

During May I was able to travel to Canada to visit my relatives in Toronto which is an enormous city with a large population. While in Canada I was determined to visit a little more of North America than I have been able to see on my previous visits. Such determination led me to a long overnight ride on a Greyhound coach from Toronto to Chicago through places with an assortment of names including Windsor, Detroit, Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo!

One of my objectives in visiting Chicago (the windy city!) was to ascend the Sears Tower which, at one hundred and ten floors, is the world's tallest building. I am pleased to confirm that my ascent was accomplished by express elevator in seventy seconds from base to top with no discomfort! For me this experience was an occasion to remember as the view from the top floor gives everyone the opportunity to admire and appreciate the achievements of modern architecture and building. Equally I believe that this experience, in a holiday setting with more time for reflection, is an opportunity to consider to what extent skyscrapers and other aspects of our modern life with its many work-saving devices represent a depersonalising effect on us as individuals of God's creation. Indeed, how far do our wonderful inventions represent the glory of man rather than the glory of God?

To begin to answer this question for ourselves as Christians we need only consider the essential truths of our Faith. These begin with the existence and reality of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God who is personal and not a modern computer. God who is ever-loving and calls us as individuals into a personal relationship with Him. God who calls us to a loving response to Him and to a loving service to others in every situation of life. Such a recognition of God will lead us to a recognition of the value of every human being as an individual and begin to dispel the view that people are anonymous figures in a confused world.

I am sure that a closer association with the great buildings of North America reveals that each structure has an individual character reflecting its architect who, in his or her work, was directed by our Father. We, too, in our lives need God's direction both in our work and worship. That direction will be given to each of us not least in our daily prayers and reading of Holy Scripture as well as our regular Sunday worship. We must with urgency consider any deficiencies which we have in these activities in ourselves. We must remember the personal stability and continuity which are provided by the regular offering to God of our spiritual activities. (Are we as committed and regular as the express elevator in the Sears Tower?).

In whatever situation I hope that everybody will have an opportunity for rest, relaxation and refreshment in the coming weeks. Equally I trust that this break will be a very enjoyable experience.

David Dore

OPEN DAY

We are taking this early opportunity to thank all of those local traders whose generous support in cash, goods, or services for the Grand Raffle enabled us to raise at least £1000 from that source alone: they are -

AMPLE PACKAGING LTD; ASHTON HOUSE; BANDBOX CLEANERS; BANNONS; BARCLAYS BANK; BURTS CYCLES; THE CAVAN BAKERY; CHAMPION TRAVEL; CURRIE MOTORS LTD; "THE DUKE OF CLARENCE"; FLOWERS ON THE HILL; FOUR WINDS PRESS LTD; FREDK. W. PAINE LTD; E. GOSTLING (BUILDERS) LTD; GULF SERVICE STATION; HAMPTON HILL GALLERY; HAMPTON HILL STUDIO; HAMPTON INTERIORS; HARRY HALLS CHEMIST; JOHN HODGSON LIGHTING CENTRE; JAKS DELICATESSEN; G. JOHNSON, BUTCHER; G.S. KEATES LTD; KEYSTONE COPY CENTRE; KRISHNAS; LLOYDS BANK PLC; LONDIS (HOLDINGS) LTD; LONDIS SUPERMARKET; MARGOT; MARKSMAN; PET GEAR; PETER DOMINIC; PICKWICKS WINE BAR; PRUDENTIAL PROPERTY SERVICES; RINA'S; "THE RISING SUN"; RISHANS PHARMACY; SCOTTS; MRS. SCRIMSHIRE; SCRUPLES HAIR COMPANY; "THE STAR"; STEWART & YOUNG LTD; STYLISH LIVING; TEMELA INTERIORS; UNIGATE LTD; "THE VALIANT KNIGHT"; VENYFLEX LTD; THE WINDOW CENTRE; WHITTON FRUITERERS; WORLD OF WOOD.

In our community, there are many good reasons for supporting local businesses: to do so as a way of saying "thank-you" is a very pleasant, easy, and practical one.

More reports on the Open Day, and on the Appeal, to follow in our next issue.

