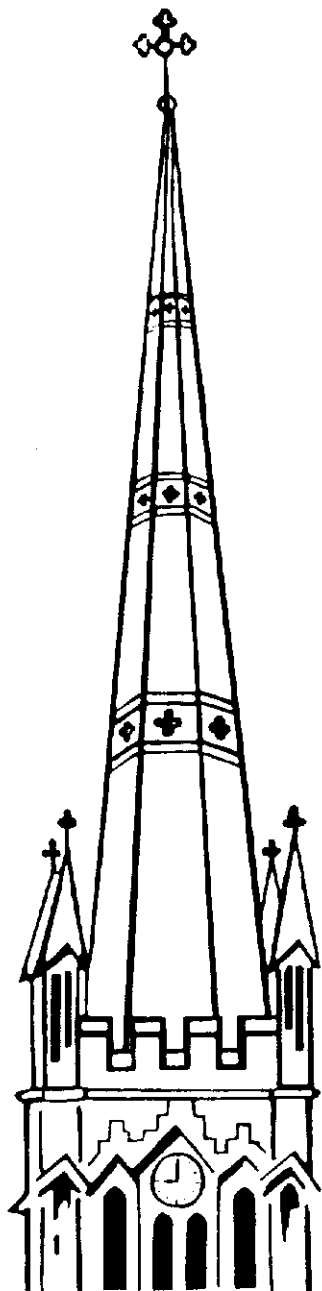


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
HAMPTON HILL



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SERVICES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

PARISH COMMUNION Sundays, other than first in month 09.30

First Sunday in month 18.30

INFORMAL SERVICE First Sunday in month 09.30

OTHER SERVICES and HEALING MINISTRY

Please see 'SERVICES AND DATES TO NOTE'

INFANT BAPTISM After due notice, at Parish Communion
or on Sundays 15.00

SUNDAY SCHOOLS Every Sunday (except first in month
and during holiday periods) in Wayside 09.20

The three days immediately after Christmas, 26th, 27th and 28th December, are all special. At St. James's Church they are observed with services of Holy Communion on each day.

The first commemorates St. Stephen, and we read about his witness to his faith in Acts chapters 6 and 7. He is described as a person full of grace and power and able to speak with inspired wisdom. He gives an account, when challenged, of the salvation history of the Jewish people, a resumé of God's dealing with mankind, and ends by accusing the Jews of fighting against the Holy Spirit and murdering Christ. His hearers are infuriated; they turn on him and stone him to death. He is remembered and honoured as the first Christian martyr.

It is astounding to find his festal day placed so immediately after Christmas Day with its joy and peace, and the quiet in the stable in Bethlehem. The impact of the horror of Stephen's death is like a dramatic pistol shot; after the wonder and the adoration here we are down to earth with a bang. It is a reminder of what witnessing to Christ meant in those early days, and what it involves in parts of the world now. And how like this life can be: suffering and joy can be very near each other, Christ shared and shares the suffering.

On the second day, we remember St. John the Evangelist, a great witness for which to be thankful. Here is a gospel containing such deep mystery and yet such loving simple words of comfort. I suppose that among the four gospels the Gospel of John emphasises most of all the Glory of God through the life and work of this God made Man, Jesus. The miracles, the signs (they are explicitly described as signs), point to the revelation of the glory and power of God, as well as to the wonder and astonishment of the recipients of the sign or miracle.

The first verses of the gospel, the unforgettable prologue, with verses including 'the Word was God' and 'the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us' sum up for both Jew and Greek the most important fact in history, the Incarnation.

There is much praise, thankfulness and worship of God to be expressed on the feast of St. John the Evangelist.

And on the third day, we recollect the story of the savage jealousy of King Herod, and how, in order to avoid trouble in Judaea, he acts quickly to exterminate any future contender for power. The baby boys in Bethlehem are brutally killed off. The prophesy in Jeremiah 31 is realised:

'A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping;
Rachel weeping for her children'

We pray for our children in the world to-day and often share the weeping of the mothers in Bethlehem. The day of the Holy Innocents focusses our caring on the world's children.

