

## Rupert Hoyle Brunt, 1910 - 1989

We were so much looking forward to having Rupert and Connie Brunt with us on St. James's Day when Rupert was to preach, that a sense of shock was added to our natural grief when we heard of his sudden but peaceful death on 24th June. Born in 1910 he was ordained in 1934. He came to us in 1951 and spent the next twenty nine years of his life with us, teaching us and moulding us into a loving, caring church - a body of people not merely a building composed of bricks and mortar. He and Connie and the growing family became part of our lives - a rich part.

The Vicar of Seaford, where Rupert and Connie have lived since they left us, spoke aptly and movingly of Rupert. He reminded us that the Easter Candle burning alone in the dark church generated an amazing amount of light. Its light is passed on to other candles until all is light. Rupert and Connie came to Hampton Hill like two Easter Candles when St. James's was going through a dark period. The building was dilapidated, funds and congregation small and languishing. We were so very lucky to have such a man and woman to minister (in their different capacities) to us.

We were told that we should look back over our experience of Rupert's long care of us and remember his wisdom and teaching. We do Sir, we do!

Over twenty of us travelled through golden sunshine and lovely countryside to be with Connie and her family at Rupert's funeral on 3rd July in Seaford's parish church of St. Leonard - Connie, Bernard, Francis and others close to them accompanied the coffin to the crematorium, Rosalind and Clare were our hostesses at a lovely meal set out in the parish hall in the company of Seymour Harris, who had administered the chalice at the service, the Vicar of Seaford and his wife, and numbers of the friendly and welcoming congregation. Later the Hampton Hill contingent plus Seymour adjourned to the Brunts' garden for more refreshment and were there joined by Connie and her sons. Connie greeted us with the familiar smile and open arms; she had expected six and was demonstrably delighted that so many had come. We were soon picking up the threads of the intervening years. We were pleased to meet Rupert's brother Lawrence and to note the family likeness now so markedly shared by Francis who is uncannily like his father.

We spoke of feeling very close to Rupert since his death. He loved St. James's and he loved its people so it is not surprising we still feel his nearness to us. We talked of the many tributes sent in by individual parishioners at his retirement, telling movingly and simply what he had meant to them in so many different ways: his spiritual strength and guidance, his glowing faith, his wisdom and kindness, his essential goodness. One tribute spoke for all, then and now, 'I love that man'. Rupert had stated in his will that he wished his ashes to rest in St. James's churchyard and so we shall all be meeting again at a Memorial Service to do him honour in the not too distant future.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Connie, Rosalind, Clare, Bernard and Francis. Come and renew your family ties with us. God bless and comfort and strengthen you. We thank God for every remembrance of you all.

*Margery Orton*

# The Open Day - 17th June

What a glorious summer day we had - almost too hot outside, but cool in the church. And what an invasion by hundreds of parishioners! At least 500 made the tour of the spire and belfry.

## Parish Records

Various parish registers and plans of the churchyard were set out over in the children's corner. All day long there was a stream of enquirers, some of whose questions we were able to answer, others we need to research further. It was a most interesting exercise and, with a variety of music always in the background, an enjoyable one as well. (The churchyard project of recording the monumental inscriptions has temporarily come to a halt. We hope to resume early in the autumn. So far about 300 graves have been recorded.)

*Helen Taylor*

## History Exhibition

History has always been a favourite subject and, having spent my 76 years in Hampton Hill, I think I can now claim the accolade of 'ancient inhabitant'.

To me, therefore, the high spot of the Open Day was the exhibition of local history so well presented by Margery Orton. There must have been well over a hundred photographs of Hampton Hill, as it was, amassed by Margery when she produced the invaluable 'The Birth and Growth of Hampton Hill', now, sadly, out of print. The good news is that Margery has hopes of doing a second edition.

The first group of photographs were of the early vicars of St. James's. The earliest I knew was the Rev. Coad-Pryor (d.1923), a very jovial man, resplendent in a silk top hat on formal occasions. The other group of photographs depicted the growth of the village from the 1890's, showing, inter alia, the High Street before it was widened to make room for trams. It is interesting that the tram company's title, London United, has now re-appeared on our local buses. Also shown was the lake that used to be in the grounds of the Manor House. This had long been filled in, in my time, but the ice-house remained where ice from the lake used to be stored for summer use. We used to sneak into the grounds to play in it. We knew the ice-house by the fanciful title of 'Robin Hood's Cave'. It was demolished in the '30's when the Manor Estate was built,.

