

I have just returned from helping to run an ecumenical conference in southern Germany. Of course the very fact that one shares work as well as worship, meals, excursions and free time in the bar with people from other traditions does help one to gain a much more rounded picture of others, and allows others to form a truer picture of oneself.

But something else has particularly struck me at this year's conference. For the first time it has been relatively easy for the 50% of the participants who came from Eastern Europe, to come to the West. Listening to the very personal stories, from the German Democratic Republic, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union, one becomes aware of the depth of change which has occurred in the last months. As one listens one hears how for years the human spirit was repressed and held in check, the Church taunted and blocked, individuals hounded or ignored. Suddenly it is possible to talk openly, to travel where one will, to live and worship freely.

Rightly we enjoy these freedoms but the danger is that we assume everyone else would like to do just as we do. Participants from Eastern Europe have made it perfectly clear - 'don't patronise us, we want to be as we are', 'with due respect we don't want to be just like you. In these past years we have learned how to value the workings of God for good in all creation, to see tiny chinks of light, to rejoice in the smallest gesture of common humanity. Painfully we have learned how to live in hope and trust.'

This might seem rather hard to accept but if we really are to respect each other, then we must listen to each other. As we approach and live in Pentecost, when we celebrate God's presence and action in the world, we need to take time to listen to each other, to accept each other and discover what each has to offer.

A Russian Orthodox priest took me on one side and said 'Holy Brother (!), we have learned the hard lesson of listening in the last seventy years, listening and hearing'.

I'm convinced that we can learn a lot about God and each other by listening, which is much more difficult than talking. But until we try to listen we can't possibly hear - ourselves, each other or God.

Brian Leathard

'The Spire' Magazine Appeal

At the time of going to press, some £500 has been received so far. Many thanks to all who have contributed. However, we need a much larger sum, so we hope donations will continue to come in. Don't worry if you have lost your reply slip - it's the contribution which is important - to the Vicar, please.

Café South Aisle

The APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) was held in church on 25 April, following Holy Communion, and refreshments in a café style atmosphere in the south aisle.

The Vicar's Report

Taking 'only connect' as his theme, the Vicar looked at what had been discussed on the PCC and in the parish during his seven months with us and to the future of the parish. The spire, finances, churchyard, church uses, Amazon rainforest - all were connected because all life is lived in God's presence and love.

In the coming year, we needed to consider, and to make connections between, worship, properties, pastoral care and growth.

We need to find a balance of traditional forms of **worship** and new approaches for future generations.

We must ensure our **buildings** are in good order and adequate for their purposes - for the building up of the Kingdom.

Our lives must reflect what we profess in church. No opportunity should be lost to care for the lonely and sick, to help one another and to follow up contacts made in church.

And, if we are to **grow**, we need to exercise Stewardship in its fullest sense and live all our lives in God's presence, and to involve as many as possible in the wider life of the church.

If we work hard at these things, and make the connections between them, then God's Kingdom will grow here in Hampton Hill.

The Interregnum

Alan Taylor reported on the last months of the Interregnum, thanking Gordon Wilson, and the many other local clergy who had helped during that period, and the Archdeacon. An application had been made to the Fuel Allotment Charity for a grant to help us provide better facilities for children, counselling and so on, near to the church. The Spire Appeal had been very successful [as reported in last month's magazine]. £1250 had been handed to the Church Urban Fund. The Vicarage had been improved and redecorated and £1000 had been given towards carpeting there.

Finances

John Meredith-Smith, our Treasurer, presented the 1989 Accounts. Outgoings at £37,450 (mainly contributions of £25,000 to the Diocesan Common Fund) exceeded income (mainly pledged giving of £20,818 plus tax refund on covenanted giving of £5659) by £7043, but we did make donations of £3774. The Parish Hall and Wayside contributed surpluses of rather more than £1200 and £2300 respectively.

Properties

Jack Gostling reported that, though the renovation of the spire had been completed, the rest of the church now needed attention. Dampness was the main problem, but re-wiring and re-decoration were overdue.

It was now hoped that maintenance of the churchyard would be taken over by the Local Authority, following formal application for an Order in Council for its closure for burials.

Jack thanked all those who helped with the care of the churchyard, and the running of the Hall and Wayside.

Stewardship

Moya Meredith-Smith mentioned the Information Booklet about the parish which the Stewardship Committee had produced and which was available in church. She said that over the last year, 24 member families had increased their giving. We had 6 new members but we had lost 5, giving a current membership of 113. 72 members covenant their giving, and the present total of covenants is an encouraging £20,000 per annum.

