

At the time of Harvest many parts of the world will have been rejoicing amidst conditions of plenty but elsewhere we are increasingly all too aware that there is no harvest, but famine and death due to flood, drought, war and poverty. But always we can rejoice at the constant evidence of the Harvest of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control - bringing light to times of darkness in the shape of aid and caring service and prayer.

Recently we have been made very conscious of this sort of caring in the work of the Princess Alice Hospice in aid of which the HHA concert 'Autumn', reviewed overleaf was performed in our church. The Trustee, Mrs. Jane Formby, told us that the work for the terminally ill is not sad or depressing but often beautiful and even joyful. The lovely word Hospice is that once given to the shelters along the Pilgrim Ways which offered aid and comfort to those nearing the end of their journey. Patients at the Hospice have the pain and distress of their symptoms individually met. Hospice care is total care, a partnership of skilled staff, family doctors and auxiliary services. Only a small group of patients die in the Hospice, most are enabled to die peacefully in their own homes, patient and family supported and strengthened during illness and after the death of their loved one.

Patients are referred by their family doctors and are admitted according to need regardless of religion, conviction or financial means. The building in Esher is a light, airy 26 bed building set in land-scaped gardens including trees and a lake. It has five single rooms and four five-bedded wards and at its heart is a non-denominational chapel always open for prayer and spiritual sustenance.

The Hospice is funded by legacies, by the efforts of many voluntary organisations, church groups; by its own League of Friends, by Charity Shops (there is one in Kingston) and by goodwill donations. They need a million pounds this year! Shall we think about how we can help?

We have been given permission to quote the inspiring poem which preceded the Trustee's address at the end of the evening:

"If I should die and leave you here awhile,
Be not like others, sore undone, who keep
Long vigils by the silent dust and weep.
For my sake turn again to life and smile,
Nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do
Something to comfort other hearts than thine.
Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine
And I, perchance, may therein comfort you."

Anon

The Princess Alice Hospice,
West End Lane,
Esher, Surrey KT10 8NA.

The healing balm of silence, the soothing rhythm of music and the spiritual uplift of prayer.

Have you a friend in need of help from your prayers? Or do you feel the need yourself? Why not join us for the Healing Services so that we may all support each other. We'd like to see you there.

*Life is fragile
— Handle
with prayer*



Autumn

I'm not really musical but "I know what I like" which is the stock remark of folks confronted with art above their comprehension.

Well, I know that I revel in organ music and particularly when played by our Olive Hayward on our magnificent organ, so for me she set the trend of the splendid concert on Friday 30th october, by her stirring and sympathetic rendering of Bach as an introduction to this artistic fiesta.

It was a wonderful evening of such high quality, variety and talent and so cleverly compiled by the presenters Angela Frances and Dennis Dolan. The cause was one which was bound to appeal - to help Princess Alice Hospice - and our church which was lent for this occasion was really full.

The thirty items on the long programme were so cleverly mingled and so beautifully performed that I find it just impossible to pick on any for praise above the other. Personally, I enjoyed it all: the artistes who were so talented and friendly and relaxed, the clever lighting, the smoothly flowing production and the beautiful flowers were all a joy. The audience could not have been more appreciative - perfect stillness, silence and loud applause.

Refreshments of the Fruit Cup and home made delicacies attractively presented in the interval were welcome and enjoyed and the break gave an opportunity to mingle and meet friends.

We would all like to thank the Hampton Hill Association and all who took part in this enjoyable production which gave us all so much genuine pleasure.

Alison Thompson

Dennis Dolan has asked us to express the HHA's gratitude to the Church Wardens and all church members for allowing the Association the use of St. James's and Wayside.

I am sure that we would be more than happy to have them come again!

Editor

The Quiet Day

Saturday, 26th November is the day before Advent Sunday, and it is on this day, as was mentioned in last month's Spire, that we are holding Our Quiet Day this year. It is particularly appropriate before Advent and Christmas.

We were told how very good was the Rev. Gordon Jess, the Chaplain of the Convent at Ham Common. It was no good writing to him as I was told about him on the weekend before the postal strike began. So I arrived at his front doorstep at 9 o'clock on the Monday morning! He is a very busy man - giving spirituality counselling courses in many areas, and he could not help us himself. He did, however, give us the names of some priests who, he said, would be very good, and to my great joy the Rev. Peter Sills from Barnes can be with us for the whole day on the 26th, from 10am until 4pm.

