

## Interregnum's End

We had been warned. 'Most interregna,' said the Archdeacon, 'last, on average, a year.' At fifteen months ours has seemed unacceptably long and it is with a sense of great relief and thanksgiving that the end is now in sight. I hope that the parish feels it has been kept sufficiently informed as events have unfolded and has been able to share, in part, what Alan and I and the P.C.C. have debated and decided during this lengthy interlude.

Heartfelt thanks are due in many quarters. Firstly, to Gordon Wilson without whom the worship life of our church would have been severely curtailed. We have been privileged to have him serve us. During Gordon's absence in New Zealand we were grateful to the Area Dean, Tim Higgins, for arranging alternative celebrants and, in particular, for allowing us to 'borrow' his curate, Tim Evans, for a number of weeks over Christmas. We much enjoyed having him with us.

Then there is our band of Readers to whom we owe the survival of our week by week arrangements. David has marshalled the notices and has spent hours on the telephone and in church, after services, advising couples wishing to get married. Hannah has taken funeral services and prepared families for baptism. Don has continued to promote the healing ministry. Alan, in addition to his Churchwarden's duties, has kept alive the Prayer 'n' Praise services, ably assisted by Paul Revis and The Travellers. All the Readers have preached regularly, conducted worship in various other churches within the deanery and have tackled much of the pastoral work usually undertaken by the Vicar. We are very fortunate to have such a loyal, dedicated staff.

The upkeep and maintenance of the church properties have, as always, been in the safe hands of Jack and the Properties Committee. Eila kindly stepped in to take over the surveillance of the Vicarage, the organisation of the sequestration fund and the payment of allied bills. Others have assisted at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Alan and I have experienced a little of what routine life must be like for a vicar and his wife - the constant round of telephone calls from undertakers, prospective brides and sundry other parties, often late at night and often of a distinctly curious nature. There is nothing more pressing than the need to bury a body and on at least one occasion I have been grateful for the wise advice of Bill Robinson and the willingness of Hannah to perform a funeral at very short notice.

There are also many unsung heroes and heroines of the interregnum who have simply 'got on with the job' without being asked. But mention should be made of one - Helen Taylor - who now knows exactly what it is like to live 'next door to the shop'. She has fielded a myriad of enquiries, taken dozens of 'phone calls, locked and unlocked the church for visitors innumerable times. She has liaised with the local schools over carol concerts, has contributed much to the organisation of flowers in the church and has seen the successful launch of her scheme to document the monumental inscriptions in the churchyard. Our thanks to her for all she has done, both in front and behind the scenes.

Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to you - the stalwart parishioners - who have rallied round whenever needed, have continued to support the life of our church in every way and have given Alan and I the strength to grit our teeth and carry on with the task in hand.

We are greatly looking forward to having Brian Leathard and his family with us in September. I am sure he will receive a warm welcome both in the parish and in the deanery. As I write, the vicarage is in the midst of a major overhaul and should be ready for occupation by the time he arrives. Improvements of other kinds are also in the pipeline to ensure that Brian's ministry is as well supported and facilitated by us as possible.

We pray for God's blessing on this new chapter in the life of St. James's and ask that the light of His love will guide and sustain Brian over the coming years so that together we can truly glorify His name in this place.

*Lesley Mortimer, Churchwarden.*

**Thursday 14th September at 8 pm**

**The Institution by the Bishop of Kensington  
and the Induction by the Archdeacon of Middlesex**

**of the Rev. Brian Leathard**

**as Vicar of St. James's**

## **Thanks from the Brunt Family**

This is a brief note to say how grateful we are for all your prayers, wonderful letters and cards that supported us so greatly after Rupert's death. At first we felt very far from the warmth of Hampton Hill, but each post brought us nearer and then to have so many old St. James's friends here on 3rd July completed the journey!

Thank you all so very much.

And thank you for all the contributions to the memorial fund. Of all the various charities that Rupert was interested in, Brent MIND seemed to be the right choice and we have now sent over £300 for a 'Trust Fund' and some direct to the National MIND. The trust fund is to be used for special projects for Brent MIND's clients that cannot be met from the limited day to day running costs.

*Connie Brunt*

## The Rawlins Family

Following the announcement in church, Muriel and Don have now put their house up for sale, and with Peter's marriage to Tracy, they have decided to retire to Sussex as soon as can be arranged and hopefully before the year end. Additionally Don has formally relinquished his duties as a Reader in the parish, although no doubt he will continue to assist from time to time until their departure.

We shall have the opportunity to say farewell to them in church in due course but it is timely to record our appreciation of the service Don and Muriel have given to the parish since they joined us at the end of 1972, and came to live in the parish in May 1974.

