

R.S. Thomas, the Welsh poet and priest, ends his poem 'Kneeling' with the line *The meaning is in the waiting*. The mood of the poem clearly indicates that it is waiting upon God which is intended, but that waiting is seen in a broad perspective. For Ramani, Anusha and I this year has in many ways been one of waiting. At the very beginning of 1989 we knew that we were to come to St. James, Hampton Hill, but, for a variety of reasons, it was not possible to make the move until the end of August. So it has truly been a time to wait; to finish some matters, to hand some over, to come to a realisation that some relationships would have an end, to refrain from making new commitments, and to worry about what the future may hold. In all such waiting we discover new things about ourselves and each other, and, thereby, we learn a lot about God.

The waiting for a new Vicar, which has been your lot, has lasted even longer. It is often the case now that a year or more may pass between the departure of one incumbent and the arrival of another. That period can be very trying for churchwardens, P.C.C. members and congregation alike, not to mention the many people in our community who feel aggrieved or frustrated when they ring the Vicarage or call by, only to find no one to answer their query. Nevertheless I would hazard a guess that in this period of waiting you too have found new meanings. New meanings about what it is to belong to the worshipping community, about undertaking new roles, seeing new commitments through, yes, even enjoying new roles and responsibilities. You have not been able to say 'Oh! That's the Vicar's job' or 'We had better see what the Vicar thinks', but rather you have undertaken a whole host of tasks and, as is plain to see, have vested enormous energy, sensitivity and skill in so doing. My hope is that many of these new skills, new insights, new roles will not be abandoned but will be built upon in a new partnership. I extend my very real thanks to all of you who have not simply kept St. James' parish 'going', but who have contributed so much of yourselves during the interregnum. Such contributions, which have been so varied, well illustrate our mutual dependence. Whatever your contribution has been, in decision making, maintenance, administration, in weekly or occasional services, in the life of prayer in the parish, might I offer you real thanks.

Living so near the Church we have been struck by the number of people who walk, jog, cycle through or sit in the churchyard and for whom the church is also part of their lives, their parish church in some way. It is, in the formal language of the Canons, the rules governing the life of the Church of England, for all who live in the parish that we should work and pray, in addition to the needs of the world and our own needs. To this end

the minister of the parish being at home
and not otherwise reasonably hindered, shall
resort to the parish church and, warning being
given to the people by the tolling of the bell,
say or sing the Common Prayers

and I would invite you to join me, Monday to Friday at 9.15am to say together Morning Prayer. The bell will be tolled and prayer will be offered in Church day by day. Perhaps you can come into Church to pray, or join in from home, or you may simply hear the bell and wonder why it is ringing at that time, or you may glance at your watch in the car, in the office, at the shops or at school and add your own prayers to those being said

both for you and on your behalf in your parish church. Waiting on God can and does take many forms, but in each and every one meaning is to be found.

As your Vicar I am here to be of help in any way I can. If you would like to get to know us a little more, drop in or call us; if you would like me to visit you, please just say so; if I pass you on the street, see you in the school playground or at the Post Office; if I cycle past while you are in your garden, please stop me and introduce yourself so that the Parish of St. James may be a place where all feel that they truly belong.

Brian Leathard

A New Beginning in Christ

A wet and chilly evening outside the church contrasted greatly with the warmth, expectancy and excited chatter inside, on the occasion of the Institution and Induction of The Rev. Brian Leathard as Vicar of the parish of St. James on Thursday 14th of September 1989. The day the parish had awaited for so long had dawned at last. My hopes ran high for a new beginning, a stepping forward in faith into the unknown, with a new priest and his family, new relationships to be formed, new hopes and aspirations to be fulfilled, but most of all a new journey with God.

The most impressive parts of the service for me and many others were Brian's prayers, the renewal of commitment by Priest and People and Brian's welcome after the service. Our new Vicar's prayers gave me hope for the future. They had spiritual depth. They were not just words but truly meant, coming straight from the heart delivered articulately. My heart filled with joy.

Take a few minutes to look again at the promises Brian made. What a gargantuan task he has in front of him. I quote just one of them although they are all worthy of quotation.

The Bishop: Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scriptures and in all study and discipline which will equip you as a servant of the Gospel?

Brian: By the help of God I will.