Sadly we haven't been able to have our day at the Convent at Ham, it now requires a year's advance booking to go there. Clewer in Windsor was also not available; but The Close in Vicarage Road, Staines can have us. This is a house where retired Deaconesses live: it's a very happy house with a lovely garden; the Deaconesses although they are mostly aged 80 and 90 are a tough, almost indestructible lot! We probably won't see them at all because the Warden, the Rev. Joan Kitney, will arrange for us to be on our own.

The Chapel has been prayed in regularly and faithfully for many years, and one can feel this. There is a large sitting room in which we can relax. We hope the day will be very special.

We shall need to take picnic lunches; coffee and tea will be provided. Please send in names in due course; transport will be arranged.

Hannah Stanton

The Church's Urban Fund

Many people will have heard Lesley Mortimer telling us on Sunday 9th October a little about this Fund which raises money to meet the needs in inner city parishes. St. James's has accepted the challenge and has £1000 as its target. A start has been made by Pip Rowett who is an expert in stamps, dealing in stamps on our behalf. By the time you read this there will have been a sale of home-made cakes in church on the first Sunday in November. There will be another such sale on the first Sunday in December - tell Lesley what you are going to make so that she knows what to expect. We will be offering a Christmas postal service for local cards during December. Delivery will be guaranteed before Christmas - there will be a small charge for each letter. There will be a postbox in church and more details will be forthcoming nearer the date. It will be a challenge to meet the target but with your help we are confident St. James's can do it.

Eila Severn

WANTED

A GAS COOKER FOR THE HALL Contact Jack Gostling 979 3748

The Annual Stewardship Review

The annual Stewardship Review will be held on Wednesday 23rd November, starting at 8.00pm. As usual it will be held in the Parish Hall in School Road.

There will be the usual short introductory talks from members of the Stewardship Committee, then an address by the Area Dean, Tim Higgins.

As established stewardship members know, the Review is an occasion where we not only assess our own financial affairs, but we try to look beyond our Parish boundaries and to see what part we should be playing in the world as a whole. As the needs of the world seem to become more desperate and pressing we may seem increasingly powerless to help effectively. Perhaps the Review is an occasion that will help us renew our resolve, and help us to build that faith which can move mountains.

Dick Wilde

Captain Noah's Summer Workshop

The success of this year's performances of 'Captain Noah' was mainly due to the hard work done by the children who took part at the Summer Workshop.

For two weeks in August - three days a week, they worked on their scenery, masks, animals, and costumes with great enthusiasm. Noah would have been proud of their efforts. (I did wonder, though, what he would have done with the surplus snakes, pussy cats, owls and lambs ! !) However all were displayed on the walls for parents and friends to admire.

A group of helpers joined the children every day to lend a hand where necessary, they also supplied tuck for the children and a most welcomed cup of coffee for the rest of us. Thank you Pam and Bridget for, yet another excellent production.

Megan Parry

Noah at SS. Michael and George

Having thoroughly enjoyed the previous musicals presented by the children's summer workshops, I went to St. Michael and St. George church with a sense of anticipation. I was not disappointed. It was a lovely production with the children enthusiastically miming the various stages of the story of Noah, obviously enjoying every moment. The music was superb with a good sized choir and backing musicians. Solo's were sung by some very talented singers (where have you all been hiding yourselves?).

We were then invited to partake of some refreshment and wander around looking at the many exhibits the children had produced - models, collages, puppets, posters, etc. It was, again, a very enjoyable evening.

Many people had obviously worked extremely hard behind scenes and participating in the performance but I would like to say a thank you especially to Pam and Bridget who have shown us again what a close, caring and encouraging relationship they have built with our young children from various churches and for putting so much energy and effort into our annual treat.

Marion Neville

Noah in St. James's Church

Twice in one week we have had the benefits of our "raising stage" demonstrated, at the Autumn Concert and latterly with Noah. The magnificent ark, the shimmering waves, the porthole through which Noah's family gazed in wonder and delight at the subsiding waters - all were visible to us.

We have read of all the months of preparation that went into this production and the result fully justified them. It was a splendid act of service and worship and also of fun and happiness.

