

Belonging is vital. We belong to families and communities, we belong to schools, sports clubs, social groups, sections or departments at work. Belonging is vital, is life-giving. Since moving here many people have asked me where I come from. It is hard to answer as I have led a fairly nomadic existence. On the other hand as months pass I am sure it will seem more and more appropriate to say 'I come from Hampton Hill'. However, belonging is not just about place. It is much more. I belong to a place, yes, but I belong to a family, a church in which I discover myself, other people and, in so doing, God. Belonging is about relationships between people. There is surely some truth in the saying 'Blood is thicker than water', because our families represent, very often, our most basic, our original sense of belonging. For many people who have no family that sense of belonging is found in a neighbourhood or in friends or a friend.

Looking through the correspondence regarding the 'Spire Appeal' I have been struck by many comments which seem to say, in a host of different ways, 'I belong to St. James's parish'. Some of you have said that you were pushed in your prams through the churchyard and count the spire among your earliest memories, others that, although you may not be a regular worshipper, you feel part of the community here whenever you hear the bells. Another lady mentioned that as her family emerged out of their garden air raid shelter during the Second World War, the first thing they did was to look up to see whether the spire was still standing.

The Church of England exists in dioceses and parishes which cover every inch of England and everyone. It is here for you because you are here. Although in urban and suburban areas parish boundaries, often drawn up long ago, do not necessarily have an obvious pattern, nevertheless each parish church exists as a place for all people of that place to worship God and to serve his world. Each parish belongs to that place - not to the Vicar or the Parochial Church Council, or the Sunday congregation. Conversely the feeling of belonging, which you have expressed, finds a focus here. For each of us that focus will be unique. You are the parishioners of St. James' Hampton Hill, not because you are on a committee or because you have worshipped here man and boy, but because you belong here. This is where your life is. The parish's life comes from the diversity of the people who belong here. Belonging is not about signing on a dotted line, but about finding yourself, finding life here.

Brian Leathard

<u>Stewardship Giving</u>		£		£
October/December:	1988	5319	1987	4660
January/March:	1989	5549	1988	5759
April/June:	1989	4286	1988	4447
July/September:	1989	<u>5073</u>	1988	<u>4395</u>
		20227		19261

A Farewell to Rupert Brunt

It was a brilliant, though somewhat chill, Autumn morning as we gathered for the Parish Communion on 15 October. The church filled for it was also to be a Memorial Service for Rupert.

Connie had come up from Seaford and was accompanied by Rosalind, Clare, Bernard, Francis and Danny and other relatives and friends. Many of those who had been in Rupert's congregation here but had since moved away, had come from a distance to join us in thanksgiving for his life and work. After the Blessing at the end of the communion, we formed a very long file in the sunshine as we walked through the churchyard to the Garden of Remembrance where our Vicar, Brian, who knew Rupert and Connie, committed Rupert's ashes to the ground, in accordance with Rupert's wishes.

Brian presided at the communion service, and we sang Rupert's favourite hymns from '100 Hymns for Today'. Seymour Harris read the Gospel, Hannah lead the intercessions and Alan preached. Alan spoke of the great changes that had taken place during the 29 years of Rupert's ministry among us: of the altar coming forward near to the congregation, making the priest more visible and making us all more a part of the proceedings; of a new approach by which we were all part of 'the people of God'. But, as Rupert would have wished, Alan looked forward, to how we should build on the sound foundations laid by Rupert.

And so, as we remembered Rupert, we gave thanks to God for his ministry among us, for his great spiritual leadership, and we looked to the future of Christ's work here in our parish.

'Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.

Ron Bridges

(The next issue will include an appreciation of Rupert.)

A Quiet Day

Members of the congregation will remember that last year we were unable to have our annual Quiet Day at St. Michael's Convent at Ham. We went with the Rev. Peter Sills of Barnes to The Close at Staines, and, although the surroundings were a little cramped, had a very happy day.

Immediately that was over we booked a date for this autumn at Ham, Saturday 25 November, a week before Advent starts. We were not going to be too late this time!

