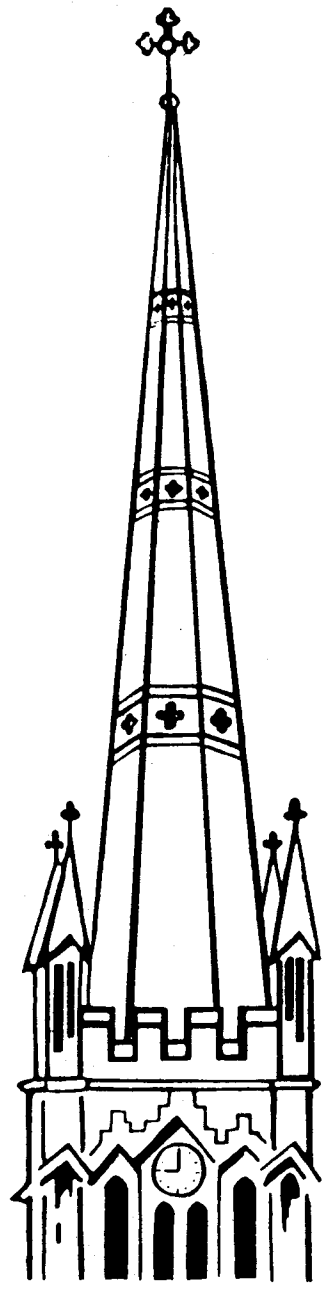


THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
HAMPTON HILL



CHURCH OFFICERS

VICAR .

The Rev. Brian Leathard, B.A., The Vicarage, 46 St. James's Road 979 2069

READERS

Mr. D. Dore, 232 Uxbridge Road 979 7041

Mr. D.A.F. Rawlins, 75 Burton's Road 979 3720

Miss H.M. Stanton, M.A., 30 Burton's Road 943 1336

Mr. A.R. Taylor, Dip.R.S., 68 Park Road 979 7042

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs. L. Mortimer, 21 Hogarth Way, Hampton 941 2345

Mr. A.R. Taylor, 68 Park Road 979 7042

TREASURER

Dr. J.M. Smith, 63 Hampton Road, Teddington 977 3641

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Mr. R.E. Bridges, 19 St. James's Road 979 6865

Mr. R.W. Wilde, 60 St. James's Avenue (Assistant) 979 8887

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Miss O.H. Hayward, A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., 83 Winchendon Rd., Teddington 977 0794

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. D. Lloyd, 73 Burton's Road 979 2964

OFFICER FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH HALL *(For time being)*

Mr. R. Brooks, 81 Park Road 979 1983

WAYSIDE SUPERVISOR

Mrs. S. Walker, 42 St. James's Road 979 4452

CHURCH FLOWERS ORGANISER

Mrs. H. Taylor, 68 Park Road 979 7042

WAYSIDE MONDAY CENTRE LIAISON OFFICERS

Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Bridges 979 6865

THE MAGAZINE

Editor: Mr. R.E. Bridges, 19 St. James's Road 979 6865

Advertising Organiser: Mr. A.E. Loyd, 17 King's Road, Teddington 943 3568

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs. J. Lloyd, 73 Burton's Road 979 2964

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE RECORDER

Mrs. F.C. Moses, 21 Longford Close 979 6819

SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS

PARISH COMMUNION Sundays, other than first in month 09.30

First Sunday in month 18.30

INFORMAL SERVICE First Sunday in month 09.30

OTHER SERVICES and HEALING MINISTRY

Please see 'SERVICES AND DATES TO NOTE'

INFANT BAPTISM After due notice, at Parish Communion
or on Sundays 15.00

THE JAYS (FOUR +) Every Sunday (except first in month
and during holiday periods) in Wayside 09.20

The horizon seems set to pan out particularly wide at the beginning of this new year. It is, after all, the beginning of a new decade, the last of this millennium. With new and exciting popular movements afoot in Eastern Europe, a new era of relationships between the superpowers, with 1992 and all that and, dare we hope, signs of a new future in southern Africa, things do seem to be on the move.