Jack Gostling

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF SPIRE APPEAL FUND

Many thanks to everyone who came along on June 8th and to others who could not come but also contributed generously to make £138.68 for our Appeal. It was a very pleasant social morning as well as being financially so rewarding.

Margery Orton

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1989

The wonderfully warm and sunny May weather made the collecting more pleasant and also more difficult - so many people were out! But considering this, and the fact that we covered two areas less than last year, the grand total of £1000 is extremely satisfactory. Most of the usual collectors, many of whom have been Christian Aid helpers for many years, were doing their rounds again and we were very glad to welcome some new volunteers. Perhaps in 1990 St. James's will be able to make an even greater contribution - with a few more volunteer collectors, we could do great things!

On behalf of Christian Aid, may I thank all those who helped with the collection and those who gave so willingly and in many cases so generously to this very worthwhile charity.

Margaret Taylor

The Fifth National Christian Resources Exhibition 1989

This was the first time I had been to the exhibition and I was surprised by the number of people and the distance many of them had travelled. It was held at Sandown Park, Esher from Wednesday 17th May until Saturday 20th May. The opening ceremony was performed by the worldwide leader of The Salvation Army, General Eva Burrows. There were many clergy present and I had several interesting discussions with people of various denominations.

I found it tiring as there was so much to see and in the heat of the day carrying the literature thrust at one from all quarters added to the general feeling of fatigue. I felt vulnerable at the pushy attitude of one of the exhibitors and couldn't get away from another. However, my favourite was The Religious Broadcasting stand where everyone was kind, friendly and interesting. I managed to have a few words with Donald Reeves, Rector of St. James's Church, Piccadilly whose book, Making Sense of Religion has recently been published in conjunction with a series of B.B.C.1. programmes. On the Thursday of the exhibition The Daily Service was broadcast from there as part of the lecture, music and worship programme.

I have started to peruse some of the material I was given and have found it to be informative and interesting. The Church Urban Fund literature was very enlightening. If I were to attend a future exhibition I would not attempt to take it all in but choose from the programme those stands which appealed to me. The organisers would be grateful to hear from visitors, their viewpoints being welcomed in relation to the organisation of future exhibitions.

Janet Jeffries

Summer Workshops - 1989

Summer Workshops are again being run at the Parish Centre, SS Michael and George, Wilcox Road, Teddington. This year the theme is St. Paul, The Traveller. The Workshops will include arts and craft, drama, music, scenery making and much more besides and will be a preparation for a Musical Production, written by Paul Revis, in the Spring - remember the delightful Noah last year! The workshops will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 25th July, Thursday 27th July, Tuesday 1st August, Thursday 3rd August, Monday 7th August, Tuesday 8th August - from 10.00am until 12 noon.

Any adults prepared to help at the workshops and/or who wish to take part or help in the production will be very welcome and should contact Pam Atkinson on 979 6166 or Bridget Fairburn on 941 4991.

Puzzle for Children of all ages

Can you make up ten biblical characters, using each two letters only once? E.g. JO - HN. In five minutes? in ten minutes?

EL	RU	KE	JU	UL
LU	OS	EM	EZ	HN
AM	RK	MA	DE	TH
RA	PA	JU	SH	JO

Outing to St. Alban's Cathedral 1989

As there was a vacant seat on the coach when the Mothers' Union visited St. Alban's Cathedral on 3rd May, I was fortunately invited to join them.

It was a lovely day and the great slopes of arable land, alas now bereft of hedges, shone bright green and brilliant yellow in the sun.

The Cathedral, set high among the old streets and remains of the Roman settlement, is beautiful and imposing. Indeed it was due to the Romans that Alban became the first martyr in Britain when he gave his life in the cause of Christianity in the year 209 AD, and around his tomb over the centuries has been erected the great Cathedral.

We entered by the Wet Door and looking up the long nave can be seen three distinct styles of architecture, Norman, Early English and Decorated. We then proceeded to the Choir and Presbytery with their wonderfully decorated ceilings.