Our Vicar will be conducting the Quiet Day. He has not worked out the programme yet, but we shall probably be asking people to arrive at 10am and to bring a packed lunch with them, and the day will be ending at about 4pm.

We shall be putting up a list in church for everyone to sign, and it would be a help if those needing transport and others ready to provide transport would indicate this after their names.

Hannah Stanton

Impressions of the Institution and Induction

September 14th - one of the few wet evenings at the end of this hot summer; tightly parked cars, puddles, umbrellas and seemingly endless visiting clergy damply queueing to enter the church.

But inside! What a warm, welcoming occasion - even the church clock had his say! And the strengthened fellowship with friends old and new, which was generated at this happy event, we carried out with us.

What a joyful way to start this new chapter in the life of the Parish of St. James.

Pip and Anne Rowett

I was fortunate to be chosen as one of the servers on this special occasion, together with Mona Gow and Ron Metcalfe. I arrived early to help with the refreshments for after the service. Also to check that everything was in the correct place. Then Mona, Ron and I robed and had a last minute Conference to check that we could remember the order of service and when various pieces of furniture should be moved. We all felt rather nervous.

After the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Hughes, said a prayer in the vestry, Mona and I lit the candles and followed Ron who was carrying the cross. Walking down the aisle I found it very difficult to hold the candle straight and at the same time sing the hymn without a hymnbook. As this took a lot of concentration I subsequently singed my hair with the candle!

During the service I tried to refer to my notes and hoped nothing would go wrong. While singing the hymns during communion, it was a shock to realise that I was actually enjoying myself! As we processed back down the aisle again I felt very happy that the proceedings had run so smoothly.

I know that everyone in the parish warmly welcomes Brian and his family, and from my point of view I hope it will be a long, long time before I suffer the traumas of another institution and induction!

Rachele Lloyd

Full house - Standing room only - and not much of that. That is how the board outside the church might have read, for the parishioners of St. James filled the church to welcome our new Vicar, Brian Leathard.

The whole service was so splendidly staged and our dear church looked so beautiful, and the sermon by the Bishop and all that was said all struck just the right note. From the moment that the procession left the vestry until the bronchial tolling of the bell with the relaxed laughter on Brian's face, the evening seemed perfect to me.

And then came Sunday and we gathered to welcome Brian as our Vicar. I must say that the clarity of his voice and enunciation was a joy to my ageing ears and his whole demeanour was so earnest and relaxed. I look forward to his ministry with excitement and pleasure and wish him and his family much happiness among us.

Alison Thompson

Harvest Celebrations

Harvest Festival

To me Brazil will never be the same again. Once one has seen Brian as an actor and dancer, inspiring the church congregation of all ages to flap their wings and all the other demonstrations of the words on his long scroll, surely that is now Brazil.

I wondered why I had this urgent desire to go to the Informal Service when it was really the Eucharist that I was craving. One of my very kind friends called for me and then I was filled with doubt. Doubt, I have been told, was discarded as the opposite of Faith and replaced by Fear in one of Brian's sermons which I missed. Once again Faith should have taken over because a full and happy church was obviously what I needed.

When we had finished with Brazil there was the Tree of Prayer on the chancel steps. We were given plain cards and pencils to write the inspiration for a prayer, and then Brian attached them to the tree, where they remained for some while. They expressed thanks and concern for the natural world on which we are so dependent, and for those who are hungry. Among them: 'Lord, feed the world'; 'Please help to find food for children who are hungry'; 'Dear Lord, Thank you for the food, trees and animals, for this earth, and make us sensible'; 'Dear God, teach us to share with our neighbours, so we may share with the whole world'. Some were of wider scope: 'Dear God, thank you for giving me a bike to ride on and for giving me a brother and a baby. Thank you for the trees and flowers and houses' !

Our Harvest Festival was certainly different from other years but joy and happiness were there and the younger members, several pews of them, obviously enjoyed it.