Elections

Churchwardens: Lesley Mortimer and Alan Taylor were re-appointed (with many thanks for all that they had done in the last year and throughout the Interregnum)

Deanery Synod

Representatives: Pip Rowett and Charles Dobson, in addition to Lesley Mortimer

Parochial Church

Council:

Ann Davis	Terry Baldwin
Mona Gow	Ron Bridges
Monica Heaford	Jack Gostling
Rachel Lloyd	David Lloyd
Rosalie Meyerowitz	Richard Melville
Ruth Mills	John Meredith-Smith
Marion Nevill	David Taylor
Margaret Revis	Dick Wilde
Eila Severn	
Moya Meredith-Smith	

Spire Appeal

At the time that Jack Gostling made his report at the Thanksgiving Service on 1 April, my thoughts turned to how much we owe to Jack personally. His untiring efforts as chairman of the Spire Appeal Committee did so much to bring about the happy outcome. His professional expertise and uncounted hours exercising his related talents have been put at the service of St. James's throughout many years. He thanked a lot of people in his report. In so many cases the one thanking others does not personally receive any tribute. These few words are mine to Jack, on behalf of the committee, the congregation and the village beyond. Thank you Jack for all you have done and continue to do.

Margery Orton

The Church Bookstall

As the Bookstall is now in a more accessible position, I hope that it will become increasingly useful. Some of the books and other items, which have been on it for a long time, have been sorted out and are now being offered at reduced prices. The result has been an upsurge in sales, which in turn means that new books can be bought.

In the past we were helped a lot by the sale and return system which The Bridge Bookshop operated; but, sadly, it had to be discontinued for financial reasons. The result for St. James's together with all the other churches which formerly used the facility, is that all books must now be bought outright, and, if I am not good at selecting popular ones, they do not sell readily, and so the money is not available to re-stock.

It would be ideal to have a permanent selection of bibles, bible study books and a cross-section of the currently published Christian books advertised in the catalogues which I receive; but, if they do not sell reasonably quickly, they become dog-eared and then no-one wants to buy them. There is a supply of catalogues on the bookstall, so please do take some home to look at. I shall be delighted to buy anything chosen, many books can be bought from stock in the shops where our agency arrangements operate, whilst those not in stock can usually be ordered. If you have any helpful suggestions or criticisms, please tell me.

Jean Western

Read any good books lately?

Why not contribute a short book review to 'The Spire'?

'The Power of Positive Thinking' by Norman Vincené Peale

(Published by Cedar books; £4.99; 2 million copies)

'When anyone lets God have charge of his life, the power and glory are amazingly demonstrated'. This book sets down clearly and inspiringly how an attitude of mind can change lives, and overcome difficulties by using faith and optimism as guides to a more positive way of life. Dr. Peale's method combines the strength and power of the Christian faith with the understanding of the modern science of psychiatry. He gives many instances of people using this power and reveals how, almost miraculously, it has helped those in the depths of despair to be victorious over their problems and progress to happiness and wholesomeness. 'This book could change your life'.

'Ordering your Private World' by Gordon MacDonald

(Published by Highland Books; £2.95; 1/2 million copies in print)

'Occasionally a book appears in print that speaks so expertly to basic human needs that one is set on fire to absorb it. This is such a book': Selwyn Hughes in his foreward. It teaches by practical experiences. Compulsive reading. Awarded the Gold Medallion for the best devotional book of the year. 'One of the most helpful books in 20 years'. 'Prescription for a characteristically contemporary malaise - a disorganised inner life': Church Times. 'I wish I'd read it years ago': Billy Graham.

Margery Orton

The Bestseller

There is one description of the Bible many of you will no doubt have heard - 'The least read bestseller'. How true is this, I wonder? It certainly is still the number one seller, and although many copies bought as presents may not get much use, I suspect that the 410,000 copies of the Good News Bible sold in Britain last year are read by their purchasers, not to mention a further 275,000 copies of the New International version. These two versions of the Bible account for 53% of the staggering total of nearly 1,250,000 copies sold annually in Britain.

When the New English Bible was first published in 1970 (do you remember the stir it caused?), it sold out the first day and still continues to sell at the rate of 30-40,000 copies a year. Ten copies of the latest updated version of the NEB (The Revised English Bible) have been purchased for use in church, most of the NEB New Testaments that we did have having mysteriously disappeared. It will be interesting to see how this new edition compares with other earlier favourites.

The Authorised Version still sells well, though not perhaps as well as a certain member of the Royal family would like, and the Revised Standard Version is also still popular.

Bibles come in all shapes and sizes, as well as versions and prices. The most popular seasons of the year for sales are, as you might guess, Christmas and Easter. In Harrods, for example, they sell thousands of copies of the different versions each year, including de-luxe leather-bound copies, at the rate of fifty a week around Christmas.

The entire Bible is also available on audio cassettes, as those of you who have been to the Christian Resources Exhibition will know, but the very latest Bible Concordance is now on computer - so far Authorised version only - available as a snip at £295.

So dust off your copy of the world's bestseller and read it in whatever version you have - all human (and divine) life is there.

Helen Taylor



the samaritans

The Samaritans care for depressed, lonely and suicidal people. They have been listening at a centre in Putney to callers for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for the past 20 years.

They have a special need for day-time helpers to share in this supportive role. A normal day-time shift lasts for 3 hours. You don't have to be special. You just have to be a caring, accepting sort of person.

The Vicar has a pamphlet with further details - or ring 081-789-0544 - if you are interested in helping.

M.U. Outing to Chichester

On the morning of Wednesday 2 May, the M.U. members and other friends boarded the coach leaving St. James's Church for an outing to Chichester in Sussex.

