

It is a privilege to be asked to write the introductory passage for The Spire. I have been associated with St. James's Church for some time, and I look back over the years with interest.

My first recollections of St. James's are of being taken as a small girl to Matins by my mother and being very bored; I gazed every week at the angel with the snake above the Vestry door (it turned out later to be a scroll), and I always felt terribly envious of my brother who had been taken out in the car by our father. Not a very propitious start.

As we lived near I remained faithful to, but uninspired by, St. James's. Then two lengthy absences from Hampton Hill occurred: 1940-1948 when our home was destroyed and was subsequently rebuilt after the War, and 1954-1970 when I was in Africa.

In 1970 I returned and connected up again with St. James's. To my astonishment it had new life. The laity had come forward to shoulder responsibility; it was their Church. The difference was striking. Was it Stewardship? The Time and Talents Scheme? A loving community endeavour? The Rev. Rupert Brunt in his inspiration, vision and prayer? A movement of the Holy Spirit? All these factors had come together. The church fabric itself - elderly, not over-carefully built, was cared for; the finances of the Church were put on a solid basis; drama, liturgical dancing, the healing ministry; support of missionary effort, etc., etc., were incorporated. This liveliness still endures with vigour, initiative and variety.

St. Paul with his list of gifts and advice to his early congregations might feel, I hope, that we, the people of St. James's are trying. Are we dimly aspiring to his vision of the make-up of the Body of Christ in his chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians, and in Chapter 13 where he describes the greatest gift of all, - love? The strengths have continued in St. James's, the togetherness, the readiness to take responsibility, the deep sense of prayer in worship, inspiration, the loving community. My brother preaching in St. James's recently spoke of the importance of relationships in building up the Kingdom of God; good, loving, permanent relationships. These are also emphatically needed in our corner of the Church as the Body of Christ, and we can hope that these are facts at St. James's in our worship, and in our love for each other, in the variety of our service in the community, and we hope in our outreach.

Come in and help us. We need young people to help carry this forward into the next decade.

Hannah Stanton

Quiet Day

A Quiet Day is being arranged for Saturday 26th November at The Close, Vicarage Road, Staines. Please note the date in your diaries.

St. James's Day

This year our patronal festival was given a special significance by the presence of the man who, having inherited a moribund church in 1953, slowly and firmly built it up over nearly thirty years of loving ministry so that Nicholas was able to consolidate and expand on firm foundations of love and worship. Thus it was very good to receive a warm and affectionate St. James's Day message from Nicholas and Susan which Alan read out at all services; it was very much appreciated and brought them close to us on this special day.

There was quite a bit of emotion in many hearts as Rupert Brunt appeared from the vestry to take part in the 9.30 Eucharist service and to preach. He described himself as having become 'rather dodderly' but it was soon manifest that this only applied to his uncertain steps caused by his deteriorated sight. Spiritually and mentally there has certainly been no deterioration. He spoke on Christian Vocation and said that in his experience during his ministry with us there were those who had followed and do follow this vocation faithfully and strongly. It would, he said, be invidious to mention those to whom this applied most markedly but he did give instances from his two former parishes of several people who had been called by God to serve Him in certain specific fields and had answered the call magnificently in God's power and guidance. Rupert was always a humble man and as he spoke I thought that little did he take credit for the inspiration and leadership that he himself had exercised over the years of following his own dedicated Christian Vocation.

The afternoon preacher was Alan Taylor, most certainly one of the people of whom Rupert had been thinking. As he spoke I gave praise for all he has done for St. James's in following his Christian Vocation. Indeed throughout the day I was deeply conscious of how fortunate St. James's has been during its life in the quality of those who have served it.

The church was even fuller in the afternoon than in the morning. Significantly many 'oldies' had made a special effort to come and see and talk to their old friends Connie and Rupert. I spoke to Mrs. White, surviving member of triumvirate which I used to call the three W's - Mrs. White, Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Winchester, faithful members of the MU in Connie's days as enrolling member.