Highlights - Pam Atkinson saying that it had been a privilege to work with the children and the adults helping in the sidelines, it is certain that they all enjoyed working with the every equable Pam! The excellent singing culminating in the magnificent Voice of God (Trevor, it was thrilling and compelling); the freshness and joie de vivre in the children's actions and faces; the rain - it truly did rain in sound and mime; the ecstatic face of one fairhaired kneeling boy as he gave praise for the deliverance from the flood. I'm really grateful for the experience of 'Noah' which will stay in my mind for a long time.

M.O.

Music for Advent Sunday

There will be a special service of Advent music on Sunday 27th November at 6.30pm. We are now approaching the 'busy season' for Church Choirs and singers. It is hoped to include as part of the Advent music one of the choruses from part 1 of Handel's 'Messiah' and for such an undertaking a full turn out of singers is essential. Rehearsals for this music and the Christmas music take place after morning service every Sunday. I would urge all those of you who are singers or aspiring singers to support Olive in these rehearsals so that the quality of our musical offering of worship may be improved and enhanced.

P.M.R.

A Pilgrimage to Canterbury continued

Our way now took us by fields of wheat and (mostly) barley, by the side of which some Americans noticed what they called 'Queen Anne's Lace'. Very poetic! 'Oh', I said prosaically, 'that's cow parsley!'. I noticed an American lady wearing a hat with 'AA' printed on it. Somewhat tactlessly I asked if that meant 'Alcoholics Anonymous' or perhaps 'Automobile Association'. She told me that it meant American Airlines, for whom she worked and by whom she had been given a free trip over. We had our sandwich lunch sheltering from a shower in the doorway of an ancient Roman villa.

A short distance before Otford we stopped at the ancient village church of Shoreham to say Evensong. At Otford itself, near Sevenoaks, the village pond is the only area of water in England to be designated as a listed building. It is just across the way from Cranmer's Palace, one of a string of houses the Archbishops kept from Canterbury to London as 'post houses'. This one Henry VIII stayed in on his way to the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold' where he met Francis I of France.

As there was a 'Kung Fu' class in the church hall and sleeping bags could not be laid out, some of us filled in the time by inspecting the village pub opposite (after I had had a practice drive in the mini-bus around the car park in readiness for my next day's stint into Rochester). 'The Bull' was not named for a farm animal, but after the Papal Bull issued in the time of Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII. The inside was even more interesting than the outside (my American friends were particularly interested in the draught Guinness!) with Thomas A'Becket's chair in a corner.

As I drove into the busy streets of Rochester and parked the mini-bus, I found I had an afternoon free to explore or rest. There is a peaceful garden near the Dickens museum suitable for contemplation. There was more Kung Fu in the church centre (onward Christian soldiers!) but we were able to have Evensong before most made their own arrangements for supper (fish and chips) while Elsie, Jean, Sidney and I found a very pleasant little restaurant in town for dinner and an enjoyable evening.

From Rochester we walked over the new motorway bridge, on a special footway by the road, over the Medway. Then we continued down a lane past Kits Coty House, an ancient burial place older than Stonehenge. A stop for a pub lunch at Boxley was followed by Evensong said in the old church. We were then not far from Maidstone, where we found a modern church hall (rebuilt after a fire) with up-to-date facilities, where our caterers, who had been shopping, put on a splendid meal.

Before that, in the interests of international harmony, I had taken a group of American ladies to the nearest pub down the road. There we found ourselves sitting under a picture advertising 'Southern Comfort'. One of the ladies had intrigued me with her lilting Southern accent. She and her sister, also on the pilgrimage, were known as my 'Southern Belles'. The other sister turned out to be the wife of the Bishop of Missouri, in Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference.

From Maidstone our route took us eventually to another village pub, where we had lunch in the garden, and another old church where we said Evensong. Then we arrived at Wye Agricultural College, where we were all put up for the night in splendid comfort, with lots of showers and warm baths followed by a resplendent dinner served (not cafeteria style as we had thought) by the staff. Speeches and transatlantic compliments flowed. Afterwards, in the common room we had Eucharist American style, the wine used for the consecration being champagne (fermented juice of the grape OK) which had been given to my AA friend by the cabin staff on the flight over 'for use on the pilgrimage'. Quite an appropriate use! What remained after the Eucharist was poured into plastic cups for a more secular celebration.