Alison Thompson

Harvest Supper

Suddenly all was well for me. I was given a lift to the Harvest Supper and really enjoyed the evening. After a prayer from Brian, we descended on the beautifully prepared and presented meal, laid out on the long centre table, like a plague of locusts. The freshness and variety of the food was really delightful, and our sincere thanks go to the hard-working catering group.

Replete and happy, we queued up for raffle tickets, and then, moving our chairs to the centre of the hall, we settled down for the entertainment which was, as usual, light-hearted fun presented with joy and laughter.

Our three glamour girls, Margaret Revis, Eila Severn and Helen Taylor, in school uniform, set the trend with their lively rendering of their own version of 'Three Little Maids', and I was very intrigued with 'All change' with Anne, Fiona, Pip and Tim. I almost thought I was travelling on the Underground.

After that, we had our two glamour boys, David and Jack, in Offenbach's Gendarmes Song, followed by Stephen Ward who, with his dramatic and accomplished rendering

of 'Curfew must not ring tonight', had us all roaring with laughter.

Jane Dobson worked hard accompanying everyone and playing a duet with Debbie Nunn which we all enjoyed.

An opera without music - just imagine - 'Cosi van Tut', with Jack and Paul and a heavily disguised Coryn, was very amusing; and the Rowetts completed the entertainment with a Barbershop Quartet, 'Baa Baa Black Sheep', and Pip, with the aid of the audience, singing 'The Rhinoceros Song'.

We are very grateful to Pip for arranging the entertainment, and to all who helped to provide such a happy, friendly evening.

Alison Thompson

I am sure that everyone who came to the supper will be very pleased to know that, as a result of the evening, the Social Committee have been able to give £126 to the Spire Appeal Fund. Nearly £57 of this amount was produced by the raffle.

May I again take this opportunity to thank everyone, not only the members of the Social Committee, who donated raffle prizes or helped in any way. Particular mention must be made of all involved with the 'West End' entertainment.

David Lloyd

Stewardship

My thoughts on Stewardship and our situation at St. James's have been stimulated by visits abroad to two very different countries; Jerusalem in Israel, and Tallinn in Estonia, part of Soviet Russia. I was fortunate to be able to attend meetings in both these places and see something of the towns and the people at the same time. Of course, the situation for Christians in these countries could not be more different, but in each the Christian community is maintaining and caring for a tiny part of the world-wide church. In each place I was glad to be able visit somewhere in which it was natural to worship and pray, and I could do so with other Christians. Let me share just two examples with you from the mass of impressions with which I was left.

The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, was certainly the most memorable for me - a neglected plot, near a rocky knoll that resembled a skull (Calvary or Golgotha), which was bought in 1892 after the initial visit in 1882 of General Charles Gordon, and since then turned into a peaceful garden, with flowers and rivulets of water. This is a haven for worship, prayer and meditation maintained by a group of British Christians, who now live there. It is now free from the rubble and weeds that concealed the tomb cut into the rock face, dated to the first century B.C. The reality of the rough cut tomb and the massive stone rolled away from the opening is sufficient for visitors to feel for themselves the atmosphere of the place where the body of Jesus was laid after his crucifixion on the nearby hill. Today the stewardship of a few keeps this sacred place in which others can worship and sense something of the momentous news that started from the time that Mary ran to find Peter and tell him that the tomb was empty.

The second example has nothing of the drama and mystery of the Garden Tomb: it is

a Lutheran church in Estonia called by the secular name, the Dome Church. I visited this during a tour of the old town and found myself part of a tiny congregation but joining in a hymn that was very familiar to me, at least the tune if not the words. Here in this 13th century church, despite the oppression, people had continued to keep a place in which to worship and pray and ensure that something of the Christian church continued here. Now, with the new spirit of freedom and independence that is emerging, the beautiful old wood carvings that adorned the walls as crests of the barons were being restored, with coats of new bright colours and gilding. Another example of stewards keeping a Christian presence despite the obstacles put in their way.