Connie looked very young and pretty and has recently acquired a 'buggy' in which she can again wander far afield. It can take her shopping and also climb the slopes of their favourite walks which have always been a shared joy to them. Rupert and she dealt lovingly with a constant queue of old friends waiting to have a word - or several! Did they have a chance to sample the wonderful tea I wonder? Everyone else must have done because there was very little left over in spite of ample and delicious provisioning. Thanks to everyone who took part in this splendid day from everyone who took part - and thanks be to God.

Margery Orton

St. James's Day is always happy and the services particularly well attended. This year the excitement of the day was that 'Rupert was there'. Not only our loved past Vicar but dear Connie his wife as well, looking so young I thought I must be mistaken at first.

The Rev. Rupert Brunt looked so right in the pulpit as he preached his lovely sermon without notes but with deep inspiration. He looks so right because his face fits. It is the face of a man who meets life courageously as it comes and accepts his lot and gains from it and even if he can only dimly see your face he beams benevolence upon you and enthusiastically chats with one and all.

In the afternoon, a very special service with a tea party afterwards. The doubtful weather of this summer made it necessary for all but the most hardy to have tea in church and little groups gathered with our visitors mingling and talking with them although most wanted a special word.

Connie and Rupert are so much loved by the many people who knew them for nearly thirty years, each year deepening the regard and love that they felt for them, that the whole church seemed to be filled with mutual affection.

It must have been a tiring day for our special visitors but they showed no sign of it. They are used to loving and giving and we know they must have been buoyed up by the affection in which they are held.

Alison Thompson

St. James's Dancers Take Their Place in Multi-Faith Fund-Raising Event

The World Conference of Religions for Peace, UK branch, needs money to send delegates to the forthcoming World Assembly, WCRP V, to be held in Melbourne, Australia in January 1989. Part of the programme to raise money for this was a Multi-Faith fund-raising evening held on Wednesday, 22nd June, at the Bharatiya Bidya Bhavan, the Institute of Indian Culture, in West Kensington. It included items of music, dancing and song from a number of different Faiths.

We had been immensely cheered when Eila and her Liturgical Dancers accepted an invitation to provide the Christian contribution. The first dance showed how warring elements - vanity, selfishness, greed and anger - can be overcome by the reconciling effects of love and peace; the second portrayed unity through the sacraments. Both dances came over well.

The programme was a well balanced one, allowing for a welcome from our President, Mr. Maneck Dalal, from Hampton, who is also Chairman of the Bhavan. Mathoor Krishnamurti started us off with an invocation, and also made a rousing appeal for funds for us at the end. He is the Director of the Bhavan and is a good friend of WCRP. He introduced the impressive Indian musical contribution with the Indian vocalist and the veena players all with their fascinating instruments. Clare Shepherd accompanied herself on the guitar singing Yiddish and Hebrew songs as the Jewish

item. Shruti Pankaj from the Jain Community read us some of her poetry, without which no multi-faith programme would be complete. A member of the Baha'i Faith played the classical guitar beautifully, and the Baha'i choir arrived in strength to contribute their very impressive singing.

The item which took the evening by storm was the Kathak Dance by the daughter aged 9 of Mrs. Rajkotia; she was dressed, ornamented and painted up to the last toe-nail. Watching her dance was a joy, and the audience was entranced by the intricate Indian dance performed by this very talented Indian girl. Eyes, hands, fingers, feet, toes, the whole young body, was brought into vibrant action. After the prolonged applause, Mathoor Krishnamurti brought her teacher onto the stage. More applause!

It was a fascinating evening and everyone stayed and chatted and enjoyed a vegetarian meal. We raised £700 (expenses still to be deducted, about £10), a really good start to our fund-raising efforts.

Thank you St. James's for helping!

Hannah Stanton

Taizé

Taizé is the name of a village in mid-France where a small community of monks under their leader Brother Roger have developed a simple style of both living and worshipping. It has become a place of pilgrimage for many people from all over the world.

During the summer large numbers of young and not so young people live and worship there for a week at a time experiencing for themselves life in a community. One of the most notable features of the Taizé style of worship is the use of simple latin chants repeated over and over again in a modern form, often with more experienced singers taking a solo role so that it never becomes dull. Indeed the chants are very beautiful and their repetition enhances the beauty of both words and music so that the whole thing becomes a wonderful act of worship.