For the churches in Britain 1990 is very important and represents a watershed in our relations with each other. The British Council of Churches, representing most major christian traditions in Britain, except the Roman Catholic Church, was formed during the Second World War to draw member churches into common prayer and action. One of the greatest areas of witness has been Christian Aid, its Third World development agency, which has become such a well-respected and well-known part of life in Britain.

1990 promises a new start here too, for the British Council of Churches is to be replaced this year by a new body (The Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland) which will, for the first time, include Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists, United Reformed Church, Quakers, Salvation Army, Orthodox Churches, and many of the black-led churches. This may sound like a bureaucratic convenience or a headache, depending on your point of view. It must, however, become much more than an organisation.

If our ecumenical relations, that is, our relations as churches with one another, all part of the one body of Christ, are to achieve anything at all, we must reconsider the meaning of the word ecumenical. It comes to us from a common classical Greek word, in use at the time of the New Testament, and which means quite simply, the known world or the inhabited world.

Good ecumenical relations are not therefore like diplomatic niceties, nor are they concerned with unified structures and practices in the Church but rather they are about being the Church in the world. Ecumenical relations cannot be allowed to become the private domain of the initiated and those who like to spend their time in meetings and on councils. No, the Gospel is too important to allow it to be trapped or trivialised. Being ecumenically minded is not an added extra, a luxury we might afford ourselves, it lies in fact at the very centre of being members of the Church. Our joint ecumenical commitment is, by definition, in and to all of God's world, being the presence of God, revealing the work of God, enabling God to work through us in his world, not only in the Church, but also far outside it.

In a document setting out the churches new commitment to each other and the world, called 'Churches Together in Pilgrimage' we read

A Church called to God's work of reconciliation in the world will only be credible if it is a body which demonstrates within its own life the reconciling power of Jesus Christ. We cannot do this effectively unless we overcome, within the Church, not only ecclesiastical and doctrinal, but also social, racial and economical divisions, as well as disunity between the churches.

Our ecumenical relations therefore must be determined by the realities of the world we know - a broken world in need of the Gospel's wholeness.

Our commitment we make anew in the words of Dag Hammarskjöld, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

For all that has been - Thanks
For all that shall be - YES.

Brian Leathard

West Middlesex Hospital Chaplaincy

Don't forget there is a Chaplain (and a Chapel) at West Mid! This is the plea of the relatively new man, the Rev. John Congdon, in the post of Wholetime Chaplain there.

If you are a patient at the hospital, or acting on behalf of one, do let him know. An Ansaphone service is available on 560 2121, ext 5447 and, in an emergency, Ward staff can contact him by bleeper. He and his colleagues are on 24 hour call, 7 days a week. The Chaplain is also keen to know of church members working in the hospital.

The Chapel, near the Medical Block, is open daily from 8.30am to 5.30pm., but unfortunately is only accessible to the most mobile patients. On Sundays, Holy Communion is celebrated at 9am in the Chapel, followed at 11.30am by an informal Half-hour Service in the Marjory Warren Day Hospital.

So, if we are involved as - or with - a patient in the hospital, let us give the Chaplaincy the opportunity to help.

Parish Children's Party

Saturday 13 January - 2pm

St. James's Church Parish Hall

Nominal Charge only - ALL children are welcome

'Peace is not the absence of violence but the presence of justice.'

Jurgen Moltmann

A strange encounter happened at a Conference Centre recently. A group of social workers from the north were agreeing over lunch about the awful scale of problems their clients face: homelessness, impossibly low incomes, debt, depression. At their table, listening, was an executive from Reading attending another conference. His eyes widened as they spoke; he admitted the world they described was totally foreign to him and his colleagues.



CHURCH ACTION
ON POVERTY

This encounter encapsulates the difficulty many people in this country have of **seeing** poverty. The poverty lobby feels as if there is a thick glass screen separating them from the rest of society. If they shout they are not heard, and the sight of them is a social embarrassment.