Brian's answer 'By the help of God I will' is the secret. With God's ever pervading grace he will be upheld. But we his congregation, his flock what part do we have to play? Each one of us has a share in the ministry of Christ and during the service we too renewed our vows. If we are steadfastly living in the faith, as a congregation we can be an invincible support to Brian and his family. We would do well to remember that he and his family will bear both the joys and burdens of his calling.

A joy for me was seeing Brian's little daughter Anusha, wave excitedly to someone she recognised in the congregation. A joy for Brian must have been to know that someone travelled from Seaford, where he served his curacy and friends came from Loughborough too. It gives us great joy to welcome you Brian, Ramani and Anusha. May you be extremely happy and fulfilled among us.

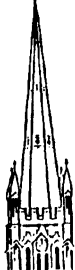
Let us go forward together rejoicing in the building of God's kingdom and proclaiming his glory in the world.

Janet Jeffries

The Reverend Rupert Brunt

At the Parish Communion on Sunday 15 October 1989 we shall give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Rupert Brunt, who was Vicar of St. James' from 1951 to 1980 and who died in July this year. His ashes will then be buried in the churchyard. Many people owe much to Rupert and we hope that we may take this opportunity to be alongside Rupert's family to offer praise and thanksgiving.

SOS



ST JAMES'S
SPIRE APPEAL

Final estimates show that considerably more money than anticipated will be needed for the Spire than the sum available to us.

Some £22,000 will have to be found. Various plans are in the pipe line but as money is needed URGENTLY we have decided to run A GRAND CHRISTMAS FAIR. We ask that everybody who reads this will rally round and support us, not only by coming to the Church Hall in School Road on November 18th (time to be announced later) but in volunteering assistance. Likely stalls will be: Bric-a-Brac (not white elephants!) - organisers Margaret Taylor 977 1342 and Margaret Leatherdale 979 6999; Homemade Cakes - Mary Metcalfe 979 0907 and Rosalie Meyerowitz; Christmas Gifts - Margery Orton 979 5868; Books (in good condition); Needlework and Handcraft; Bottle Stall (Tombola); Raffle; etc. All enquiries and offers of help to Mrs. Ann Rowett 892 4736 who is overall organiser of the event.

There will be a working party every Thursday afternoon at Wayside, 2pm until 4pm to make things (and to bring things) for the 18th.

We are not considering making less than £1,000 on the day. Every one in the congregation and in the parish at large has something to offer and therefore we ask All Hampton Hilliers for their help. WE ASPIRE TO GREAT THINGS.

GRAND CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER

IN THE PARISH HALL SCHOOL ROAD

FOR THE TIME - WATCH THE POSTERS

There will be a COFFEE MORNING on Thursday November 8th at 30 St. James's Road, 10.30 to 12 noon to collect gifts for the Christmas Present Stall. Please bring something suitable with you - we all have gifts from here and there which, one way or another, are not "quite our cup of tea" but will give pleasure to someone if bought on the Stall. Put this date in your Diary. Coffee and Refreshments will be 30p and there will be the usual Christmas Raffle. Come along and enjoy a pleasant social morning.

Margery Orton

Harvest Supper

Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 7th October 1989 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, School Road, Hampton Hill. Tickets price £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children under 14 years are now available from members of the Social Committee. There will be entertainment as well as tasty refreshments all included in the admission price.

A raffle will be run and any profit made together with the proceeds from the raffle will go towards the Steeple Fund.

Make a note of the date and if you have not yet bought your tickets hurry along and do so for this very popular event.

David Lloyd

Hampton Council of Churches Autumn Talks

There will be a series of talks organised by the above entitled "The Old Testament, in the Light of Christ". They will be held every Wednesday from 18th October for six weeks at The Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton, starting at 8pm. There are some excellent speakers and this should be a most stimulating series of talks. Do try and come yourself and persuade others to do the same.

October 25th "Paradox of the Priesthood" Rev. Dr. Arnold Brown, M.A., Chaplain,
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College.

November 1st "Christianity and Social Justice" Rev. Kenneth Leech, M.A., A.K.C.,
Director of the Runnymede Trust.

November 8th "God's Manifesto" Rev. Iain Stewart, M.A., L.Th., M.Th.,
Minister, United Reformed Church, Canterbury.

November 15th "Jesus as Messiah" Rev. Canon C.F.D. Moule, Hon. D.D., Formerly
Professor of Divinity, Cambridge.

November 22nd "Take a Psalm and Preach Christ" Rev. C. Clive Thexton, M.Th.,
Formerly Lecturer in Old Testament Language and Literature,
Richmond College.