After a visit to Taizé last year a group of local Christians became so enthused that they decided in addition to their own weekly Taizé meeting, to which anyone may go, they would hold a monthly celebration in each of the local churches in turn.

In July it was the turn of St. James's to host the service. It was a lovely summer evening but the response in numbers of people attending was very poor, no more than twenty in total, which was a pity, because the singing especially was lovely, one young man having a beautiful voice, and the whole atmosphere very calm and peaceful.

The service in September will be at St. Mary's on 15th and in October at All Saints on the 13th. Many of you have enjoyed the services held early in the new year for the international Taizé meetings, so why not come along and join a local group worshipping in the same way?

Helen Taylor

Stewardship

In the first six months of this year, the total stewardship giving was £10,206 compared with the total for the first six months of 1987 of £8,271.

Time is Love

'Time is money' is a clichéd phrase with Victorian industrial origins.

We have had a recent 'rethink' about the share of our money that we are prepared to give to 'the church' but it has been many years since we were asked to look at our 'spare' time and consider how we spend it. Our time and abilities ('talents' if you prefer) also belong to, and come from, God. It is reasonable to suggest a review of how we each spend our time, and a consideration of tithing our time and using the skills and perhaps the material possessions - eg car, home, garden - we have been given, unselfishly, in God's service. Is there something arrogant in the thought 'God gave me no talents'?

Some time and skills, like the money we return for 'God's use', could be used directly in and around 'church'. Fellowship groups, church services and private prayer times are obvious. Any reader of 'The Spire' will be aware of the need for gardening, D.I.Y., cleaning, flower arranging and catering skills within the church building itself and the properties owned by the church. It may be that your skills and preferences are less directed churchwards and more to your fellow human beings. There is a great need for a Youth Group in our church. The Scout and Guide Groups can use all sorts of time and skills. Community Care and the Old People's Welfare Committee will put offers of visits and car driving to good use.

If you have time and talents that you can't find anywhere to place, someone can be found to use them! Time without obvious talent can be used. I'm sure, too, that there are people in need of help that we don't know about. If you or a neighbour have problems that the members of the church might be able to help with, please let me know. We'll have a letter box at the back of the church.

Perhaps the manner in which you spend your time may be more seriously considered if you think about another anonymous quote on the nature of time: 'Time is Love'.

Ruth Mills

News From Africa

A letter arrived recently from Tanzania to say that the consignment of babies' and children's clothes that we sent six months ago had now arrived in Dar-es-Salaa and Benaiah Kilwale is hoping to collect them very soon. Another parcel which was sent by post had already arrived and the contents distributed, all these clothes have been very gratefully received.

Benaiah himself is about to go on a week's training workshop on 'AIDS' and on his return to Milo he hopes to prepare an information leaflet on the prevention of 'AIDS' for distribution to the local parishes. Meanwhile Gideon Mhagama has now left Milo and is working as a Diocesan Development Officer in Njombe.

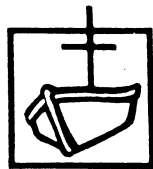
The letter concludes 'Sincere regards to the whole congregation of St. James's'. Thank you to all the people who gave clothes or in any other way helped in this venture.

Helen Taylor

Missions to Seamen -

Annual Service and AGM

July 5th was a very auspicious day for me, one I will always remember. It was the Annual Service and AGM of the Missions to Seamen. HRH the Princess Royal (Princess Ann) who is the President of the Society was received by the Lord Mayor of London and was with us all day. The service was held in St. Michael's Paternoster Royal - Dick Whittington's Church. It was a very good service. Princess



Ann read the lesson from Matthew 14 with great meaning, I felt. After we had sung some hymns (including 'Amazing Grace' which we were told was written by the ex-Captain of a slave ship who became converted and took up Holy Orders) and prayers being said, the Right Rev. C. Wright, B.A., Bishop of Monmouth and Liaison Bishop of the Missions to Seamen, himself an ex-Naval officer, preached a very good sermon, pointing out many aspects of the work done for seafarers world-wide. He used as his text 'Faith without Deeds is dead'. After the last prayer HRH left to receive us for luncheon in the Fishmongers' Hall, which is a magnificent place.