The next morning we all joined in the parish Eucharist at Wye Parish Church, where we found that the organist was a member of APF. Sidney Hinkes preached a rousing sermon, during which he recalled a route march in his army days when they passed a village church with a poster outside saying, 'Lead us into the way of peace'. All the soldiers spontaneously cried 'That's what we want!'.

The last stage of the walk into Canterbury, along a very narrow and overgrown section of the Pilgrims' Way, got steadily slower and wetter and quite cold. It seemed appropriate for us to pass the villages of Soakham and Chilham! Time was pressing if we were to arrive in time at Friends' Meeting House (where lunch was awaiting us) in time to change for the final procession through the streets of Canterbury in to the Cathedral

for Evensong at 3pm.

I walked on ahead as briskly as I could and gave notice of the impending arrival of the main body. I stripped off my wet things, managing to change my trousers in a crowded room under my cassock!

The Dean, or rather Vice-Dean, met us at the South door to receive the 'Letters From the Churches' which we had carried with us on our journey. They were the result of a series of regional Consultations at Coventry (where Hannah preached), York, Oxford, Durham, Bristol, Cardiff, Auckland and Wellington in New Zealand (where I took part), Manchester and finally Canterbury (to be delivered later) which was a report of American activities. The Americans had actually drafted their own special letter to Lambeth during the pilgrimage, and handed it over to the Vice-Dean with ours.

We were a little disappointed (some Americans very irate) that places could not be found for us in the Choir, which was full of visitors (some of the younger ones creeping out before the end of the service, having had enough!).

After all this we APF members and four Americans went on to Margate for our week's Summer Conference. This was one of the Sundays I had off from St. James's - but I was back just in time for the St. James's Day celebrations.

Gordon Wilson

Hampton Hill Association

EXHIBITION OF LOCAL ARTS, CRAFTS AND HOBBIES, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12th in the Hall of Hampton Junior School, St. James's Avenue. 2.00 to 6.00 pm. This popular exhibition, held every other year, has attracted a wealth of local talent and some very unusual skills and hobbies. A particular feature has been the many demonstrations of crafts. New exhibitors are very welcome. Please contact Dennis Dolan 979 8641, Joyce Doughty 979 2839, Linda Bournnell 979 3038 or, for childrens work Sally Low 979 9473. Tickets at the door 20p Adults, 10p children.

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity

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 1989 and, accordingly, persons falling within the categories referred to are invited to make application by the 31st December, 1988, 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

G.I. Robinson, 36 St. James's Road, Hampton Hill (*during the interregnum*)

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.

Eileen Newman

Eileen will be very much missed by us all. She was invariably cheerful, always willing to help and possessed of a great social spirit. She was a member of the Mothers' Union; she served actively on the Old People's Welfare Committee for thirty years and was a Warden. She visited 197 Uxbridge Road nearly every day caring for the residents, often nursing and doing willingly tasks that many people would shrink from doing. She was also an interested member of the Towns Womens' Guild and also of the Women's Voluntary Service helping at the Saturday Parties for many years.

I am told that she and her husband both shared an active interest in old fire engines and Eileen was a passenger on one in the Carnival - was it in 1986? She had wide interests indeed.

Her determined victory over a crippling accident was made possible by her great courage and indomitable spirit. Many people in many walks of life, on hearing of her death, must have thought 'Well done, good and faithful servant'. It is quite certain that she has entered into the joy of her Lord.

She has one daughter, Constance, to whom we extend our deep and sincere sympathy.

M.O. & E.S.

Doris Childs

As we go to press we have heard of the death, peacefully, in Exeter Hospital of this faithful servant of St. James's. A tribute to her life and work among us for so many years will appear in our next issue.

From Margaret Cranston

Dear Friends, We're just coming to the end of term one exhausted and ready for a break. The term started with 37 girls living here with me (we just managed to fit the 37th bed in) but as the weather got hotter 37 proved to be too many for this house so half way through the term the six oldest girls moved into the health centre at school. They will probably stay there until the new hostel is complete. The building is progressing slowly and when I've asked for a possible completion date I've been told anything between June 88 and December 88 or later depending on whom I asked! At different stages there have been different problems. In recent weeks we've changed the roof. It was going to be made of fibre concrete tiles but after a recent hailstorm broke three similar tiles to the health centre roof, letting in water, we decided it would be less risky to use corrugated tine sheets.