Hannah Stanton

Quiet Day at Staines

About twenty of us were welcomed to The Close by Joan, the warden, and by the Rev. Peter Sills, and served a most welcome cup of coffee and biscuits. The hum of conversation in the warm sitting room made one immediately part of a loving family. The day naturally started with prayers and then it was emphasised by Peter that it was important to drink from our own wells, grow deeper roots and to develop our own resources, in other words, to learn to find God within ourselves. We were to think about the Holy Trinity during the day and we were asked to imagine the picture or feeling which came into our minds when we thought of God as Trinity. Talking about God as a Trinity is to talk of God as an experience. We were asked to meditate on the following questions:

How are you in yourself?

What is the self you let others see?

What is the self you hear coming back from others?

I realised as I thought about each question that I was fine in myself and grateful for God's loving intervention in my life, 'Thy hand O God has guided'. I know I need God, that I am in a state of dependence on Him and that I long for Him to be continually active in my life. I depend upon Him and He depends on me to spread His message of love, hope and salvation to all people. Ah well! I thought sadly but where is the ACTION on my part. One's needs are always met if one taps the life-giving source with a thankful, repentant and forgiving heart.

The second talk concerned how the Bible shows us the changing image of God from the O.T. vision of Him to that of the N.T. We were asked the following thought-provoking questions:

Where is God in St. James's Church?

Where is God in the political process?

Where is God in the disaster areas and in the areas of deep conflict - in Ethiopia, the Sudan, Nicaragua, S. Africa, Northern Ireland, the Lebanon and now, sadly, in Armenia?

At lunchtime, which was to be the focal point of our day we were to think about Jesus and the Eucharist. Jesus - a new beginning, a new creation which comes from forgiveness, Jesus as love. Jesus Christ left a rite of remembrance to us in the Eucharist. As we gather round His table we are a symbol of His unity and peace. We went back to basics and then, step by step, we took part in an agape - a love-feast held by early Christians in connection with the Lord's Supper - a feast combining brotherly and spiritual love. This communion service included a loving giving of the Peace to one another. As an integral part of our celebration we partook of a simple but delicious meal of fruit juice, Pilau rice and pitta bread prepared by Margaret Taylor, Margaret Revis and Helen Taylor and quietly served by them and by Peter. The eating of it had a sacred significance and we were asked either to be silent or converse quietly imagining how the disciples must have conversed at the Last Supper.

Several of us then took advantage of a walk in the fresh air in the peaceful garden. After our break the third session was God within, the Holy Spirit, and Peter talked

about the fruits of the spirit and aptly commented that they are all 'us-shaped'. The Holy Spirit helps us to discover where God is calling us and we were assured that if we made a journey inside ourselves in Christ we would find our heart's desire. We practised the prayer of silence, imagining ourselves in the situation of the disciples in the locked upper room after the crucifixion. (It was recommended to us that we start a spiritual diary as a useful way of knowing how God is working in our lives.)

We ended our day, which had flown, with a short service in the chapel and anyone who so desired was invited to partake of the laying on of hands. We finished with a scrumptious tea of buttered scones and tempting biscuits with everybody saying how much they had enjoyed their day. Our thanks to Peter Sills for his able, lucid and spiritual leadership and also to Hannah and all those others who arranged and helped so effectively the organisation of the day.

Thank you too, Holy Spirit, for moving our hearts to spend a day away from the rush and bustle of our ever-pervading world in order to be attentive and receptive to His will for us. Praise the Lord.

Janet Jeffries

Modern Music

As we learn more modern hymns and choruses I am sometimes asked if it is possible to obtain the music or whether instead of just duplicating words we could provide a copy of the melody line.