There were also very interesting albums containing cuttings of the village events, together with maps presented by Margery showing the Enclosures of the village from 1863 when the church was founded and maps, drawn by Prill Smith, illustrating features of the village over the years.

Altogether an excellent show, made the more memorable for me as my son and his wife and my two grandchildren were over here from Australia, so I was able to show them scenes from my boyhood. Let's hope for an early repeat of the exhibition.

*E. Gubbins*

## Music in Church

The musical interludes brought great richness to the day.

Our organ is a fine instrument but, in the hands of a master musician, is wonderful and compelling. One visitor was seen to stay rapt for the whole of one of Olive's recitals.

The Travellers' offering was fresh and lively. Many stopped to listen and to admire the instrumental skills and voices of Paul, Margaret and Rachel, and not a few joined in the singing.

The Dobson/Rowett group brought a sense of timelessness - for so did people entertain themselves and others when our church was young. The solo harp and really charismatic playing of the flute, together with piano and harmonising voices, were a joy to listen to, as were the skilfully performed madrigals and motets - unaccompanied and dead on note - of the St. John's Singers. We owe a lot to all the performers for the lovely ambience of the entire lovely day.

## The Barbecue

The highly successful day continued in the evening with a barbecue. The vicarage garden was ablaze with fairy lights and the smell of sausages and hamburgers cooking over charcoal gave a real festive atmosphere to the occasion. We were indebted to Peter Orton who brought his group called 'Appalachians Uncontrollé' to entertain us. They sounded quite superb, playing a mixture of music which ranged from country to old English in style. A few hardy souls found enough energy to dance but most people were happy to listen while sampling the alcoholic beverages dispensed by the bar.

Our thanks are due to the social committee for providing a splendid evening, with special thanks to those people who slaved over the proverbial hot stove in the kitchen and the physical hot stove in the garden. In all a fitting conclusion to a wonderful day - when is the next one?

*N.B.* The Barbecue raised £334 towards the Spire Appeal - super effort!

*Paul Revis*

## Thanks

At least £2000 was added to the Spire Appeal Fund as a result of the Open Day and Grand Raffle. In simple monetary terms, a great success. More heart-warming was the tremendous enthusiasm and energy with which a great number of people made the church, the vicarage and the grounds ready, welcoming and truly 'Open' for the occasion.

To single out any person, or group, for special mention would be inappropriate: suffice it to say a simple 'thank you' to all who contributed to a magnificent, truly memorable day.

*Jack Gostling*

Nevertheless, particular thanks are due to Jack himself and his 'Spire Appeal' committee for their tremendous efforts, over many weeks and on the day itself, in planning the day and carrying out much of the work.

## Spire Appeal - A Moving Target

Largely as a result of our Open Day, our fund now stands at a little under £9000, compared with the £5,900 reported in the June magazine.

BUT the more detailed specification required by the Diocesan Advisory Board has produced a sharp increase in the latest estimate from the steeplejack compared with the earlier 'budget' figure. Instead of our hoped-for £15,000, it seems that we have to meet something nearer £25,000 to do all that is required.

Even with a promised grant from the Diocese, this means finding a further £7-8,000, a daunting prospect. But the alternative course - to do only the urgent and essential items, deferring other necessary but less urgent work - would be a false economy.

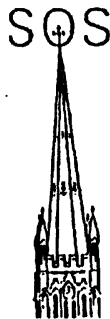
*Jack Gostling*

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A St. James's stall at the Hampton Hill Children's Sports Day on 8th July had more of the mugs, notelets, models, etc. that were available on the Open Day (and are still available in church) for sale, and continued the 'Name the Doll' competition. As a result a further £26 or so was added to the Spire Appeal Fund.

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[Editor -I hope that attending the Open Day did not seriously damage anyone's health - see 'Wealth Warning' in the June issue (mea culpa) - but it seems that their wallets suffered, as was intended.]



ST JAMES'S  
SPIRE APPEAL

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## Hampton Council of Churches

The Hampton Council of Churches are organising a series of talks in the autumn on the Old Testament. They have booked some very well-known and authoritative speakers, so put the dates in your diary now.

They are all on Wednesdays, on 18th October and the following five Wednesdays, at the Methodist Church in Percy Road. Do make the series well known among your friends and neighbours as it promises to be extremely interesting.

The Council of Churches are also entering a float in the Carnival on 16th September. The theme is 'Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord', so if you feel able to help either 'make a joyful noise' or decorate the float, please let me know. Walkers beside the float are also required.

*Helen Taylor*

# Hearing Billy Graham

On Thursday 10th June, 12 of us from St. James's Church joined the coaches which were organised by Teddington Baptist Church to go to the Mission 'Life' at Earls Court, conducted by Billy Graham.

I had heard Billy Graham in 1954; I had never forgotten his riveting sermon on Daniel, and wished to hear him again. Throughout a long life I have frequently met people who have owed their start as Christians to a message from Billy Graham, and it is undeniable that he is a great evangelist, speaking to thousands as did the Wesleys in the 18th century. Here he was with all the modern techniques for mass communication, including satellite television to 21 countries in Africa.

Gradually the 25,000 seats were filled. There had been admirable organisation of the traffic, many coaches, queues of people all following a leader with a flag or poster; our leader carried a coloured umbrella, and we jolly well took care not to lose sight of it. The vast auditorium was packed, with an immense choir behind the platform, and a huge empty space in the arena. Mass singing, a gospel choir, George Hamilton - world famous hill-billy from Tennessee, a 'baby Christian' he called himself - filled the time until all had come in.

Billy Graham gave a simple, direct sermon taking as his text Mark 8.34: 'Jesus said: If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me'. He spoke of sacrifice and recalled the example of the R.C. priest Father Maximilian Kolbe who stepped forward to take the place of one of the 12 prisoners in Auschwitz who had been selected for execution because there had been an escape. He spoke also of the essential inner life, the soul: 'For what doth it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life - soul?'. And he told the story of the Texan business man who pointed to the west and south, 'all that land is mine', to the north and east 'all those oilwells are mine'; 'all the cattle around us are mine'. And the R.C. priest he was with pointed to the sky, and said 'and what about up there'. His voice was strong and his sermon stirring.

Eventually there was the call to come forward and meet a counsellor and take a step towards commitment, and hundreds went forward until the big central area was packed. Many counsellors mixed with the crowds, speaking all languages: Spanish and Gujarati were appealed for.

What were the differences between 1954 and 1989? The psychological and emotional impact in 1954 was much greater: the lights were lowered, music was quiet: 'still there is room to come forward', 'you, from the furthest section over there', and one was almost galvanised out of one's seat! There was less of this and I felt that this was good. Also, has there been a mellowing into ecumenism in Billy Graham's approach? He has travelled widely, is acclaimed in Soviet Russia, on friendly terms with many world leaders. It was all fairly traditional; part of his final message was read and study your bibles, pray, and attend church; but the young people were there in their thousands. We were glad to have been there also.

*Hannah Stanton*

## Church Urban Fund - Pentecost Celebration

A year of intense and imaginative fundraising for the Church Urban Fund throughout the Diocese of London reached its climax at Pentecost (14th May) with a Service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral. I proudly took with me the result of St. James's efforts - a cheque for £1,250 - which was offered by the Deanery Lay Chair, David Loftus, to the Bishop of Kensington who passed it, in turn, to the Bishop of London. The 'talents' - cheques for £100 - which had been distributed to all parishes a year ago were thus returned, greatly multiplied, to the representatives of God's church here in our city.



The whole service was a delight to our senses. The cathedral, full to bursting, bore witness to the parishes and deaneries of the diocese by the array of multi-coloured banners rising up at intervals from the pews. The music, chosen and directed by the Rev. David Wilson of St. Mary's, Osterley, ranged from the opening 'Lord, the light of your love is shining' through 'Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness', sung to the tune of Blow the Wind Southerly, and the stirring 'How great is God almighty', sung to the tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Between the hymns came dramatic renditions of the story of Pentecost, accompanied by a truly mighty rushing wind, and the conversion of Philip. We renewed our baptismal vows, heard interviews with people who had been involved with the CUF in the last year and were treated to a rousing sermon by the Bishop of Stepney on the theme of poverty and the need for commitment to the inner city. But it was the choir-led 'Veni, Sancte Spiritus', interspersed with short biddings, that reminded all present of the great gifts which have been granted to us and of our responsibility to use them wisely to fulfil God's vision for the future.