Church Action on Poverty feels this too. Not only does society not listen, but it seems that many in the Church are also deaf. Many, but not all. At its 1987 Annual Conference, C.A.P. began two years of intensive work consulting its 1400 members and allied Christian organisations, many of them with personal and pastoral experience of the pain and division being caused in our society today. All agreed that a stand must be made - 'because we can do no other'.

What has resulted is the declaration: **HEARING THE CRY OF THE POOR.** It tells two stories. Starting, 'We have heard with our own ears the cry of the poor. We have seen with our own eyes society being driven in a direction that contradicts the Gospel', it looks at our present society. A litany under the heading 'It cannot be right' identifies the consequences of political, economic and personal priorities which are undermining our common life. Everyone suffers. It is not only that the most vulnerable groups and regions of the country are bearing the greatest costs, **all** are fundamentally impoverished when the economy is elevated over other considerations of general well-being, and when 'a self-serving individualism' is fostered, centred on 'getting, owning and consuming'.

That is the story of what **is**. The other story is what **might be**. In a statement of beliefs, the Declaration says that the true meaning of our human story is both revealed and made possible in Jesus Christ. 'We believe that God's Spirit speaks through the cries of the poor and the vulnerable to expose our illusions restoring us to the human story's authentic theme'.

It is because of the contrast between these two stories that C.A.P. believes a new social order is needed in Britain and that Christians have a contribution to make. C.A.P. invites individuals and groups to join in endorsing this Declaration, discussing it and praying about it. But a declaration, in the end, is only words. As it says, to work for God's emerging Kingdom means moving from faith to action - action enlightened by vision.

Rev. Tim Baynes, Sec., Church Action on Poverty

(Involved in the Declaration are many leading members of all of the major Christian denominations in Britain.)

Francis de Sales

It may be of interest that January 24 is the Feast Day of Francis de Sales, Bishop and Teacher, who died at the age of 55 in 1622. He was Bishop of Geneva at the time of Calvin and strove for the renewal of the faith from within the Catholic Church. His 'Introduction to the Devout Life' was a classic of spirituality. We remember the R.C. parish under his patronage in Hampton Hill.



* * * * *

Stewardship Review - 30 November

Perhaps everyone was celebrating St. Andrew's Night as only 25 people were there, and in these days of severe concern over the finances of the Church, it is surprising that more were not interested.

After a welcoming cup of coffee, Moya Meredith-Smith, as Chairman, set the tone of relaxed friendliness but ensured that the timetable and the subject-matter were adhered to.

Ron Bridges, one of our two Stewardship Recorders, reminded us of some of the figures regarding stewardship, and gave some pointers as to how one might reach a decision as to a reasonable commitment. The Common Fund Assessment for the Diocese assumes an average giving of something like £4 a week. This would of course be too much for some, so others should give more. 10 of our 107 member 'families' give about 40% of the total giving, ie they give an average of about £17 a week. As Income Tax took into account many of the basic needs in relation to income, it could perhaps serve as a measure for some - does giving at a level of 20% of Income Tax (hardly a tithe!) seem reasonable?

Contact Ron or Dick Wilde for more information about stewardship.

John Meredith-Smith gave his Treasurer's report in chart form. Even those of us whose understanding of figures melts when confronted by £ signs could grasp the gist of what was happening. He compared 1989's figures with the projected figures for 1990. They matched fairly well - the red part of 1989's chart being replaced by something labelled optimistically 'New Money'. The other main difference was a projected plan to actually spend money on the Sunday School so that it no longer fitted under 'Miscellaneous Expenses'!

He went on to explain how the Common Fund Assessment was arrived at and how it was spent. Mostly, it is how the clergy are paid and maintained - 66% goes on 'the Ministry' - 66% of our assessment does not cover the cost of one clergyman.

Brian Leathard, the Vicar, reminded us that we can all draw on the Common Fund and St. James's Church has done so quite heavily recently - we certainly get our money's worth!