Retiring collection each evening to defray expenses.

Churchyard Vandalism

We've all heard of Yobs, Football Hooligans and Lager Louts, too much so in fact, but the sort of trouble such people cause was brought home to us rather forcibly on the night of August 24th. Park Road is prone to noisy groups of people returning home from the Pubs late at night but on this particular night the noise of fence boards being ripped up disturbed us at about 11.30pm. On looking out of the window we could see nothing and returned to bed.

In the morning about nine o'clock I crossed the road and saw a big gap in the fence of the house on the corner of Park Road and St. James's Road and a little further on, the branch of a newly planted tree lying on the ground. I picked it up rather sadly and thought I would put it on the bonfire pile in the church yard and then I saw the real damage, I couldn't believe it, enormous great lumps of marble and granite gravestones

lying smashed on the path and many others about eighteen or so in all, pushed over either on the path or in the grass. The huge red granite stone that stood on the corner, the grave of the Paines family, for many years butchers in the High Street, lying across the path; the beautiful decorated cross and plinth that marked the grave of Mr. Lindsay Milne, the market gardener who built 'Lindsay Lodge'; the plain marble crosses which stood at the head of many of the graves, including Mr. Veysey, for years stationmaster at Fulwell, toppled over by drunken and perhaps drugged louts.

Later we heard that Prill Smith's car had also been turned upside down on its roof in the middle of the road and is now a wreck, presumably the same people were responsible, it happened at about the same time.

What can we do now - not very much unfortunately. Gravestones are not insured and are costly to repair, even if the expertise is available to carry out such work. The church is not in a position to be able to pay for the damage to be put right, and the families are long since gone. Go and look for yourselves, you will be appalled by what you see. This is not the ravages of time or a freak storm, this is deliberate, wanton destruction.

The day before this happened the churchyard shed had been broken into and some garden equipment chiefly an expensive strimmer stolen - and it had been padlocked to the bench inside the shed!

The Police are alerted - but if you see anybody in the Churchyard who seems to be there for the wrong reasons please alert the authorities.

August 24th was the day the GCSE examination results were published - were these Yobs either wreaking vengeance or celebrating at the expense of the dead - what a sick society!

Helen Taylor

A Time of Quiet

In May, I was fortunate to attend a Mother's Union Retreat at The Foundation of St. Katherine in the East End of London. I was longing for some peace and quiet and the opportunity of a holiday with God. We were to be silent from after the first address on Friday evening until Sunday teatime. During the weekend we met in chapel for five addresses followed by meditation. We ate ample and appetising meals with the community, in silence, to the accompaniment of classical music. There was time to be on one's own, a veritable luxury as far as I was concerned. Everywhere was peaceful from the quiet of one's room to the beautiful gardens and the excellent library. I found my peace in the comfort of my room, with the fresh summer breeze wafting through the window. I quite lost myself - it was wonderful to have an uninterrupted quiet time and I began to feel more and more refreshed. My heart sang as I realised that God was present with me in this lovely place. One of my most memorable moments was hearing an African member pray most movingly for water and for, above all, peace for her people. Many hearts were moved by her prayers. Memories were stirred of happy college days, when attending Compline in the late evening.

Amongst the preliminary literature we were sent the following advice was given: The chief purpose of a retreat is to draw nearer to God, to look at His Great Love and to know His power. You can use your time in many ways -

to revise your rule of life and ways of self discipline

to consider your daily priorities and review your timetable

to make or renew a list of people for whom you pray

to bring an important decision about the future and offer it to God in peace

to walk or sit quietly and be at God's disposal, to wait upon His will and be attentive to what He is saying to you. This may be the most valuable part of your retreat.

We were told to be generous with our time for God, to ask sincerely for the light of His Holy Spirit, to show us how we can please Him more, how our lives can be a greater blessing to others, and to make one or more simple but firm resolutions. Above all we were told to resolve to enjoy our retreat. I did exactly that and returned home to my family refreshed and renewed in body, mind and spirit. Why not try a retreat yourself?