We, also, are stewards: every Sunday part of our Stewardship contribution goes to keep St. James's as a vital part of the Christian church. But we are only just surviving in financial terms, as you will be aware from the letter sent in July from our Treasurer and Churchwarden. In this they explained that our giving needed to be substantially increased; we need more stewards and greater individual contributions. However, I would like to remind you that our Annual Stewardship Review will be a relaxed occasion, so do come along on 30th November and hear how our money is put to good use in support of Welcare in Richmond and farther afield. We look forward to inviting everyone in Stewardship and everyone else concerned with the church to come and listen and discuss any of these issues.

Moya Smith

Stewardship Review

Thursday 30th November, Parish Hall

Coffee etc., and biscuits at 7.45pm

Talk on 'The Work of Welcare'

ALL ARE WELCOME

*WHENEVER we intercede in prayer, we must be prepared for
an answer which places a practical obligation upon us.*

A prayer is always a commitment.

Thomas Green

Spire Appeal

SOS



ST JAMES'S
SPIRE APPEAL

As we go to press, the fund stands at about £12,600, having received a splendid boost from the 'Spire Challenge'. This was taken up by thirteen donors, who contributed £1,400, in addition to the £1,000 from our 'challengers'. Many thanks to this family for their most generous and imaginative initiative, and also to all those who responded.

Thanks also to the Hampton Hill Association for £255 raised by their car boot sale.

Our next major event is the Christmas Fair (see box): please do come prepared to buy from our many gift and craft stalls, and to have a flutter on the Tombola, Raffle and Wheel of Fortune (run for us by the Teddington and Hampton Rotary Club). There will be HUNDREDS of things to buy and win, and many children's items, including a GRAND FANCY HAT COMPETITION!

Jack Gostling

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER AT 2.00pm

Parish Hall, School Road

- **Christmas Gifts and Cards**
 - **Stalls include Books, Cakes, Groceries, Bric-a-brac, Scarves & Ties, Bottles (Tombola)**
 - **Raffle to be drawn at 4.00pm**
 - **Wheel of Fortune**
 - **Teas and Refreshments**
 - **Children's Fancy Hat Competition**
- Admission by Lucky Programme 20p (Concessions 10p)**

WEALTH WARNING

Attending our Fair could seriously damage your wallet!

Please remember the Coffee Morning on Thursday 9 November (10.30am to 12 noon) to collect presents for the Christmas Gift Stall. Refreshments 30p. Christmas Raffle.

Have you got any new scarves or ties, perhaps given to you as presents, which you don't wear or which don't match your outfits. We hope to make a colourful Scarf and Tie Stall of these at the Christmas Fair. Please let Janet or David Nunn (151 Uxbridge Road) have them or place them in the box provided in church.

St. Paul the Traveller

As a follow-up to the Hampton Deanery Summer Workshop, performances of this musical work by our own Paul Revis are to be given on Saturday 13 January in St. Peter and St. Paul, and on Sunday 14 January in St. James's. Singers are needed - both children and adults - to make this a great success. Rehearsals are to start in mid-November. Please contact either Pam Atkinson (979 6166) or Bridget Fairbairn (941 4991) if you can help.

Parish Hall Booking Officer

Roy Brooks has been a member of the Hall Management Committee since it was formed in 1971. For the greater part of that time he has been our Secretary, and for the last five years he has also been the Booking Officer. These titles inadequately describe the many tasks which Roy has undertaken and discharged, quietly, modestly and effectively, throughout the last eighteen years. Now, sadly, he is to retire from the committee at the end of the year. We owe him a considerable debt of gratitude, and we shall greatly miss all his help.

There is a question mark over the future of the Hall which is unlikely to be removed until the summer of 1990 at the earliest. In the meantime, we need a volunteer to take Roy's place as Booking Officer. I shall be pleased to give details of what the job entails to anybody who is interested.

Jack Gostling

Help needed for Magazine Distribution

A new helper is needed urgently for distribution of some 25 copies each month in Burtons Road between St. James's Road and Uxbridge Road. Would anyone prepared to help please contact the Vicar or Mr. Loyd on 943 3568. Magazine distribution depends entirely on volunteers.