The main book that we now use is 'Spirit of Praise' which is published by Word Music. This is obtainable from most Christian bookshops but for the next few weeks there will be a list on the bookstall for anyone who would like us to obtain a music copy. The price is about £7.00 for a full music copy. There is no edition published which has only a melody line.

The music for the songs on the supplement sheet is more difficult. We belong to the Church Music copyright scheme which enables us to duplicate the words of practically any modern hymn. This enables us to select the best of recent compositions and to keep up to date with new music as it is written. This scheme does not include the music and we are expressly forbidden to duplicate it for the congregation. The problem is compounded by the fact that we may only use one song from a particular collection and it is obviously not worth buying a book for one song. If anybody does wish to obtain the music I will always be pleased to tell them the source of any particular favourite.

I feel however one of the main attractions of these modern hymns is the ease with which they can be learnt. When 'The Travellers' are playing we will always try to 'teach' a new song by going through it with the congregation before it is sung. We hope in this way to avoid the need for members of the congregation to purchase music. In conclusion may I just say on behalf of myself and my fellow 'Travellers' a thank you to all those who have encouraged us with words of thanks and appreciation. We hope that the prayer of 'Shine Jesus, Shine' may be answered both for ourselves and our fellow members of St. James's.

Paul Revis

A Journey in China

The story of our journey started a year earlier, when one of my wife's school friends from Los Angeles, wrote saying she wanted to take a party of her class mates, who graduated in 1937 from the China Inland Mission, CIM School, Yantai, on a tour of China. The party was comprised of ten old girls from the same class, two other females and myself. Five were from England, one from Canada and seven from the USA. We all met at the Regal Meridien Hotel, Kowloon, Hong Kong on Sunday 17th July. Some members of the party had not seen each other for over fifty years.

We entered China by air conditioned train from Kowloon on 18th July to Guangzhou, Canton. It takes three hours and you lose an hour crossing the border. All China is in one time zone, Beijing time. We stepped off the train into 90°F and 90° humidity, it was the hottest time of the year. We were met by our China International Travel Service, CITS, guide, a young woman, Song Xian Ling, Wendy Song for short, who travelled with us throughout our three and a half weeks. Our Canton guide used the name May. At each stop on the tour we were met by the local guide, either man or woman and nearly all were university educated. Their English was usually good but trained on American accents, our speech they found difficult to understand. The minibus drivers mostly had basic English and the vehicles were all Japanese. One is struck by the vast number of people there are everywhere and the thousands of bicycles in the cities where there are no hills. Both sexes looked clean, healthy and well fed, everywhere we went.

Canton has a history of 2800 years and more than 3.3m inhabitants. We visited an ivory and jade carving factory. The latter had wretched working conditions. We saw the first of many Buddhist Temples. The three huge cast brass statues, made 1633 AD of the Buddha indicate by the position of their hands, the past, present and future. We went to a Free Market, where you can bargain for anything from jewellery to live frogs for the pot, but you need your guide to help you. Each Town has one of these markets for the Chinese and the cities on the tourist circuit also have a Friendship Store, where only Foreign Exchange certificate money is accepted.

No tap water is safe for drinking anywhere in China. A large thermos of boiled water is supplied in all hotel bedrooms, on sleeping car trains and on the cruise ships on the Yangtze. You need to bring your own coffee, tea and powdered milk, but tea bags of the local variety are supplied in some hotels.

Our flight to Shanghai was delayed several hours while a typhoon passed to the north of Canton. From the aeroplane en route, we were able to see the eye of the storm far away to the west, before darkness engulfed us. The next day we visited the Children's Palace, where during the holidays gifted children attend classes in music, ballet, singing and dancing, some as young as three. Members of the party who had lived in Shanghai tried to find their old homes. The C. of E. cathedral, where my father-in-law had preached, is in good condition, but now used as an office and warehouse. I stood on the bank by the Huangpu river with Alison, where she embarked for the first time for England in 1934.