Fortunately, Moya allowed Brian to make his planned speech, as he demonstrated his story-telling skill that we are all enjoying so much, to illustrate the need and wisdom of looking for the treasures in our midst - particularly treasurers of personality and skills.

The Work of Welcare

We then heard (at the Stewardship Review) how some of our money was spent, as David Roos from Welcare (now part of the London Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility) and Mona Gow, from St. James's Church but also from Welcare, told us of their work in that field. Welcare is a name we have all heard, but few of us had much idea of 'what they actually do'. David, one of the two social workers at the Richmond Office, explained how they were financed, and illustrated the many problems encountered by single parents with two of his current clients' stories. These were able to be helped within the community with the support of Welcare and the local services.

Mona's short but vivid introduction to her job of running a hostel at Hammersmith helped us to get some idea of how Welcare provides a 'safe, caring environment' where the girls who come to them can become 'confident parents in the community and good enough lone parents'. There wasn't time for details, but we heard hints of the difficulties of some of these mostly 16 to 18 year olds. Mona's obvious concern and care that 'her' mothers should be able to bring up their own babies satisfactorily, despite their own inadequate upbringing or limited mental capacity, is in itself a demonstration of God's love and the Church's ministry.

Welcare do need our support and cooperation in various ways apart from the steady financial backing which we as a parish have given them over the years. Help is needed with regular coffee mornings that are arranged for the young mums, and befriending in the community is vital. Gifts of toys and clothing are always welcome, and it is up to us to bring to the attention of Welcare people in need of their help.

I hope we all left with the determination to provide the channels of God's love and the Church's ministry wherever we find ourselves.

Ruth Mills



ANNUAL BUFFET SUPPER PARTY

(with a Scottish Flavour)

Saturday 10 February

7.30 to 11.30pm

St. James's Church

Parish Hall

Licensed Bar - Music - Dancing - Competitions - Entertainments

Tickets £5 including supper

Phone 979 8641, 979 2839 or 979 6673 or your HHA Street Representative

As we go to press, the work on the spire itself has been completed, and the final repairs to the upper part of the tower are in hand.

We congratulate our steeplejack, Reg Dosell, and his daughter Lisa, on a good job, well and skilfully done. In thanking them, we wish them well for the future.

Two significant events have helped to swell the Appeal Fund, now standing at about £14,600. The Christmas Fair on 18 November, brought in a little over £1,200, and the raffle for the doll's house, made and kindly given by Sid Heaford, raised nearly £270.

Many thanks to all who helped with these events and to Four Winds Press for printing the raffle tickets without charge.

A special thank-you to the 3rd Hampton Hill Cub Pack for £23.50 given by their lads who bought and made spire models.

And lastly, a very belated thank-you to the staff and pupils of Hampton Hill Junior School for their concert in the summer, which produced a splendid £300.

Looking to the future, we shall close the Appeal in March, the Diocese having promised a further grant, additional to their initial £7,000, which should enable us to meet the final bills.

We are hoping to hold a Thanksgiving evening during March, to include a showing of a video film made by our steeplejacks during the course of the work.

Prior to that, there will be three events by local schools:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Rectory: | A concert on 29 March |
| Lady Eleanor Holles: | A concert in the School Hall on 11 March |
| Hampton School: | An Art Exhibition at the school on 14 February |

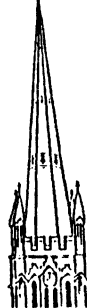
Acknowledgement and Thanks

When arranging the Christmas Fair, I wrote to forty major Companies or Groups asking for support, and promising that all help would be publicly acknowledged.

We are very grateful for gifts received from:

BENTALLS: BEECHAM-BOVRIL : BIRDSEYE-WALLS : BOOTS :
CHARRINGTON'S BREWERY : FULLER, SMITH & TURNER :
PREMIER BRANDS (Cadbury's, Chivers, Tetley Teas) and
SAINSBURY'S

SOS



ST JAMES'S SPIRE APPEAL

Jack Gostling

Lent Groups

1990 sees the final part of the on-going Lent project 'Not Strangers but Pilgrims'. As with the previous parts, ecumenical Lent Groups will be organised throughout the Hampton Council of Churches area, and we hope to have at least as many people taking part as we have had before.