Muriel and Don have been involved in much of our church life since then; not only as a result of Don being licensed as a Reader in December 1973, but in using their home for a regular house group meeting over many years. They have faithfully supported the mid-week services and in recent times their long desire to bring the healing ministry to St. James's in a more formal way has borne fruit.

The steadfast service, faith and commitment of Don and Muriel to our church will be sorely missed and their personal witness to the power of God acting in and through individual christians and the flowering of the gifts of the spirit in those who wholeheartedly respond to Him.

We wish them good health and a long and happy and well-deserved retirement.

*Alan Taylor*

## A Healing Touch

Those who were present at the Sunday evening communion service on 2nd July were privileged to hear an address by Mrs. Margery Orton concerning her healing ministry. Some of you will already be aware that Margery has been involved in the Church's Healing Ministry at St. James and that she also leads a prayer group called The Julian Group on alternate Tuesday afternoons.

Margery began her address quoting from a letter from the late Rev. Rupert Brunt. Upon hearing of a miraculous healing at her hands on Easter Sunday in 1983, he prayed that she would wax riper and stronger in her ministry adding that not only ministers have a ministry but that we are all called to individual ministries of various kinds. Margery admits that she was frightened by her calling but the Lord met her need and through her prayer and deep faith in God's promises her ministry has developed into one which I am sure she could not have envisaged.

At the service she spoke humbly (not wishing to appear boastful of the growing number of healings which have taken place both in and out of the parish. It was the Rev. Nicholas Chubb who suggested that she should record them, which she later realised was to give her strength in her ministry. Miraculous things have happened - a club foot restored to normality, a case of rheumatoid arthritis completely cured, two nuns healed of their complaints and the illuminated face of a dying man who lit up the hearts of all who saw him.

If you ever pray with Margery you will sense her faith and her love of Our Lord. I have always felt inspired when she has prayed with me and for me. Her charismatic personality makes her intensely lovable and her own sufferings have been used to God's glory in her understanding of the sufferings of others. There have been many times when Margery has raised me from the depths, many times when I showed very little faith but always I have received. She has read widely on the subject of healing and prayed deeply to ascertain God's will. She knows her Bible and is in touch with God's promises.

Our Lord said: 'Come unto me all ye that travail and are heavy laden and I will give you rest'. Those of you who are ill or troubled, those of you who have a special need or a concern for someone you love, maybe Margery's healing touch is for you and yours.

*Janet Jeffries.*

## **The Parish Hall and 'Wayside'**

Some readers may have been aware of various rumours which have been in circulation regarding the Parish Hall and 'Wayside'.

The situation is that the P.C.C. would like to bring all of the activities of the Church under one roof, and has commissioned some feasibility studies. Possible courses would be an adaptation of the Church building, or an extension to it, or some combination of both, to provide properly equipped premises in line with today's needs.

Considerable costs would be involved, and the P.C.C. has been advised by the Diocesan Surveyors that it should seek to realise the capital value contained in its properties; i.e., the Hall and 'Wayside' as a means of funding.

In any disposal of the Hall, we would wish if at all possible to see a continuation of the present community uses. To this end, we had hoped that the Council would either buy the premises, or enter into a leasing arrangement, but they have recently told us that they are not able to do so.

We are now therefore having discussions with the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group, who have expressed an interest in acquiring the Hall and continuing a community use. We understand that they would be heavily dependent on the backing of the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity for funding.

Pending the outcome of these discussions, we are advised that we should also apply for Planning Consent to redevelop the site for residential or commercial use, in case the hoped for community use does not materialise.

It must be appreciated that these matters are essentially exploratory, and that some long time is likely to elapse before we are able to come to any firm decision. In the meantime, present users of the Hall have been assured that they will have at least six months' notice of any changes, probably longer.

Similar considerations apply in the case of 'Wayside', where separate negotiations will be taking place, with our tenant there being kept informed.

*Jack Gostling*

# Spire Appeal

## A Challenge

A local family who are readers of 'The Spire' have issued a challenge to other readers. They have donated £500 to the Spire Appeal Fund and challenge other readers to match this sum - or beat it. It wouldn't take many donations of £25 or £50 to do so. In addition they have pledged to donate a further £500 to the fund if five or more people make a donation of at least £100 each in response to this challenge. Cheques should be made payable to the St. James's Spire Appeal Fund and sent to Jack Gostling, 21 St. James's Road, Hampton Hill, or to John Meredith Smith, 63 Hampton Road, Teddington. Please indicate that you are responding to this challenge. The result of this challenge will be reported shortly in 'The Spire', so act now.

## £1,000 Opportunity

Despite having raised £10,000 since March, we need a further £8,000 to meet the expected bill for the restoration of the spire.