*Lesley Mortimer*

## Mothers' Union

After the pleasant and relaxing outing to St. Alban's Abbey in May, the MU met as usual in June. At this meeting, Mr. Roy Ellis explained to us all about 'Alarms for the Elderly'. For those of us who are elderly, slightly infirm and live alone, these alarms are the very thing and I, for one, will have one.

Our July meeting was, as usual, a church service, followed by tea, sandwiches and home-made cakes, all enjoyed on the lawn, and the weather this year was ideal. The Rev. Timothy Evans (from Whitton) and our own Hannah took the service and the Ladies Choir sang beautifully, as always.

There is not meeting in August, but we all re-assemble on Wednesday 6th September for a 'Janet and Jean' afternoon. Janet Jeffries will speak on an MU retreat she has recently attended, and Jean Wilson will tell us all about being the wife of a new Vicar from her own experience.

In October, we are arranging a Welcoming Service for our own new Vicar and his wife, who, by then, will have been in the parish for a short while.

London Diocesan Day at Mary Sumner House has been fixed for 6th October, and it is hoped that many members will try to attend this annual event. Each area of the Diocese has been allocated a colour (Kensington is green), and it has been suggested that members will try to wear or carry something green at September or October meetings.

*Hettie Burgess*

## **Annual Church Outing - Saturday 1st July**

9.29 am - the Rowetts arrive - last as usual! At 9.30 on the dot, 40 of us set off for Ferry Meadows park, Peterborough. Passing through heavy showers (weather is fine further on, assured the driver!) the Lloyds provided an 'on board' service to rival British Airways - newspapers/sweets/games for the children/maps etc. We arrived at 11.30 and as we started to get off the coach Nicholas and Susan appeared. It was a real joy to see them both in such good health and spirits. Clearly both the Peterborough climate and the new work agree with them. A happy time was spent exchanging news. It was interesting to see a Clergyman carrying a 'Bleep' for emergency recall to his hospital!

With the sun shining (thank you driver!) we had an early picnic lunch, including wine from the Social Committee, around several open-air tables in the park. After lunch the children and some adults walked and played in the park, feeding birds and watching them from hides, taking trips on a miniature railway, walking round the lakes, etc. The rest of us went into Peterborough on a steam train (the Nene Valley Railway), which for many instantly recalled our own childhood. We then walked into the pleasant pedestrian precinct of the centre of Peterborough, and then on round the Cathedral. This was a very fine building, parts dating back to the C12th. Catherine of Aragon and Mary Queen of Scots are both closely associated with the Cathedral. We noted that there is currently an appeal for £984.000 for various repair/restoration projects - which perhaps puts our own Spire Appeal into perspective!

Arriving back at Ferry meadows we encountered the only disappointment of the day - the Cafeteria had just stopped dispensing tea (apparently 45 minutes are needed to 'cash up' prior to official closing time!). However we had time for a final chat with Nicholas and Susan before boarding the coach. As the Chubbs, and the Gostlings (who had joined us for the day) waved us goodbye, we left just as the rain started. (Those showers had caught us up!).

All of us had had a really enjoyable day and we should like to thank David, Jennifer and Rachel Lloyd for all their work in organising the outing and ensuring that everything went smoothly on the day.

*Pip and Anne Rowett*

## **Global Village**

*Our world has narrowed into a neighbourhood*

*before it has managed to broaden into a brotherhood.*

LYNDON JOHNSON

# Children in the Parish

## The Jays

We've had fun this year - developing our own scheme to suit our needs - trial and error. A big thankyou to all who have helped - and the visitors. The children (four years old plus) really enjoy themselves - we've been following the A.S.B. (Year 1) fairly closely this term, what with Easter and Pentecost. The helpers have regular meetings and the odd evening out socialising. We have about 20 children on the roll - not all come regularly, but many do - so a big thankyou to the parents who enable the children to come.

We enjoyed joining in with the church for the 'Children in the Way', and I want to thank all those who helped us.

We re-open on 10th September, at Wayside. Why not come and join us?