It's been a frustrating term in many respects and at times I've felt like packing up and coming home. I enjoy the work in the hostel and the teaching, although it's exhausting but I've found the committee meetings and future planning discussions stressful and depressing. On the academic side we are aiming at 'O' levels in 1991 but the Nepali staff are not yet qualified to teach to this standard and we have not been able to get even the minimum number of UMN teachers required. On the hostel side I feel that because I'm not Nepali and not male I'm not listened to. Even on issues relating to girls all the major decisions are made by men! The current issue is a proposed high stone wall topped with barbed wire around the new hostel. I don't want it because I

feel we're trying to integrate girls not imprison them, to break down barriers not to build them. The idea of co-ed boarding schools is a new one for this country and people fear the unknown. The idea of treating girls the same as boys is revolutionary.

Many times I have to compromise but on some issues I've felt that as a Christian I have to stand up for certain principles. This is not easy, and when I'm already tired from the regular work, these discussions can leave me completely drained. Please pray that I may have wisdom to know when to give in, when to compromise, when to fight and when to leave. I'm not looking forward to next term but after that things should start to improve. 31 girls in this house is not easy. Our water runs out frequently and the electricity has not been very reliable (a couple of weeks ago it was on extra power all day and it blew eight light bulbs!). It will be the monsoon term - hot, wet and 16 weeks long (19 June - 10 October). Also, I don't find it easy to get to church or other meetings and often miss what's going on. Many of these problems will solve themselves when the new hostel is finished.

I've got a poster on my bedroom wall which says 'Help me to remember, Lord, that nothing's going to happen today that you and me can't handle together'. Add to this Matthew 6 v 33,34 '..... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself'. And there's hope!

Enough of my personal problems. A few months ago the government asked UMN to withdraw all its village school teachers. This has affected about eight folk. One couple have transferred to the school here, others have gone home. Jean is still in Kathmandu waiting for permissions to come through for her re-assignment.

Annual Conference (UMN) starts in Kathmandu next Friday (20 May) for one week. It will be good to meet various people again and catch up on all the news as well as have time for fellowship and bible study.

Here in Pokhara we've had some fantastic views of the mountains recently - unusual for this time of year.

'O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

.....' Psalm 8.

With much love,

Margaret

From the Registers

Baptisms

September 18	Emma James Cox	44 Bishop's Grove, Hampton
	Karina Jane Brough	67 Stanley Gdns. Rd. Teddington
25	Maureen Jane Savage	56 Rivermeads Ave., Twickenham
	Maureen Adley	81 Connaught Rd., Teddington
	Lorna Elizabeth Gordon	263 Uxbridge Rd.

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE - 29th NOVEMBER

Weddings

September 17 Andrew Burgoyne Nicholas Merks and Mandy Seabrook
Garry Russell Soleil and Tracey Michelle Mynott
24 Stephen Grant Lear and Kaye Jacqueline Roodenburgh

Funeral

September 22 Osmond Dennis Jener 139 Wordsworth Rd., Hampton aged 67

Services and Dates to Note

November 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY
09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 Parish Communion
20.00 MU Discussion Group
20.00 Tuesday Club Open evening
2 Mothers' Union AGM
3 19.15 Said Evening Prayer
5 09.30-12.30 Churchyard Working Party
6 08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Informal Service
18.30 Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
7 20.00 Liturgical Dancing (*to be confirmed*)
8 09.30 Holy Communion or Morning Prayer
20.00 PCC (Vestry)
10 19.15 Holy Communion
13 08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion
17.00 Said Evening Prayer
18.30 Prayer 'n' Praise
14 14.30 Ladies Choir
20.00 Liturgical Dancing
20.00 MU Discussion Group
15 09.30 Morning Prayer
20.00 Tuesday Club - Talk on Iceland
17 19.15 Said Evening Prayer
20 08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion
18.30 Evensong
21 20.00 Liturgical Dancing
22 09.30 Morning Prayer
23 20.00 Stewardship Review, Parish Hall
24 19.15 Said Evening Prayer
26 10.00 Quiet Day at The Close, Staines
27 08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion
17.00 Said Evening Prayer
18.30 Advent Music Presentation
28 20.00 Liturgical Dancing
29 09.30 Morning Prayer
20.00 Tuesday Club - Talk on London's Shops
30 ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE