

Apart from all that it was the usual cheerful service with the lovely harvest hymns.

The scouts and children were there to enjoy it and Nicholas explained about the preparation of wine, water and bread as he prepared the Eucharist. On this occasion the bread consisted of a long plaited loaf which is a usual gift from the Bakery. Nicholas broke it into small manageable pieces which were given to us at the Rail.

The remainder of the bread was taken to the coffee table for after the service refreshment and greeting of friends as usual in the South aisle.

October 10th and Harvest Supper when the weather should be fine and quiet with a big red moon but not to-night. Ah well! nothing is as it was — or was it?

Having raised our umbrellas and picked our way between puddles we arrived in the bright and well arranged Hall expectant for the usual cheerful and amusing celebration of Harvest safely gathered in, remembering how fortunate we are in this respect.

We were greeted by being offered a choice of drinks all of which looked delightful. We then mingled and greeted friends including the Bucknell family up from Somerset. It was good to see them. Nicholas started the evening off with a greeting and a prayer and we then found ourselves seats around the well arranged tables.

It was fine to have a sprinkling of children present. They started quietly and became noisier and noisier, showing that they were enjoying themselves.

The whole of the Entertainment and Catering Committee are to be loudly congratulated on the happy evening and the superb supper which we all enjoyed immensely and concluded that the Harvest in this country anyway was not suffering as might be suggested by the delightful rendering of the Harvest Hymn by four beautiful voices, i.e. Pip and Ann Rowett, Jane Dobson and Helen Taylor who called themselves The Alternative Choir in "Please don't alter the psalter any more".

### A Harvest Hymn for 1988

We plough the fields with tractors  
And desecrate the land,  
And dole out fierce insecticides  
With an unstinting hand,  
We tear up all the hedges  
And leave the topsoil bare,  
And if it turns to desert  
We won't be there to care,

*All good things around us  
Are sent for us to waste,  
So maximise your profits  
And leave the Earth defaced.*

We only are the makers  
Of pest-resistant strains,  
With bio-high-technology  
Who minds the acid rains?  
We paint the wayside flower  
To kill it in its prime,  
Don't talk of conservation,  
We haven't got the time.

*All good things around us.. . . .*  
We don't think much of people  
To work the modern farm,  
We'd rather trust in big machines  
And robots work a charm -  
Our cost-efficient methods  
Put thousands out of work;  
And if they dare to claim the dole  
We'll teach them not to shirk!

*All good things around us, . . . . .*

After this we had a coffee drinking interval while we recovered and then Margaret and Paul Reeves with Julia and David entertained us with guitar and singing of such popular songs as "Sinner Man", "Pick a Bale of Cotton", "Michael Row the Boat", etc. The audience joined in with clapping to rhymn and sometimes singing.

Then it was time to go with a word of thanks from Nicholas we doned our macs and went out into the cold, wet night after a most successful evening.

*Alison Thompson*

## **HCC AGM**

For an organisation which only meets four times a year, the Hampton Council of Churches has had a particularly good year. There is a much better spirit between the various member Churches especially since St. Theodores Roman Catholic Church has become involved, and there are now two or more enthusiastic representatives for each Church. There is still room for even greater co-operation but on the whole the organisation is in very much better heart and this was reflected in the numbers of people attending the HCC AGM and the prevailing spirit in which the business was conducted. We welcomed several new members including Father Fluery from St. Francis de Sales and Rev. Ronald Kemp from the Methodist Church.

One of the most successful achievements of the past year has been the donating of books on religious subjects to the two local libraries. These have been enthusiastically received by the borrowers and it is hoped to add to their numbers by purchasing some more books for the Children's Section with money left over from the original donations.

Another very important task undertaken under the auspices of the HCC is the organisation of Christian Aid Week locally. Here things are in a less happy position, a new over-all organiser is needed urgently and the amount of money collected is disappointingly low considering the area in which we live - £3628.04 in 1987. One reason for this is that not all the roads in the area are covered by collectors so we do need more people out on the streets in Christian Aid Week itself.

The distribution of the Christmas and Easter Service leaflets are still seen as a very worthwhile exercise in co-operation between all the Churches, as are the three United Services held each year and usually well attended.

The next few months should also prove very exciting. In the Autumn there are the four talks on bereavement and in the Spring the next step in the 'Not Strangers but Pilgrims' programme to be called "Who on Earth are you?" We hope that all the congregations will take part in this Lent Course in a really Ecumenical spirit. Groups leaders and meeting places will be needed for this so start thinking about what you might do.

Of course, many other topics come up for discussion, finance (not too good), Community Care (moving forward), the future of Hampton Clinic and many more, a rewarding and inspiring AGM and we look to the coming months with eager anticipation.

*H.T.*

## **A Weekend In Prague**

So far to go for such a short time, but it was abundantly worthwhile.