We shall be looking for leaders to take groups and also for homes in which to hold meetings, so please think about these things and let me know if you would like to offer your services in either of these capacities.

The course itself will last for five weeks beginning on 5th March and there will be groups meeting every weekday evening, and possibly a Young People's Group as well. The study material is all on audio cassette with an accompanying leaflet, and it is hoped that there will be a training day for leaders. The climax will be on Saturday 28th April when there will be a special service for all those who have taken part to come together for worship and celebration. Book the date now!

Helen Taylor

* * * * *

St. Paul the Traveller

Saturday 13 January - 6.30pm - SS. Peter and Paul, Teddington

Sunday 14 January - 6.30pm - St. James's, Hampton Hill

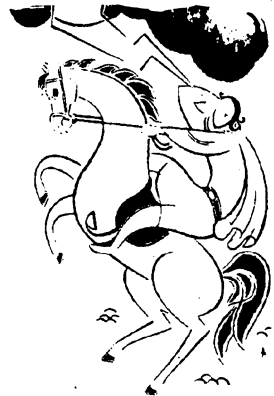
* * * * *

This musical work was written and composed by our own **Paul Revis** (leader of 'The Travellers!') in connection with the Deanery Summer Workshop attended by about 90 children, parents and helpers from churches of several denominations, in the school holidays. The workshop was a prelude to this production which was intended to be acted as well as performed. In the event, the January performances will be sung only, but there will also be an exhibition of children's work from the summer. The whole project is a Deanery outreach to children and parents and will hopefully be followed up next summer. Do come along.

* * * * *

'Bread for myself is a material matter,
but bread for my neighbour is a spiritual matter'.

Berdyayev



**Saint Paul
The Apostle**

Thoughts for the New Year

That man has a deep spiritual need there can be no doubt. Years of repression never stamp out that yearning. As soon as an opportunity presents itself the church, or what is left of it, becomes a rallying point for the people's aspirations, as recent events in Eastern Europe have shown. Not only does the church represent hope, it also gives another dimension to otherwise drab lives. We, in the west, do not on the whole live colourless lives where everyday existence is a struggle but even we still have a hunger for something other-worldly which brightly filled shops cannot satisfy. Where the Gospel is preached faithfully, people will still come. The popular festivals of the year still draw those who are seeking, and the beauty of the worship can still touch a deep chord within us.

A sense of awe, of majesty, of the glory of God are not everyday experiences, but just occasionally a shaft of light reveals God in all his infinite majesty and we catch a glimpse of what Moses saw on the mountain top and which Martin Luther King later echoed. So it can be for us if we let ourselves be receptive to God's word and share our experiences with each other so that we grow in grace, in understanding and, most of all, in love.

Helen Taylor

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'.
And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way'.

Minnie Haskins

(Quoted by King George VI in a Christmas Broadcast)

Parish Magazine Distribution

After collecting 'The Spire' magazine from the printers each month for fifteen years, I have decided to give the job up by the April 1990 Parish Meeting.

Whoever takes the job on needs a car. It involves collecting the 800 copies each month from Mr. Carter, The Print Centre, Broad Street, Teddington and dividing the copies up for delivery to some eight main distributors in the parish. These people in turn divide their copies up for final distribution. It also involves keeping the individual distributors' lists updated as far as possible.

We shall also soon need a volunteer to replace one of our main distributors who is moving away. That job is described above. It also requires a car.

Anyone wishing to know more about these jobs please ring me on 943 3568.

Alwyne Loyd

Around the Spire

There are many sayings about eyes - 'The eyes are the windows of the soul' and 'Take a pair of sparkling eyes' to quote just two examples. We rely on our eyes so much, and we all have an understanding of what it must be like to be blind or have poor vision, and we much admire blind people who have to cope with everyday life, like Pat, Freda's friend whom we see occasionally.