We flew on to Quingdao, known as 'A pearl on the Yellow Sea coast'. It had been a German Treaty port from 1898 to 1918. They built a brewery, which still produces the

best beer in China. At all meals, except breakfast, we were served with a weak beer or mineral water and soft drinks. Many Chinese were swimming. We were told, the only holidays the Chinese get were their national days and you only got one or two weeks paid leave a year, if you worked for the government. So on by train to Yantai, a journey that took all day. Being a railway buff I was pleased our long fifteen coach train was hauled by a huge 2.10.2 steam loco, more like a French one to ours. Chefoo is the old name for Yantai. The present name means 'fire beacons'. These were lit along the coast to warn of invasion in the past. The CIM school, which was founded in the then small seaside village in 1881, grew to be one, if not the best school of its kind, in China. One day, after sixty years, in December 1941, the Japanese army marched into the town and closed it for ever. Now Yantai and surrounding district has a population of 8m. We were to see the Girl's School with its dormitories and other school buildings but could not go in them, as they are now occupied by the Chinese navy. I swam in the Yellow Sea, off the beach where my wife swam daily as a girl. Our party of thirteen was given V.I.P. treatment, including a banquet by the local director of CITS and a T.V. interview in a room at the hotel. Alas we were never to see the tape of it put out by the China T.V. station.

On Sunday morning I attended a two hour Christian service. The first hour was taken up with singing the same passages over and over again. The choir master used his pointer to show each line of characters written on a huge board. The second hour was taken up by the pastor's sermon. Afterwards we took tea with the church elders. They told us the church was built in 1922 and there were about three thousand Christians in Yantai, towns pop. ¾m. and about five hundred attended church regularly.

Our journey continued by overnight train to Jinan. It was very crowded, but fortunately we were in four berth, first class compartments. One had to be agile to climb to the top bunk, as no ladder was provided. We flew from there to Beijing. We visited all the historical sights, the Imperial Palace Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall along with tourists of many nations. The Chinese have to queue for two hours to see Chairman Mao's embalmed body in a vast mausoleum but as tourists we were allowed to join it at the front. We had our Peking duck banquet at a Moslem Chinese restaurant, which served no pork.

(To be concluded)

AlwyneLoyd

Church's Urban Fund - Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who attended at 30 St. James's Road on December 1st and helped to make a fund-raising event into a pleasant social morning. £90.20p was raised towards St. James's target of £1,000. We have heard that we are just about on our half-way mark. Hannah Stanton will be having a Coffee Morning in January and Ruth Gostling in February - keep a look out for the dates.

Margery Orton

Where two or three are gathered together in my name there will I be also, Jesus said.

What better company could you have?

Who better could you tell your troubles to, and ask for help, healing and guidance.

We'd like to see you there in the Healing Service.

***Life is fragile
— Handle
with prayer***



A Meditation

'In the beginning the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters and God said "Let there be Light" and there was light.'

That light still shines; nothing that evil can do shall ever quench it. It shines in the Word, it shines in Christ who came into the world, who is in the world to be the light of the world; it is revealed by the Holy Spirit still moving over the face of the waters of life leading those who seek towards the realm of All Truth. That realm is not far distance - it is at hand - touchable, to those who the Spirit guides.

The Spirit of God is that which discloses the secrets of God's wisdom and power to the spirit filled, filling them even more; the spirit of God takes the mustard seed, so small, so tiny, and makes it grow; it is the living water that watereth the garden and brings it to life; it is that of God which brings the things that are not yet in Man to full maturity so that the things, the weaknesses that are yet in Man are overthrown, the things of the flesh must give way to the things of the Spirit, only through the Spirit of Christ can Man reach the shining resemblance of God - He who made Man in His image. The Spirit reveals the reality of the promises of God through Christ His Son and leads Man to belief. All the wisdom of Man's intellectuality cannot change human nature, it is the Spirit that opens Man's mind to the secrets of the Lord.