While here, the young Chaplain of the Day stepped into the pulpit and read a short prayer, this I was told by our members was relayed through the Cathedral and was repeated at intervals during the day. I felt this was a real blessing, including all who were visiting the Cathedral. He also remarked to us the Bishop, the Right Reverend John Taylor, was pleased for the Cathedral to be used by other ecumenical communities.

Many of us took communion in the 14th century Lady Chapel which was conducted by a Free Church Minister.

For lunch our party was divided into two sittings. A long table was reserved for us in the Refectory, a modern addition opened in 1982. I was in the second sitting, the spacious hall was filled with people taking refreshment - shoppers, locals and young people from the nearby St. Alban's School.

The lunch of large baked potatoes, cheese and salad, followed by super puddings (I had bread and butter pudding) and coffee was served speedily by friendly ladies, all volunteers from various local groups.

The energetic among us visited the wide main shopping centre with an added attraction of a Wednesday street market.

As our driver did not use the M25 our journey home was as pleasant as the outward drive.

Thank you for a very enjoyable outing - one we shall all remember with pleasure.

Dorothy Weston

The World Conference on Religion and Peace

An important meeting of the WCRP/International Executive took place in Barnehurst, Bexley Heath, in the parish of St. Martin's Church, from June 5th - 7th 1989. The vicar, the Rev Jonathan Blake, who organised the WCRP Youth Peace Bus to Moscow and back in 1987, had arranged accommodation with his parishioners in whose homes we all had very warm welcomes. The meeting took place in the Scout Hut next door to the Parish Hall, in the church compound. We were fed on delicious vegetarian food cooked by Jonathan's parishioners; they assured us that this was done with much cheerfulness and enjoyment. Jonathan had felt that this inter-faith meeting for peace should be carried through economically in the atmosphere of a family, and it was. We were 22 in all, inter-faith and international.

I have recently been chosen as an International Hon. President and was invited. Dr. Aram from WCRP/India took the Chair. Finance and in particular the support of our Headquarters office in Geneva, and the work and travels of our irreplaceable Secretary/General, Dr. John Taylor, was the main problem during the meeting. A regular and sufficient income here is urgently needed.

WCRP/USA are starting up their own office in new York and their help this year may be less than expected. Negotiations with the Japanese Buddhists and Shintoists were not easy; we have relied on them for money for many years and they have been very generous. They now wish to know that other areas in the world are giving adequate support. Owing to the recent WCRP World Assembly in Melbourne, WCRP/Australia is now pulling its weight, and Archbishop Penman, the Chairman of the Assembly, has offered to finance a fund-raiser in Geneva. This is very acceptable. Europe does not really do its share, and I am ashamed of how little WCRP/UK gives; last year we could only give £250 towards a very low assessment of £1000.

Jonathan electrified everyone by saying that his parish was giving £1000 to WCRP/International, and was contributing £250 towards the expenses of the meeting. He had already told our local group that he was giving a personal contribution of £8 a month to the International body via our funds. I told the meeting this, said I would follow suit, and that I would make this widely know to our membership.

At length a compromise was reached, with Dr. Taylor agreeing to cut some projects; but this was sad. An international project which was not shelved, however, was the proposed Inter-faith peace delegation to visit the Near East, probably in 1991. A key figure in this is Patrice Brodeur aged 26 from French Canada, Jonathan's successor as leader of the WCRP/International Youth Group, who already knows the Near East well and speaks Hebrew and Arabic.

The World Congress of Faiths hosted a reception at Kings College on June 5th, and this was followed by a superb dinner at the Institute of Indian Culture, the Bhavan in West Kensington, where St. James's Liturgical Dance group performed last year; this was organised by our very good friends Mr. Bindurao Konnur and Mathoor Krishnamurti. The ladies of the Bhavan, including Mrs. Krishnamurti, waited on us and were lovely to look at. Mathoor Krishnamurti's grand-daughter of 4½ entertained us quite spontaneously with her dancing.