Scout News

The group is now well into its Autumn programme with both group and community activities. We took part in the local carnival, with a float in the procession and a stall. Two teams entered the District Day Prowl recently; this consists of an all-day hike with activities such as first-aid and tent-pitching at various bases. A good time was had by all. By the time this is printed, the group will have taken part in the District sponsored walk in aid of the Star and Garter Home, and some scouts will have been flying at Coventry.

Do come and join us at our Bonfire Party on the Triangle (beyond Holly Road Recreation Ground) on Saturday 4 November from 7pm - there will be fireworks and hot refreshments and all are welcome.

Susan Horner

Suffering Hardship

The Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity invites applications from anyone who is in need or sick or disabled, for help to reduce their hardship. Application Forms and further details may be obtained from the Vicar.

Hampton Hill Association

EVENING OF MUSIC, WORDS AND MOVEMENT

'Winter (including Christmas and the New Year)'

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER, 7.30pm

Admission £2, including light refreshments in the interval

PROCEEDS TO TEDDINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Tickets from: Dennis Dolan 979 8641

Joyce Doughty 979 2839

Dorothy Weston 979 6673

or from your HHA Street Representative

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We are looking for talented MUSICIANS, ACTORS and DANCERS of all ages, both amateur and professional, who would like to take part in this most worthwhile event. If therefore there is anyone out there who wishes to participate and help make the evening an artistic and financial success, please contact Angela Francis Dolan on 979 8641 who will be pleased to give you further details on times of auditions, rehearsals, etc.

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From the Registers

Baptisms

September 24 Holly Ross 55 Rectory Grove

Marriages

September 16 Robert Hayes and Karen Farmer

30 Graham Osborne and Charlotte Stowell

Marriage Blessings

September 16 Paul Shepherd and Helen Taylor

23 David North and Felicia Russell

Funerals

August 23 Dennis Henry Farr 30 Longford Close Aged 58

September 21 Hilda Rose Powell 11 Hartland Road Aged 83

27 George Charles Watson 90 Windmill Road Aged 79

28 Alan Gordon David Williams 2 Uxbridge Road Aged 75

29 Guy Herman Booth 18 Links View Road Aged 66

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion (except first Sunday in month)
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion

Other Services and Dates to Note

November 4	09.30	Churchyard Working Party (Hedge cutting)
	19.00	Scouts Bonfire Party, The Triangle
5	09.30	Informal Service
	18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
8	20.00	H.C.C. Talk on Old Testament, Hampton Methodist Church
9	10.30	Coffee Morning, 30 St. James's Road
10	11.00	M.U. Social Concern Day, 'A Question of Debt', M.S.H.
12		<u>Remembrance Sunday</u>
	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
14	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	20.00	Tuesday Club: N.C.C. of Plants and Gardens, Wayside
15	10.30 or 14.30	M.U. Prayer Sharing Day
	20.00	H.C.C. Talk on Old Testament, Hampton Methodist Church
16	19.30	Borough Area Consultation, Percy Road Junior School
18	14.00	Christmas Fair for Spire Appeal, Parish Hall
19	18.30	Evensong
22	20.00	H.C.C. Talk on Old Testament, Hampton Methodist Church
25	10.00	Parish Quiet Day, St. Michael's Convent, Ham
26		<u>Stewardship Sunday</u>
	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
28	20.00	Tuesday Club: Red Cross Video and Talk, Wayside
30		<u>St. Andrew</u>
	19.45	Stewardship Review, Parish Hall
December 2	09.30	Churchyard Working Party (Leaf Clearing)
3		<u>Advent Sunday</u>
	09.30	Informal Service
	18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry

Advance Notices

December 4	09.30	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
6	14.30	M.U. Talk: 'One-parent Families'
11	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
12	20.00	Tuesday Club Christmas Party, Wayside

Copy Date for December issue: 12 November