The World Conference of Religions for Peace, UK Group, has 4 members who serve on the European Chapter Executive: Canon Gordon Wilson, Prof. Harmindar Singh a Sikh, the Rev. Jonathan Blake our Youth Representative, and myself. Jonathan was on holiday after his strenuous activities with the Youth Bus trip in July. When Gordon heard of the date he regretted that he could not attend, as that particular Sunday, September 27th, was the anniversary of his and Jean's ruby wedding. "Oh", they all said, "do bring your wife with you and we will lay on a little service and really make it a celebration".

So we four set out on the Friday; Lufthanse to Frankfurt, and on to Prague by Czech Airways.

The time flashed by. We were welcomed by the Ecumenical Council of Czechoslovakia, our hosts, and in particular by our dear friend Mrs Ebertova who was with us throughout; subsequently we were taken out to their Conference Centre

20km outside Prague where we were staying. On the Saturday a sightseeing tour was laid on: we spent a few minutes in the oldest Jewish Synagogue in Europe in a very old quarter of the city, where the sabbath reading of the Torah was going on; on to see the memorial of Jan Huss, the Wenceslas Monument, to walk round the city square and view the mediaeval Town Hall, to climb up to the Castle and the big Cathedral, closed, which is prominent in most of the views of this beautiful old town. Back to a late lunch and on to sessions, principally devoted to plans for the next WCRP V Assembly to be held in Australia in 1989, and Europe's share in this.

On the Sunday morning we were off early to the Hussite church where Mrs. Evertova worships. There was a full congregation, and a memorable Liturgy with hymns sung with enthusiasm. The Bishop was there, elderly, with a lovely and kind face. He called Gordon and Jean forward. He had translated into English a service of thanksgiving for couples who had had 50 years of married life together, and the words were very moving. "My dear", they said to each other in turn, phrases, starting with "thank you for your care and love over these years", followed by saying together the words from Ruth when she says to Naomi her mother-in-law; "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God". The congregation welcomed us and we were taken upstairs and given champagne and biscuits. A lunch party followed. It was an unforgettable anniversary among our European friends, in that beautiful far-away city.

*Hannah Stanton*

## **Sight for the Blind Project**

A cheque for £365 has been sent on behalf of St. James's Church to help The Aged with a covering letter requesting that the money is to be used for their Sight for the Blind Project.

Thankyou everyone who reponded so generously. Even before the Coffee Morning a substantial sum had been anonymously donated by those going on holiday or not able to attend. By the end of the morning of 17th October that sum was trebled and during the following fortnight the total of £365 was reached.

I was in touch with Help The Aged and so got to know a remarkable Christian gentleman - Mr. John Pearson, (his photograph appears on the inside of the front page of the Christmas Catalogue copies of which were sent to us). I learned that Help The Aged came into being in 1961 out of a previous venture started by an industrialist friend of John's in about 1954 called Voluntary Christian Service. Friends and employees volunteered and John was one of the earliest and was involved in starting the charity under its present name. In 1974 India Help Aid was started and in 1984 Shri Lanka Help Aid. Third World countries are being encouraged to help themselves. The main source of financial aid is from the school childrens' Sponsored Walks. One project was to provide money for building a hospital ward; in fact enough money - three quarters of a million pounds - was raised to build two wards, one named after John Pearson and one after his friend.

The work continues and John keeps a close and careful watch to see that the money raised is used to best advantage. All projects are carefully vetted and opportunists are weeded out. John is very deeply personally involved, so much so that the photograph he took in a Help The Aged Eye Clinic is the one used for the Charity's Blind Project poster and the one you saw in the church. He is off to India this week. May God speed his journey and his work.

*Margery Orton*

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**C C G CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
**Saturday November 21st**  
**United Reformed Church Hall**  
**10.30am - 2pm**

**The night before at 9pm**  
**at THE STAR Keith Day**  
**will draw**  
**THE GRAND RAFFLE**

*Get your tickets now*

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Margery Orton will be grateful to receive Gifts suitable for the Christmas Gift Stall i.e. Toiletries, Jewellery, unwanted presents.

## **Stewardship Review - 3rd December**

After all the hard work in the summer we feel that many people in the parish will want to know what actually happened. The information has gradually been getting known but we have not had an opportunity of telling everybody, all at once. So on 3rd December, at 8pm in the Parish Hall, we shall do just that. We shall spend a short time putting across the facts in as easily digestible a form as possible.

We shall also, under the guidance of Ruth Mills, take a step further all the suggestions which came out of the groups as to where we go from here. She has made a study of the written reports which were most usefully put together. The PCC has already had a sight of her précis. Now the Stewardship Committee has asked her to guide our thinking and future action.

In the interim a short account of the financial improvement is given below:

<u>Pedged Giving (Envelopes &amp; Banker's Orders)</u>		1986	1987
January - March	£4332	£4229	
April - June	£3558	£4042	
July - September	£3424	£4702	

## **Diocese of London Hampton Deanery**

A conference will be held on Saturday, 14th November 1987, 10.30 (Coffee), Start 11am until 4pm at St. Mark's Church, St. Mark's Road, Teddington. Led by Professional Panel of Guest Speakers, the subject will be "Life After Debt". A Christian consideration of the world debt situation.