In the Spirit of Christ that which Man's wisdom deems impossible becomes possible and the possible becomes reality. Pray then for the Holy Spirit to come to you to open up ways that are still unopened and to lead you ever closer to God. The Spirit it is who helps you and your human limits to grow less, that God in His unlimited wisdom and power may grow more in you. The more the Spirit fills Man the less room there is for the limitations of his humanity. The Spirit's power decreases these limitations and opens the Way. The Spirit, with God and Christ Jesus IS the way, the truth and God-given Life in all its glory.

Margery Orton ('Set down' at the end of 1970)

A Review with another View

On 23 November we had a relaxed and informal Stewardship Review which was enjoyed by all who came. There were almost forty people present to hear the Area Dean Timothy Higgins talking about his ideas on the ever-interesting topics of stewardship and giving. Before the Area Dean spoke, Moya Meredith Smith, chairman of the committee, introduced the evening and Dick Wilde, our Recorder, gave some figures about the current state of the scheme. At the end of 1988, stewardship giving plus the tax refund from covenants will produce about £26,000 giving a total income, with other giving, etc., of some £30,000 out of which £22,000 will go to cover both this year's quota (for the Diocese) and the deficit owed from last year. We shall aim to make £3,000 of charitable donations, leaving only £5,000 to cover all the expenditure. There are 119 'names' in the stewardship scheme, of whom 85 give £1 or more each week; 10 people give nearly £7,000 between them and are also responsible for about £2,000 of the tax refund. Dick stressed, in conclusion, the gratitude the committee has for the generosity of all contributors, whatever their resources.

Timothy Higgins had chosen as his theme 'The role of stewardship at St. James's and in the wider Church'. He decided to concentrate on the 'money' aspect, whilst in no way denying the importance of the role of 'time and talents'. What, he wondered, is the connection between wallet and worship? If a stewardship commitment reflects earnest thought and prayer, and accompanies a right decision on other aspects of life, then that donation is the correct amount, whatever it may be. He touched on the Jewish custom of giving a 10% share of income to their church - if we in the C of E did this our own problem would be that of too much money! - if we contributed 5% of income, as a result of which church income would double, we could meet our quota easily and plan generous charity donations on behalf of the whole parish.

Next he touched upon the interesting subject of 'confidentiality' and suggested that perhaps we are too secretive about our giving. Should we not be able to say what constitutes our gift to the church as freely as we demonstrate our spending on cars, holidays, clothes etc., the value of which can be assessed by all? Would a careful study of our bank statements not reveal to us where our true priorities lie?

Finally, Timothy spoke of the way giving money can contribute to and enrich worship, telling us of a previous church of his where the money was collected in silence and carried to the altar without the offertory being 'masked' by music so that the 'giving' played its own part in the service. He said, in conclusion, that he felt a great freedom of spirit came to those who exercised great generosity.

There was no doubt that Timothy succeeded in his intention of arousing our interest and perhaps opposition, and we all felt that we had spent a stimulating evening in the company of friends. In thanking Timothy for coming, I also commended Moya's splendid chairmanship of our committee, and now I should like to thank Brian for his very efficient secretary-ship.

Margaret Taylor.

Mothers' Union Update

The Mothers' Union met again in September, after the usual August break, for a Social Afternoon in which we brought cakes to eat and recipes to exchange.

Deanery Day this year was held at St. Philip and St. James (Whitton). The date was 5th October, also the day of our October Meeting and so thirteen members from St. James's went to Whitton and had an enjoyable day. After Holy Communion at 10.30, Mrs. Joan Park spoke of her work in Pakistan. Lunch followed and in the afternoon we watched a video on healing, finishing the day with a welcome cup of tea.

The November Meeting was the AGM for which there was a very good attendance. The Secretary and Treasurer read their reports and the Branch Leader reviewed the year's events and made suggestions for 1989.