On the Tuesday we met Jonathan's MP at the House of Commons, and were able to

enlist his help over concern for our Muslim friend Imam Faried Esack in Cape Town who has had his passport withdrawn by the South African Government. Faried is Co-President of WCRP/Africa, and is known to many of us through his vehement opposition to apartheid. A letter of support, solidarity and love was sent to Faried from the Committee.

It was a memorable three days.

Hannah Stanton

Majorcan Communion

I made my way across the ancient palmtree-shaded plaza to the huge Roman Catholic church of San Bartoloméo where, at ten am, there was to be an ecumenical communion service in English for residents and visitors. I was early as I wanted a time for quiet prayer. I did not expect many people to be there but how mistaken I was. I was greeted by several very friendly residents who were already on duty and was given a familiar ASPB. I took a seat somewhere halfway down and to the side and composed myself to prayer in the dim but opulently be-stated and much gilded surroundings. I thought of all my friends at St. James's who had by now received their bread and wine. The church gradually filled around me until I became aware that there was literally standing room only. I can't remember the priest's name, I believe it was John. He was a slight but commanding figure with silver hair and a resonant voice and compelling personality, appearing much younger at a distance than when seen close to. He greeted us and gave out some notices for his resident congregation which was obviously lively, being linked together not only by their faith but by ties of their homeland.

There was to be a meeting in his house "Los Olivos" that evening and also in the middle of the week; a coffee morning was to be held in "Villa Mariposa" and after the service we were all invited "to step across the plaza" to Bar Maxim for "coffee at our own expense". He told us that everyone irrespective of what sort of church they attended at home, was welcome to take communion and asked that each of us visitors should tell him our Christian name. The altar was under the lofty basilica and when the time came we formed a wide circle, two or three deep. Another priest stepped forward to preside over the semicircle to the left of me; the wine was offered by two men in lay clothes. I was reminded of Nicholas Chubb as I listened to the Christian names from my left and right - the individual touch which he brought to us and which made the offering so personal and so close Edith, Mary, Peter, Bob, (the man next to me), Margery, the Body of Christ I was at home.

Outside once more, into the ancient square. The sun shone more warmly than in Hampton Hill, the tall palm trees waved, the oleanders were just coming out, the white painted houses with their flat roofs and green painted shutters presented a totally "other" scene. I walked back along two typical, totally un-English back streets of this pleasant Spanish town, through wrought iron gates into the old courtyard of our hotel with its garden largely planted in huge terracotta pots, with beds of geraniums in carefully imported soil; exotic cacti were burgeoning, lilies breaking through and multi-coloured bougainvillea ascending the exterior sweeping double staircase, of this

very old Majorcan building - all so very different to the home-accustomed eye - but God was the same, here, at home, now and always. All over the world, I thought, in all sorts of strange and different surroundings Christians had come, were coming, would be coming together on that day to worship and it was a good, strengthening, "binding together" thought.

Margery Orton

Dilys Melville

When trying to write about someone like Dilys it is always difficult to know where to begin. She was, of course, Welsh. Born in a small village near Carmarthen in South Wales she spoke no English until she was twelve and went to the Grammar School. Her father was a Minister and she and her two sisters and one brother grew up in a God-fearing household surrounded by beautiful countryside, hence her love of wild flowers and plants in general. The lovely flowers covering her coffin at the funeral were eloquent testimony to this and in the spring people were always invited to view the magnificent camellia tree in her garden and some of its beautiful red flowers would adorn the church.

Another great love in her life was music. She had that rare gift known as 'perfect pitch' (how I wish I had it!) and could sing any note without any kind of instrument and it would be correct. The grand piano in Dilys and Len's drawing room was never idle for long and she would often accompany singers. Her favourite songs were Welsh and especially 'Aderyn Pur' which she loved. She also had a fund of nonsense songs which when I was in her Welsh class she taught us, but as she had a great sense of humour this was not entirely out of character.

Dilys's kindness to other people was boundless. For years she transported people to and from the Maddison Clinic, helped with transport at Community Care, made cakes when you were ill or busy. In fact one of my most enduring memories of Dilys will always be, going to call on her, quite unexpectedly, and being given refreshments - cakes, scones, etc. always home-made and a cup of tea or coffee. Her personality was such that she always managed to brighten up the day.