The Appeal Committee is working on a programme for further fund-raising events for the Autumn, but now a challenge (see above) from a local family who wish to remain anonymous provides a splendid opportunity to knock £1,000 from this deficit 'at a stroke'.

The conditions of their challenge are simple, but bear repeating: provided that AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE (or families or firms) will each give AT LEAST £100, this family, who have already given an unconditional £500, will give a further £500.

Surely such a challenge cannot be ignored?

Surely, it deserves a ready and generous response from those families or firms who are able to take it up! And even if you can't manage £100, or have already contributed, we hope that this most imaginative offer, seen against the background of the amount still needed, will prompt a renewed surge of giving.

*Jack Gostling.*

SOS



ST JAMES'S  
SPIRE APPEAL

## **Hampton Hill Association Car Boot Sale**

Saturday 23rd September

Four Winds Press Car Park, High Street 10.00 am to 1.00 pm  
Public Admission 10p

Cars £5, Vans £7. Pre-booking Advisable

PROCEEDS TO SPIRE APPEAL FUND

For Information, 'phone Dennis Dolan (979 8641),

Joyce Doughty (979 2839) or Dorothy Weston (979 6673)

## Newsprint and Children

This is a BIG thank-you - in both of the following instances children are the beneficiaries of your generosity. First to all those people who over the years have brought me newspaper for Bishop Wand School, a big, big thank-you. I have no idea how much newspaper I have taken to school over the last dozen or so years but it must run into tons - I took some nearly every day that I went to school. BUT please NO MORE. I shall not be going to school so often now and feel that I and you have done our fair share. From now on please support the local collecting points as indeed I shall myself.

The second commodity supplied by many of you is, of course, money, and the children who benefit this time are those cared for by the Children's Society. This year's box-opening resulted in a total of £311 which, considering we have lost some of our best supporters during the last two years, is a very good total. The Children's Society also benefited by over £300 which was money given to me in lieu of flowers for my Father's funeral - a truly magnificent sum. Many thanks to everyone, box holders and donors alike.

*Helen Taylor*

## Hampton Deanery Summer Workshop

St. Paul the Traveller This Summer Workshop took place at St. Michael and St. George Church and Community Centre, Fulwell. Pamela Atkinson and Bridget Fairburn were the organisers, assisted by a band of willing helpers.

Our sessions started with a great number of children attending and there was also a creche for the tiny tots. As the older children (5 plus) arrived they were given folders for their work and worksheets to do. The worksheet was based on the theme of St. Paul the Traveller, and consisted of word-searches, jumbled texts from the Bible, Greek writing to be decoded, and dot-to-dot; also some pictures to be coloured. When the children had finished their worksheets, each child was put into a different group to work on a collage about St. Paul - there were shipwrecks, Paul's conversion, a Roman road with transport and the sea with boats.

Some of the children made music and poetry inside the church. Different scenes were acted and this was done very well. Half-way through the morning the children had a break and were given orange juice and biscuits, and the Tuck Shop selling sweets and coke was well patronised. The children then went back to their groups to finish what they were doing. Some of the activities were writing Greek letters in wax and also in play-dough, and four adults each had a huge cut-out soldier with armour for the children to colour and put on the soldier.

Each morning varied so there was no actual sameness. Because of a knee problem I could not go to the last two sessions, but I hear they were good. The children had chariot races and walked on stilts. There were many legions, and different emblems of the legions were made. The children moved from camp to camp and went back to base for their rations. They had run a great race, so were rewarded with prizes.

The whole project was well organised so everybody was happy with each other and there was a good atmosphere amongst us all.

An exhibition of the children's work will be shown before the performance in the Spring.

*Violet Clark*

## Appeal for needs for the Somafco School

Some years ago we had a large basket in church into which we put all sorts of things needed for the Solomon Mahlang Freedom College run by the African National Congress in Tanzania.

This school provides home and education to hundreds of young people who have been forced to flee from South Africa. They are refugees. There is primary and secondary education, and there are advanced level and technical classes. Marriages are taking place among students who have been there for some years, and there is a creche and a Child Care Centre.

Needs include: soap, washing powders, toothpaste, deodorants, sanitary towels and tampons, nappies, bras and pants for women and girls of all sizes. Useful children's clothes, baby clothes. Educational toys, writing materials, indoor board games. Water-purifying and anti-malarial tablets (available from chemists).

Please fill the basket as you did before.

*Hannah Stanton*

## 24-hour Fast

World Vision have thanked Margaret Revis for the splendid final sum of £880 received from St. James's, as a result of the one-day fast in April.

## St. James's Young Families Group

The Group starts again on 12th September and meets every Tuesday at 10.30 am in Wayside, 25 St. James's Road.

Meetings are varied and informal. There are plenty of toys for the children and coffee for the Mums.