Young boys and girls from the National Sea Training College at Gravesend, lined the route as a guard of honour for us to the Fishmongers' Hall where a beautiful red carpet was rolled out for us to walk on. We were received by Princess Ann with a handshake for everyone and a lovely smile. I was fortunate to be greeted by her with the words 'I'm very pleased to meet you'.

After lunch, which was a buffet, we returned to St. Michael's where HRH, as Chairman, presided over the AGM. In her address, spoken with no notes, she described her many visits to Missions in far distant lands and emphasised how essential to the comfort and wellbeing of seafarers was the work of the Missions. She presented the President's award for 1988 to a very long-serving padre. A vote of thanks was given by the senior Chaplain and after the blessing the meeting came to an end. Outside we gave HRH a good send off by applauding her to her car.

Violet Clark, Local Secretary

A Coffee Morning on 23rd June raised £45 for the Missions to seamen. Thank you to all who attended, to the helpers and to Margery and Len Orton for the use of their home and garden. A further £7 was collected on Sea Sunday.

Hampton Hill Association

"Autumn" - an evening of music, words and movement by local professional and amateur performers including some remarkable young musicians and well-known faces and voices. Friday, 30th September 8.00 to 10.30pm at St. James's Parish Church, in aid of the Princess Alice Hospice. Tickets £1.00 from Dennis Dolan, 2 The Wilderness, Park Road (979 8641), Joyce Doughty, 228 Uxbridge Road (979 2839) or Hampton Hill Association Street Representatives. Light refreshments available during the interval.

Prayer 'n' Praise

Prayer 'n' Praise restarts on Sunday 11th September at 6.30pm and will continue throughout the winter on every second and fourth Sunday in the month at 6.30pm (also fifth Sunday where applicable). Since its tentative beginnings two years ago Prayer 'n' Praise has become a regular part of life at St. James's. The modern hymns and music are 'catching on' and people no longer appear surprised to hear the music of guitar and drums in church. Some of the new hymns appear so popular that some people would happily sing the same hymns each week and I receive complaints that they have been unable to get a particular hymn out of their mind for several days.

The best description I have heard for the service was from one member who described it as their 'spiritual uplift of the week'. The music may be modern but the message is two thousand years old. Come and praise the Lord and get your spiritual 'fix' on Sunday nights at Prayer 'n' Praise.

Paul Revis

Boys in the Belfry

One of a number of letters received from children who recently visited the church, printed - almost - as written, reads:

On Friday I went to a church clock. First I took a drawing of it then I went inside it: it was very creepy but of course I was not scared. When we reached the top we met Mr. Robinson who showed us how the clocks work. The clocks had some little thingamybobs that you wound up with a huge key but the man decided that he was getting to old for all this nonsense so he bought some motors that automatically round them up. It came to 15 minutes past 2 and the bells went off. They were quiet loud then came the bit when we were all aloud to pull the bells. BING, BONG, went the bells. Mr. Robinson was really deafened by the noise. Then we had to go down stairs. There was a long rope leading down for when someone died - however old they were was the amount of times rung. Jeetinder and I showed Mr. Robinson our pictures of the church clock and we had a last ring of the bell.

James

Parish Ramble

Come with us for our annual stroll through the pleasant Surrey hills on Saturday 10th September. Meet at the church at 11.00am and bring packed lunches. We will walk five or six miles and arrive back at about 5.00pm. There will be transport for those without a car.

David Taylor

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Good Carpenter needs Joiners

Monumental Inscriptions

Several People have expressed an interest in helping to record the graves and their inscriptions. An inaugural meeting of all interested will be held in Wayside on Tuesday October 11th at 8.00pm to discuss the way in which to proceed although the actual ground work will not commence until the spring. Anyone having any relevant knowledge or documents is asked to bring them to the meeting. The earliest graves are situated between the church and Park Road and it is hoped that this area will be tidied up prior to recording starting.

Helen Taylor

3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group

Mark Mulberry gained his Chief Scout's Award and has been invested into the Venture Unit. Well done Mark, a great achievement.