Above all else though Dilys was a wife and a mother. I feel sure that Rosalind and Richard, as well as all the rest of the family, know that their mother was a talented and unusual lady who loved them very much and was surprised when she found herself greatly loved in return. I am also sure that her four grandchildren will never forget her either, young though they are.

There must be quite a few almost middle-aged people around who remember with affection a slightly eccentric teacher that taught them French at school. We know such a one, a former pupil at Spring Grove School in Isleworth, who always asks about her when we meet and who will be sorry to know she has gone. I myself was in her adult Welsh class which she ran for many years in Kingston - I did learn some Welsh but most of all I enjoyed it all - an experience which I must share with many of her former pupils. She herself became a pupil when in later life she took up painting and some of her flower paintings were very good.

Dilys and Leonard were very much involved with St. James's Church over the years. They lived in Park Road after their return from Iran. Many meetings were held in their house and Leonard was Churchwarden and Chairman of the Stewardship Committee. Dilys was always at the Parish Communion and took her churchmanship seriously. Her lively personality had its more serious side and when she was ill these last few years I am sure that her faith helped her in difficult moments. A lovely lady and one I and many others will feel it a privilege to have known. God bless her.

Helen Taylor

Around the Spire

The sad news of the death of two much loved members of our congregation, Dilys Melville and Gerwyn Anthony is reported more fully elsewhere, fellow countrymen they shared a common first language, Welsh, and a great love and knowledge of music. They will both be much missed.

Good news, however, of Freda Moses, now recovering at home from her broken hip caused by a fall, and indeed well enough to visit the church for the Open Day. It was lovely to see her. Another visitor to the church just before the Open Day and someone we haven't seen for some time was Doris Warwick. It was good to see her and we hope her health will continue to improve.

We also send condolences to Bob Brittain on the sudden and unexpected death of his wife Doreen. Bob sang in the choir here for a while and Doreen was well known in several of the local post offices where she often worked. Their four children, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren will be much in our prayers and thoughts at this time.

On a more personal note Alan and I would like to thank everyone who helped us in any way over the last few difficult weeks. Those who visited my father in hospital, or who sent us and him, letters and cards, flowers and good wishes. Friends and neighbours, relatives and parishioners have all been marvellous. I shall in due course try to write to everyone but it will take a little while. Thanks to you all.

Helen Taylor

From the Registers

Baptisms

June 4	Daniel Derek Ronald Stanley Allen	72 Fulwell Road, Teddington
	Amy Louise Price	35 Bishop's Grove, Hampton Hill
	Joanne Charlotte Weedon	70 Wordsworth Road, Hampton Hill
	William Robert Debdeek	5 Roy Grove, Hampton Hill

Funeral

June 5	Dilys Melville, late of 106 Park Road, Hampton Hill (Ashes to be interred in Teddington Cemetery)
June 15	Gerwyn Anthony, 16 School Road Avenue, Hampton Hill

Services and Dates to Note

July	1	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
		09.30	Summer Outing to Peterborough
	2	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
	3		<u>St. Thomas the Apostle</u>
	4	09.30	Holy Communion
	6	19.15	Holy Communion
	8	14.00	Hampton Hill Children's Sports Day, Holly Road
	9	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	11	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club, Wayside
	13	19.15	Holy Communion
	16	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Evensong
	18	09.30	Holy Communion
		19.30	Windmill Road School Concert
	20	19.15	Holy Communion
		20.00	P.C.C. Vestry
	22		<u>St. Mary Magdalen</u>
	23		<u>Celebration of St. James's Day</u>
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		16.30	St. James's Day Service, followed by tea on lawn
	25	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club, Summer Supper, Wayside
	27	19.15	Holy Communion
	30	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
August	1	09.30	Holy Communion
	3	19.15	Holy Communion
	5	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	6		<u>The Transfiguration</u>
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service

N.B. There will be no Sunday Evening Services in August

Advance Notices

Sept.	7	20.00	P.C.C. Vestry
	14		Institution of the Rev. Brian Leathard

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