New members are always very welcome. For more details 'phone Elizabeth Bar-nicott (941 2461) or Zena Williams (979 9125).

## Scout News

In July, the Scouts revived the Children's Sports Day, held at Holly Road Recreation Ground, which was an annual community event until it lapsed a few years ago. Several local voluntary organisations had stalls there and the Scouts provided refreshments. Although the date chosen turned out to be one of the few showery Saturdays this



'...and finally, hymn 313, missing out verses 2,3,4,5 and 6...'

summer, the event was very successful and much enjoyed by all those who took part. We hope that it will now once again become a regular feature of the local calendar.

For their final two meetings before the holidays, the Scouts held a Superscout competition and a barbecue.

The Cubs had a very enjoyable camp at Chalfont Heights at the end of July and visited Bekonscot Model Village and the Shire Horse Centre.

Thanks are expressed to all the leaders and other voluntary helpers for their time and commitment during the year and we hope that they all enjoy a restful holiday.

*Sue Horner*

## St. James's Women's Tuesday Club

Meetings at Wayside, St. James's Road, at 8 pm.

September	5th	Members evening
September	19th	Mr. C. Morrissey, Chief British Standards Officer
October	3rd	Miss A. Hemmings: 'The Rose-red City of Petra' (slides)
October	17th	Miss A. Kirk: Consumer Affairs
October	31st	Bring and Buy Auction
November	14th	Mr. Graham Pattison, National Council for Conservation of Plants and Gardens
November	28th	Dolly May: Red Cross video and talk
December	12th	Christmas Party

## Around the Spire

Several notable 'special occasions' have come to our notice this month. Two of the best-known members of the congregation celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversaries, and another much loved couple their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Margery and Len Orton were married in St. James's Church on 23rd September 1939 (three weeks after war broke out!), and Stan and Vera Bannister were married at St. John's Church, Walham Green, Fulham on the same day. Both Margery and Vera have long been members of the church and have made many and varied contributions to its work. It's now twenty five years since Jennifer and David Lloyd plighted their troth. Their contribution to church life has also been immense and continues with their two daughters





to be so. Congratulations to all these couples.

Peter Rawlins and Tracy were married on 19th August. Peter was in the choir for many years and has been a regular attender at church. We all wish them both a long and happy life together.

It was with great pleasure that we saw Louise Carter in church again after her recent heart operation. She looked so well, we do wish her and her family all the best after all their recent traumas.

Someone says Jack Gostling has retired - he even had a party to prove it but so far the carpet slippers have not been much in evidence. Perhaps later when he hasn't so much to do at work! In any event, best wishes to Jack and Ruth who both do so much.

We send our condolences to Janet Nunn on the loss of her father who died recently of cancer. He was the only member of Janet's family left, so his death is even more sad than is often the case. We send Janet and David our love.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

July	23	Simon Thomas Ward	45 Wordsworth Road
	30	Louise Elizabeth Fay Leighton	Rothley, Leicester
	30	Stephanie Elizabeth Ball	Brompton, Gillingham

### Weddings

July	15	Richard John Lowe and Naomi Ann Davis
	22	John Harris and Michelè Julie Baker

### Funerals

July	10	Emily Pettit	70 Hampton Rd., Teddington
	24	Hilda Elsie Susan Turnham	2 Pigeon Lane Aged 91
	27	Leonard Henry Francis Newman	29 Pigeon Lane Aged 73

## Services and Dates to Note

Sept.	2	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	3	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
	5	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club Members Evening, Wayside
	6	14.30	M.U.Meeting: Talks by Janet and Jean, Wayside

**Services and Dates to Note continued .....**

	7	19.15	Holy Communion
		20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	8		<u>The Blessed Virgin Mary</u>
	10	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	12	09.30	Holy Communion
	14	20.00	<u>Institution of the Rev. Brian Leathard</u>
	16		Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival
	17	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		18.30	Evensong
	19	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Chief British Standards Officer, Wayside
	21		<u>St. Matthew the Apostle</u>
		19.15	Holy Communion
	23	10.00	H.H.A. Car Boot Sale in aid of Spire Appeal Fund, Four Winds Press Car Park, High Street
	24	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	26	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road
	28	19.15	Holy Communion
	29		<u>St. Michael and All Angels</u>
Oct.	1		<u>Harvest Festival</u>
		08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion

**Advance Notices**

Oct.	3	20.00	Tuesday Club: 'The Rose-Red City', Wayside
	4	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	7	19.30	Harvest Supper, Parish Hall
	11	20.00	H.C.C., A.G.M., St. James's
	18	20.00	First of H.C.C. Talks on the Old Testament, Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton
	15		Memorial Service for the Rev. Rupert Brunt

**Copy Date for October issue: 10 September.**