An eye hospital is an extraordinarily busy place with patients of all ages from tiny babies to the most elderly. Several of our congregation have recently had problems with their eyes, Hannah Stanton, Catherine Jones and Alison Thompson. They are all gradually improving and we wish them well. Of course, great strides have been made in the treatment of eye conditions over the past few years: witness the man from Beirut seen on the television recently who recovered his sight after laser-beam treatment. It was wonderful to see his face after the bandages were removed and he could see his wife and the cot she had prepared for their expected baby. We have so much to be thankful for.

Len Orton (who incidentally also has a problem with his eyes) has recently been in hospital. We hope he will soon be well again, and send our love and prayers to all who are sick, and their families.

We are pleased to hear that Margaret Revis is making a good recovery from her recent operation, and that Peter Morey is back in Hampton Hill again, now staying at Laurel Dene.

St. James's Women's Tuesday Club - Wayside, St. James's Road, 8pm

| | | |
|----------|----|--|
| January | 9 | Members' Evening |
| January | 23 | Margaret Collins - 'Thames Heritage' - with slides |
| February | 6 | Bring and Buy Auction |
| February | 20 | 'An Unkown Journey' with Margaret Groves |
| March | 6 | 'The Village Bakery' - Mr. Hepburn from Long Ditton |
| March | 20 | 'Hampton Court Gardens' - Mr. F. Robinson - slides |
| April | 3 | 'Meet Charles Dickens' - Mr. V. Goslin - superb slides |
| April | 17 | 'One Man's Embroidery' - Mr. B. Swindells |

From the Registers

Baptisms

| | | | |
|----------|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| November | 5 | Maria Natalie Newton | 28 Fairlight |
| | | Catherine Elizabeth Guzner | 47 Edward Road |
| | 19 | Kerry Matthew Dolan | 42 Rectory Grove |
| | | Cassandra Nicki Fiona Bunce | 353A Vicarage Fm.Rd., Heston |
| | | Troy David James | 17 Addison Rd., Teddington |

Funerals

| | | | | |
|----------|----|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| November | 7 | Liane Humphreys | | Aged 9 weeks |
| | 14 | Jean Heley | 219 Uxbridge Road | Aged 66 |
| | 14 | George Edward Collins | 26 Cranmer Road | Aged 88 |

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

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| January | 6 | Epiphany |
| | 7 | 09.30 Christingle Service |
| | | 18.30 Parish Communion with Healing Ministry |
| | 8 | 09.30 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road |
| | | 20.00 M.U. Evening Discussion Group: the Vicar on 'Children and Church', Wayside |
| | 9 | 20.00 Liturgical Committee, 30 Burtons Road |
| | | 20.00 Tuesday Club: Members' Evening, Wayside |
| | 11 | 20.15 Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road |
| | 13 | 14.00 Parish Children's Party, Parish Hall |
| | | 18.30 'St. Paul the Traveller', SS. Peter and Paul |
| | 14 | 18.30 'St. Paul the Traveller', St. James's |
| | 15 | 20.00 H.C.C. Meeting, St. Theodore's |
| | 17 | 19.30 Holy Communion |
| | | 20.00 P.C.C., Vestry |
| | 18 | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins |
| | 21 | 16.00 United Service, St. Mary's, Hampton |
| | | 18.30 Evensong |
| | 23 | 20.00 Tuesday Club: Talk on 'Thames Heritage', Wayside |
| | | 20.30 Finance Committee, 63 Hampton Road, Teddington |
| | 24 | Francis de Sales |
| | 25 | Conversion of St. Paul |
| | 28 | 18.30 Prayer 'n' Praise |
| February | 2 | Presentation of Christ in the Temple |
| | 4 | 09.30 Informal Service |
| | | 18.30 Parish Communion with Healing Ministry |
| | 28 | Ash Wednesday |

Advance Notices

| | | | |
|----------|----|-------|--|
| February | 6 | 20.00 | Tuesday Club: Bring and Buy Auction, Wayside |
| | 15 | 20.00 | P.C.C., Vestry |

Copy Date for February issue: 14 January