Janet Jeffries

St. James's Mother's Union

Programme October/December 1989

Wed. Oct. 4th 2.30pm	M.U. Service in church when we will welcome our new Vicar
Wed. Oct. 11th 10.45am-3.30pm	Deanery Day at All Saints Theme 'Caring'.
Wed. Oct. 18th 10.30am - 2.30pm	'Hassocks Ring' Day in the Vestry.
Wed. Nov. 1st 2.30pm	A.G.M.
Fri. Nov. 10th 11am - 3pm	Social Concern Day at M.S.H. Subject - A Question of Debt.
Wed. Nov. 15th 10.30am or 2.30pm	A Prayer Sharing Day.
Wed. Dec. 6th 2.30pm	'One Parent Families' A talk by Margaret Bramall.

OUR SOCIETY

We belong to a great Society. It is called THE SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD. Its members are legion; all the baptised, old, middle aged and young, good and not so good, living and long dead. Those who minister are Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Readers and all those appointed outwardly by God and Man, together with those called inwardly and gifted by God to tend and feed His sheep. Its only Head is Christ its founder in God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

ITS PURPOSE IS TO SERVE - to make this world a better place, according to the will of God who created it, and to save Man from sin, to transform him, make him new, that his life shall be good here and in the promised eternity through His love, His Word and His Spirit.

SOME OF ITS MANY BENEFITS ARE - fellowship by which Christians learn to come together as one body in Christ so that even as men affect each other by their faults they may help each other by their faith, in love.

The Church feeds us with the Body and the Blood of Christ which is given for the strengthening and refreshing of our souls even as bread and wine refreshes our bodies.

The Church feeds also with the milk and meat of God's Holy Word and leads us into all truth by God's Holy Spirit. The Church grants us forgiveness given through Christ to every member who confesses his faults and repents (that is, chooses a new path of righteousness earnestly desiring and striving for amendment of life).

What other societies can offer as much?

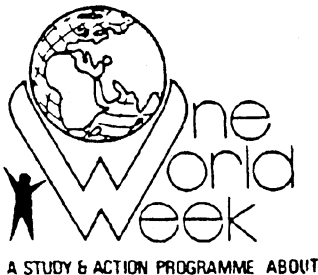
By our membership of the Society of the Church of God in Christ we have obligations. We must continually turn our backs on all that would make us unworthy ambassadors for Christ and unworthy witnesses to the strength and power of the Faith we profess. We must pray for Grace not to find our Saviour and His words a stumbling block. We must never willingly consent to evil even when we do it. We must be active participants, not sleeping partners. We must pay our subscriptions freely and willingly. Our badge is the Cross, our meeting place is the world.

We must believe in and trust ourselves to God, learning not to 'lean on our limited understanding'. He who sent us living into the world by breathing His Spirit into us knows us every one and loves us. We must believe and trust in God the Son who came back from the dead. He willingly suffered for us to set us free from sin to His service. We must believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who is the inspiration of Christ's Church and the Guide of our individual lives, leading us - if we so desire it - into all truth. We must live in love and obedience to our unseen yet very present and unfailing 'Chairman', seeking His Grace. We must offer prayer and praise and worship at all times and in all places, committing ourselves in Body, Mind and Spirit into His loving, caring hands.

Margery Orton

Inspired by H.F.T. in "My Prayer Book"

Putting Value on People



'Value for People' is the theme for this year's One World Week, 22-29 October. The idea grew out of the highly successful Week a year ago on 'Making Peace with the Planet'; the organisers say that groups all around the country did some hard thinking and imaginative work. But this process made them realise that environmental issues cannot stand alone; granted we are treating our planet badly - how are we treating our fellow humans? How should we be organising ourselves to promote justice?

There will be a UNITED SERVICE on October 22nd at the Methodist Church, Hampton, at 4.30pm. The Preacher will be the Associate Director of Christian Aid, Martin Bax of the Teddington Methodist Church.

Church Missionary Society

Dear Friends, Greetings from Tansen!

I know it's Autumn in Britain but I do want to encourage you to continue in prayer for this country especially at this time of changes and uncertainties. Praise and thank God too for the many answers to prayers.

Nepal/India Relations Still no agreements have been negotiated regarding trade and transit of goods. For over three months goods coming into Nepal from India have been severely restricted. Fuel especially is in short supply - gas, kerosene, diesel and petrol. I can do some cooking on electricity (when it's on) and so save my gas, but the local people (and missionaries in villages) have to use firewood. This is not helping Nepal's deforestation problem.

Hospital This has been very busy recently with maximum numbers of patients each day. There have been several occasions when supplies of essential drugs have all but run out (because of the border situation) and then more have arrived from a quite unexpected source. Coincidence, or God?