On Monday 14th November, a Discussion Group Meeting was held for 'Young Mums' and MU members. The speaker was Mrs. Liz Robson, the wife of the Vicar of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington. She really was delightful and we learnt so much about the selection of would-be Clergy. About sixteen young men are invited to a conference to meet the selectors. These are usually two priests, two education representatives and two people drawn from the wider Church. Over three days these selectors get to know the candidates and their backgrounds and put them through very severe tests. When these are over their marks are sent to the bishop who places them in four categories - the lowest being those not recommended. Mrs. Robson herself has been a selector on many occasions.

Our December meeting will have Hannah Stanton speaking to us on prayers, etc. in preparation for Christmas.

Hettie Burgess

Help!

Please is there anyone who would like to take over my stint of church cleaning on the first Friday of each month? Two people work together and it involves sweeping, dusting and 'vaccing'. My spirit is willing but my feet are increasingly painful.

If there is anyone willing to help, will you contact me or Eila Severn (979-1954).

Kath Brooks (979-1983)

Canadian War Graves

Walking through the churchyard shortly after Armistice Sunday, I found myself wandering over to the Canadian War Graves. As usual they were in an immaculate condition, each one with its cross and poppy. We have Ron Metcalfe to thank for the ever neat appearance of these graves. he spends so much time keeping them tidy, surely a labour of love.

Margaret Robinson

World Leprosy Day

This is always on the last Sunday in January - 29 January this year. The Leprosy Mission is pioneering the battle against the disease which affects 15 million people today. Our representative is David Lloyd.



Parish Children's Party

On Saturday 7 January a party for the children of the parish will be held in the Parish Hall, School Road, starting at 2 pm. There will be lots of fun for all ages and an entertainer has been booked. Refreshments will be provided, and a nominal charge of 25p per child will be made to cover the cost of the drinks and food.

So we will have an idea of the numbers to cater for please put your child's name on the list in church, if there is time and if you have not already done so.

Folk Dance

Everything is booked for the Folk Dance Evening on Saturday 4 March in the Parish Hall. All we will need for an enjoyable evening is your company. Further details next month.

David Lloyd

St. James's Women's Tuesday Club

At 'Wayside', St. James's Road, Tuesdays 8.00pm.

10 January	...	Open evening
24 January	...	Health and Beauty - talk by Mrs. J. James
7 February	...	Nepal - talk by Mr. T. King
21 February	...	'Taken for Granted - Water' talk on Mogden Sewerage Works by Mr. Swinburn
7 March	...	Open evening
21 March	...	'Women Alone' - talk by a W.P.C.
4 April	...	'Upstairs and Downstairs at Buckingham Palace' talk by Mr. Fullagar
18 April	...	Life in the Law Courts - talk by Miss Payne
2 May	...	In Search of Plants - talk by Mr. A. Kirkham

From the Registers

Baptisms

November 20 Scott Geoffrey Clutterbuck
128 Hanworth Road
Hampton

COPY DATE FOR
FEBRUARY ISSUE
15 JANUARY



Services and Dates to Note

January	1	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
	2		<u>The Naming of Jesus</u>
	3	09.30	Holy Communion
	5	19.15	Holy Communion
	6		<u>Epiphany</u>
	7	14.00	Parish Children's Party, Parish Hall
	8	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Epiphany Carol Service
	10	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club Open Evening
	12	19.15	Holy Communion
	15	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Evensong
	17	09.30	Holy Communion
	18		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
	19	19.15	Holy Communion
	22	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	United Service, All Saints' Church, Hampton
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	24	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club talk 'Health & Beauty', Wayside
	25		<u>Conversion of St. Paul</u>
	26	19.15	Holy Communion
		20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	29	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	31	09.30	Holy Communion
February	1	20.00	Healing Ministry in church
	2		<u>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</u>
		19.15	Holy Communion
	5	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion



Advance Notices

February	6	20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road
	7	20.00	Tuesday Club talk 'Nepal', Wayside
	8		<u>Ash Wednesday</u>
		20.00	Parish Communion
March	4		Folk Dance Evening