## The Rebels

The Rebels (a Youth Group for 10 to 14 year olds) have been meeting at Wayside this past year on Tuesdays from 6.15 to 7.30pm. Being a Christian based Youth Group we have about 30 minutes committed to the Bible in one form or another - the rest of the time is fairly open, with snooker, table tennis and various other games. We have been to the theatre, Hampton Pool and to a roller-boot disco. The children have also been practising a sketch on the Prodigal Son by the Riding Lights Theatre Group, and a great favourite is 'Give us a clue'.

We are looking forward to organising a disco and bowling next term.

But to conclude this term's activities we are holding a fun evening with a barbecue, weather permitting, at No. 71. The children are inviting a friend each and entertaining them.

*Pam Atkinson*

## Stewardship

The giving under the Stewardship Scheme for the first two quarters of this year was 3.6% down on that for the corresponding quarters of last year. The figures are:

Jan./Mar. 1989	£5549	Jan./Mar. 1988	£5759
Apr./Jun. 1989	<u>£4286</u>	Apr./Jun. 1988	<u>£4447</u>
	£9835		£10206

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Preacher: Surely we all know that we are not perfect. Stand up anyone who believes they are perfect.

A short pause, then a little man at the back stands up.

Preacher: Why, Mr. Smith, I didn't know that you thought you were perfect.

Mr. Smith: Oh no, I know I'M not perfect but I just thought I ought to stand up to represent my wife's first husband.



## **Gerwyn Anthony**

In his address at Gerwyn's (or Tony's, as many called him) funeral, Alan spoke about how he had managed to raise chat to an art form - and that was certainly true as many will testify. The church was full for the funeral, friends, neighbours and members of the church all came to say goodbye to someone who was always ready to stop and talk, and who was always cheerful and rarely complained.

Like Dilys, Gerwyn was from South Wales, not all that far from Dilys's birthplace in fact, though she was born in the country and Gerwyn in a large mining village surrounded by countryside. Both had a great love of music and Gerwyn grew up in the Welsh choral tradition, singing all the great oratorios.

After a year in the colliery, which he hated, he was apprenticed to the local builder as a carpenter and joiner, and later came to London, following a family friend. The two friends married two sisters and stayed on in London. He joined various choirs, the most well known being the Alexandra Choir with whom he sang for many years.

The last choir of which he was a member was the Teddington Choral Society and he enjoyed a few years singing with them and made many friends there. Some of them and their conductor, Geoffrey Bowyer, were present in the choir at the funeral when they sang 'For the Glory of the Lord' from 'The Messiah'.

He was a churchman most of his life and, as such, several churches benefited from his woodworking skills. His faith was that of a simple man, as Alan said, but none the worse for that.

*Helen Taylor*

## **From Hilde Bucknell**

It was lovely to hear from Hampton Hill friends when my mother died recently. I was very touched by the way you remembered 'Mutti' and thank you for all your kindness.

## **Around the Spire**

It was good to see Don Rawlins back in church again recently after missing him from our services for a week or two. He had not been feeling too well for a long time and then had had a spell in hospital. He is at present at home awaiting further tests. We hope he will soon be really fit once more, and able, with Muriel, to enjoy the wedding of Peter and Tracy on 19th August at St. James's, and we give our very best wishes to them both and to the young couple.

## **From the Registers**

### **Weddings**

July 8      Andrew Charles Williams and Carole Louise Winter  
                 Peter Trimm and Lisa Frost

# Services and Dates to Note

**N.B.** After August 6, there will be no further Sunday evening services in August.

August	5	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	6		<u>The Transfiguration</u>
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion
	8	09.30	Holy Communion
	10	19.15	Holy Communion
	13	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
	15	09.30	Holy Communion
	17	19.15	Holy Communion
	20	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
	22	09.30	Holy Communion
	24		<u>St. Bartholomew</u>
		19.15	Holy Communion
	27	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
	29	09.30	Holy Communion
	31	19.15	Holy Communion
Sept.	2	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	3	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry

## Advance Notices

Sept.	5	20.00	Tuesday Club Members Evening, Wayside
	6	14.30	M.U. Meeting: Talks by Janet and Jean, Wayside
	7	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	14		<u>Institution of the Rev. Brian Leathard</u>
	19	20.00	Tuesday Club Talk: Chief British Standards Officer, Wayside
	26	20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road

Copy Date

for September

Issue:

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