Church We have been praying for unity, for the healing of a division which started about five years ago. Then suddenly, a few weeks ago, things seemed to get worse. We've learned so much about our own need to repent, to love and to pray. Now we seem to be moving towards unity. Not all the problems have been solved but I've been encouraged by the example of the Church elders who are prepared to take one step and trust God for the next. So often we want to see the whole way spread out clearly before us first.

I've really appreciated working 'normal hours' and only five days a week for a change.

It's good to be part of a team, part of a church and part of a fellowship - to be able to encourage one another, share together and pray together. I ask that God will continue to fill me with his Holy Spirit and lead me step by step along the path he has planned out for me, and that I may be open to him and to his opportunities. This will be my prayer for you also.

With much love,

Margaret Cranston

United Mission to Nepal, P.O. Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Scout News

Although the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have not met during August, planning has continued through the summer. Two events at which all will be welcome, regardless of whether they have any connection with the Group, have been organised:

There will be an **Autumn Fair** from 12.00 on **Saturday 14 October** in the Church Hall, School Road. Do your Christmas shopping early! There will be gifts, cards, wrapping paper, cakes and a wonderful selection of books.

On **Saturday 4 November** the Group will be holding its annual **Bonfire Party** on the Triangle (beyond Holly Road recreation ground). This is a most enjoyable event for all the family, with hot refreshments available. Do come along and join us.

Susan Horner

Thank You

Many thanks to the willing band of cheerful Mrs. Mops who came to clean the Vicarage after the builders had finally vacated the premises the day before our new Vicar moved in to his new home. So numerous and well equipped were the helpers that all was accomplished by lunch time.

We wish Brian, Ramani and Anusha much happiness amongst us in Hampton Hill.

Helen Taylor

We would like to thank the people of St. James's for all the kindness shown during the preparations for our wedding; including the floral arrangements and the many cards and gifts so kindly given to us.

We also appreciate the Rev. David Bonner who conducted the service so beautifully, the lovely singing by the choir and the joyful bellringing by Ruth Mills.

Peter and Tracy Rawlings

From the Registers

Baptisms

August 13	Laura Roberts	23 Deacons Walk
	Harry George Chadwick	18 Edward Road
	Thomas George Gollon	13 Edward Road

Wedding

August 19 Peter Roy Rawlins and Tracy Ann Sexton

Funeral

May 18 (and Interment of Ashes on August 9)
Mark Philip Wadlow 21 Kingston Lane, Teddington aged 33

August 23

Services and Dates to Note

October 1	<u>Harvest Festival</u>
	08.00 Holy Communion
	09.30 Informal Service
	18.30 Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
3	09.30 Holy Communion
	20.00 Tuesday Club: 'The Rose-Red City', Wayside
4	20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
5	19.15 Holy Communion
7	19.30 Harvest Supper, Parish Hall
8	08.00 Holy Communion
	09.30 Parish Communion
	17.00 Said Evening Prayer
	18.30 Prayer 'n' Praise
10	09.30 Holy Communion

	11	20.00	H.C.C., A.G.M., St. James's
	12	19.15	Holy Communion
	15	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion and
			Memorial Service for the Rev. Rupert Brunt
		18.30	Evensong
	17	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Consumer Affairs', Wayside
	18		<u>St. Luke the Evangelist</u>
		20.00	H.C.C. Talk on Old Testament, Hampton Methodist Church
	19	19.15	Holy Communion
		20.00	Taize Service, All Saints', Hampton
	22	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		16.30	United Service, Methodist Church Hampton
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	24	09.30	Holy Communion
	25	20.00	H.C.C. Talk on Old Testament, Hampton Methodist Church
	26	19.15	Holy Communion
	28		<u>St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles</u>
	29	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		17.00	Said Evening Prayer
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	31	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	Tuesday Club: Bring and Buy Auction
Nov.	1		<u>All Saints</u>
		20.00	H.C.C. Talk on Old Testament, Hampton Methodist Church
	2	19.15	Holy Communion
	4	09.30	Churchyard Working Party (Hedge cutting)
	5	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion

Advance Notices

Nov.	8	20.00	(and 15 and 22)
			H.C.C. Talk on Old Testament, Hampton Methodist Church
	14	20.00	Tuesday Club: N.C.C. of Plants and Gardens, Wayside
	23		Stewardship Review

Note: The Vicar invites you to join him for Morning Prayer at
9.15am - Monday to Friday

Copy Date for November issue: 8 October