Geoffrey Nunn writes of the recent Cub-scout camp:

Summer Cub camp this year was at Gilwell National Scout Camp, between 26th and 31st July. Colin drove us there in the Rectory School bus. It was my seventh camp and third summer camp, but of all my camps, this was the best. The best activities were canoeing, archery and swimming. We made Indian head-dresses and put war-paint on. We had a coach trip out to RAF Hendon and Wembley Stadium. Also, we slept in the dormitories one night which was fun too.

A great time was had by Leaders as well as boys.

On Saturday 6th August, the Group held a Car-boot Sale at Four Winds car park. We wish we could report that it was a raging success but, due mainly to the lack of local support, this was not so. However a few pounds were made by the Group.

Future events for your Diary:

September 10th: B.B.Q. on The Triangle.
Parents and friends welcome.

September 18th: Sponsored walk along the Thames Towpath (Helpers are needed for supervision of our younger members).

Group T-shirts and sweat-shirts are now available, thanks to an ex-scout for designing our new logo. Please contact any Leader.

The Group sends its best wishes to Doris Childs - get well soon.

John Nielsen, GSL



Around the Spire

Many old friends appeared in church on St. James's Day and it was lovely to see them. We were particularly pleased to see Dilys Melville looking so much better and Gerwyn Anthony recently out of hospital. Other people couldn't manage to attend so we send them our love and best wishes.

Young Rosalind Bucknell has recently had a heart operation and seems to be progressing well. We know what an anxious time this must have been for Roger and Hilde and the family and hope that all continues to go well now that Rosalind is home again.

Two of our most well known and loved couples have recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversaries. We send our congratulations to Ron and Roma Bridges and to Hal and Eila Severn and wish them every happiness in the future. All of these people have given many years of service to the church and continue to do so. Without their efforts we should be much the poorer.

Also two other families have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries - Edna and Bob Salisbury and Joyce and Bill Long, all have had a long association with the church and we send them our congratulations.

Bob Walker is in hospital and we send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

St. James's Women's Tuesday Club

(Meetings at Wayside, St. James's Road at 8.00pm)

6 September	...	Social	
20 September	...	The History of Hampton Hill - talk by Mrs. M. Orton	
4 October	...	Hampton Court - talk by Mr. F. Robinson	
18 October	...	Victorian London - talk by Mr. V. Goslin	
1 November	...	Open evening	
15 November	...	Iceland - talk by Miss A. Hemmings	
29 November	...	A Visit to some of London's Famous Shops - talk by	
13 December	...	Christmas Party	[Mrs. M. Collins]

From the Registers

Weddings

July 16	Stephen Charlton and Rosemarie Dorothy Ivy Fuller Stuart Nathan Freeman and Helen Jane Dean
July 30	Guy Dean and Joan Baverstock

Wedding Blessings

July 23	Jeffrey Galler and Debbie Rule
August 6	Brian John Parfitt and Susan Clare Westcott

Funeral

July 26	Maureen Traylor	201 Uxbridge Road	aged 55
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Services and Dates to Note

September	4	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
	6	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club Social, Wayside
	7	14.30	Mothers' Union: 'Share a Recipe'
	8		The Blessed Virgin Mary
		19.15	Holy Communion
	10	11.00	Parish Ramble (see notice)
	11	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	13	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.15	Stewardship Committee, Vestry
	15	19.15	Holy Communion
		20.00	PCC, Vestry
		20.00	Taizé Service, St. Mary's, Hampton
	18	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Evensong
	20	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Talk by Mrs. Orton, Wayside
	21		St. Matthew the Apostle
		10.30	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning, 4 Byron Close
	22	19.15	Holy Communion
	25	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	27	09.30	Holy Communion
	29		St. Michael and All Angels
		19.15	Holy Communion
	30	20.00	HHA Concert (see notice for details)
October	1	09.30-12.30	Churchyard Working Party
	2	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Children's Eucharist
		18.30	Parish Communion
Advance Notices			
October	4	20.00	Tuesday Club: talk by Mr. F. Robinson
	5	10.15	MU Deanery Day, SS Philip and James, Whitton
		20.00	Healing Ministry in church
	9		Harvest Festival
			Sunday School re-opens
		09.30	Special Informal Service
	11	20.00	Monumental Inscriptions Meeting, Wayside
	15		Harvest Supper
	16		Harvest Festival Evensong
November	26		Quiet Day at The Close, Staines