## **Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity -**

### **Financial Assistance to those in need**

This Charity exists for the purpose of relieving either generally or individually persons resident in the area of the Ancient Town of Hampton (which includes the area of Hampton Hill but not Hampton Wick) who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.

The Charity is about to consider the payment of grants for the year 1988 and, accordingly, persons falling within the categories referred to are invited to make application by the 31st December, 1987 on a form to be obtained from, and returned to, any of the following Vicarages:-

St. Mary the Virgin, Church Street, Hampton

All Saints, The Avenue, Hampton

St. James's, St. James's Road, Hampton Hill

Other persons and local associations/societies are kindly asked to bring this matter to the notice of those whom they consider might qualify for assistance.

## **Action Aid**

This is the name of a Charity which is growing in size rapidly but is still unknown to a large number of people. Here is a brief account of what it is and does.

It was started in 1972 as an educational charity which planned to help poor children receive a primary education in countries in Asia and Africa where there was still little opportunity for many, if not most of the population. Most of the support was derived from individuals in this country sponsoring individual children in the hopes that gradually matters would improve. Now that objective has been widened to include providing clean water (in much the same way that Christian Aid and Oxfam and World Vision do, and also support poor communities by introducing savings and credit schemes to allow those with no money to get started. The idea has caught the imagination of so many people that the income of the organisation has increased from £3.6 million in 1980 to £12.6 million in 1986.

Some people locally support Action Aid and the result of their efforts at a recent collection follows this article. The Headquarters is at:-

Hamlyn House, Achway, London N19 5PG.

Very many thanks to all who collected for, and contributed to Action Aid. Burtons Road, Bushy Park Gardens, Cranmer Road, Park Road and St. James's Road together raised £76.73, which will be used to help families in remote parts of Africa and Asia to build schools, dig wells and learn new skills which will make their future more secure.

*Susan Chubb*

## **Quiet Afternoon - 5th December**

It is quite some while since we have had an organised Quiet Day for the parish, and it has been remarkably difficult finding suitable places to book unless we are prepared to look more than a year ahead.

So we have asked Kitty Platt, Dean of Women's Work for the Kensington Area, who lives at Hampton to conduct a Quiet Afternoon in preparation for Christmas. It will be from 2 - 5 pm in the Church on Saturday 5th December. Do set the time aside - you will find it very worthwhile and just the thing to act as an antidote to the shopping madness.



## Letter from Africa

Milo Mission Hospital  
Box 32,  
Njombe,  
Tanzania.

17th August, 1987

Dear Hannah,

Its my hope that you are doing well since we left. I am grateful that I arrived safely and lucky enough Gideon Mhagama was at the airport to meet me, and he had contacted all the people working at the customs at the airport that everything went smoothly, they never charged me for anything I brought with me from Britain. I found my family well on my arrival but very unfortunately my eldest daughter is sick and she has been admitted in the hospital for about 5 days now, I don't know what will be the outcome.

Its my hope that Allan Taylor and his family are doing well, please send my regards to him, his family and all the conegagation of St. James, tell them that my crash helmet, the alladin lamp and the track suit arrived safely and that they are all ready in use.

This week we started using our new electricity power generated by one generator very unfortunately, the other generator is faulty that it couldn't start. I don't remember if I once told you that we received two electric generators from USPG, which were bought with Canon Gerald Harlow Memorial Funds. We are very grateful to have electricity in the hospital although it is very expensive to run but it is better than nothing. We are still praying that some one generous may send us funds for Hydro-electicity or the Windmill electric power. Tell Allan that I have given all the papers on Windmill electricity to Gideon Mhagma, who is our Development Officer, he will write to the dealers for further details very soon.

It is a bit warm now and people are busy harvesting their crops and very soon they will be preparing their fields for the new crops.

*B. Kilwale*

# From the Registers

## Baptisms

October 11 Richard Thompson Branksome, Albert Road  
Harry Conon Willkams 16 High Street

## Weddings

October 3 John Peter Sparks and Sarah Ann Savage  
10 Casiano Bueno Maese and Lynette Humphreys

## Funerals

October 1 Charles Bertram Coulling 8 School Road Avenue aged 78  
12 Sidney Norman Windsor Greenwood Lane aged 76  
14 Cecil Eric Barker 9 Fairlight aged 71

## Dates to Note

November 7 10.00 Churchward Working Party  
13 Visit of Margaret Cranston who will be speaking on Nepal at the Sunday Services and looking forward to meeting her friends.  
17 20.00 Properties Committee  
24 20.00 P.C.C.  
29 Special Music for Advent Sunday

December 5 14.00 Quiet Afternoon in preparation for Christmas led by Rev. Kitty Platt, Dean of Women's Work for the Kensington Area.