The sun was shining and it was very warm. The driver took us through lots of country, and the scenery was beautiful with the sun shining through the trees, the green fields and the little lambs skipping around their mothers. It was all so good to see. The journey took about two hours.

When we arrived at the cathedral, we went our different ways, most of us making first for the refectory where tea, coffee and light refreshments were being served by the Sussex M.U. members.

We were free to sit in the garden which was so pretty, with its different flowers and shrubs, and the singing of birds.

The cathedral itself had many beautiful things to see, including works of art from Norman days up to the present period. I was very fascinated with the sculptured paper work. The day went very quickly. It seemed in no time at all we were boarding the coach again, tired but happy, and with many good memories.

I am sure we all thank Dorothy for arranging such a lovely day.

Violet Clark

Social Committee News

Why not give the garden and shopping a miss on Saturday 16 June and join us on our trip to Wellington Country Park near Reading? A luxury coach leaves the church at 10.30 am and the journey lasts about one hour. We plan to be back at Hampton Hill by 6 pm.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy a picnic before exploring the many attractions of the park and dairy museum. Drinks will be provided by the Social Committee.

Cost will be £7.50 per adult and £6.50 for Senior Citizens and children under 15 years.

Put your name on the list in church and have a happy day with us.

David Lloyd

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24-hour Fast

My grateful thanks to all those who took part in the fast, and to all the sponsors.

The total raised was £482-20.

Margaret Revis

A Thank You Letter

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bates,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the select members of our parish who were lucky enough to be invited to attend your anniversary party on Saturday last. We all had a delightful time. The entertainment provided by yourselves, your family and friends was of the highest order. It was a delight to hear so many modern songs and recitations performed by such a talented group. I trust that you will convey our thanks to your children, grandson and friends.

I must also congratulate you on your staff who prepared and served such an excellent buffet meal. It is not easy nowadays to find servants of such dedication and quality. Last Saturday was definitely the high-spot of the Hampton Hill social season and many of your guests had obviously gone to great lengths to dress with the pomp and style that the occasion demanded. Once again our thanks for a superb evening.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Revis (14 May 1909)

P.S. An extra thank you to Master Stuart Ward (yet to be born) without whose hard work this Edwardian 'time warp' would not have been possible.

Words - George Herbert, Priest, Pastor and Poet. **Music** - Olive Hayward.

See *March issue of The Spire* for other verses.

Handwritten musical notation for the first system of the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics 'Throw away thy rod, throw a-way thy wrath' are written below the notes.

Throw away thy rod, throw a-way thy wrath

Handwritten musical notation for the second system of the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics 'my God Take the gentle path.' are written below the notes. There is a first ending bracket over the final two measures, labeled '1-7' and 'last time'.

my God Take the gentle path.

'Sales Talk'

We wish the new magazine 'Sales Talk' of the Roman Catholic parish of St. Francis de Sales every success. One of the stated aims of 'Sales Talk', as seen by Angela Dolan, the Editor, is 'to develop communication - and thereby love and understanding - between each other, between us and our extended ecumenical family in this area, and even between us and our fellow Christians in a broader world-wide context'. This is an aim we can all share. 'Sales Talk' is published monthly at 30p a copy.

Scout Group News

A very successful, if somewhat chilly, Easter camp was held at Chalfont Heights. One new Scout was invested during the camp and activities included climbing, abseiling and fostering international relations with some German Scouts. A Cub training camp took place on the Triangle in May and included a camp fire to which parents and Beavers were invited.

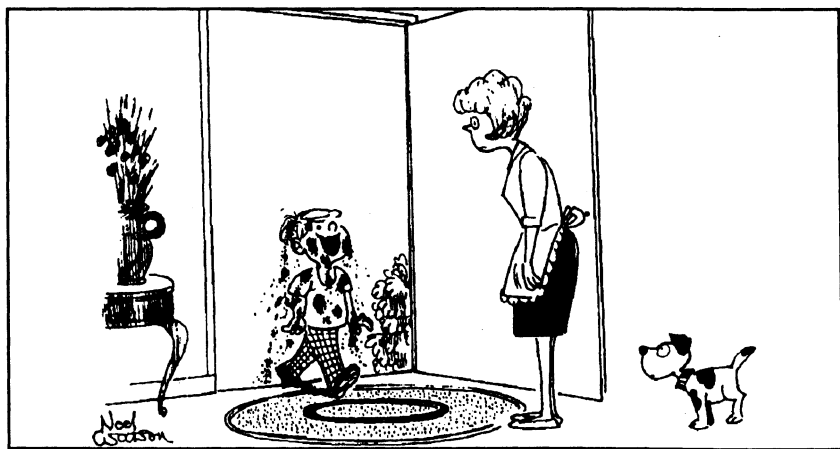
The Scouts' summer programme concentrates on outdoor activities and will hopefully include an air experience weekend. The Scouts will again be organising the **Fun-day and Children's Races** on Holly Road Recreation Ground on the afternoon of Saturday 14 July: races for children aged 3 - 12 and stalls for all ages!

Susan Horner

Ski Trip - April 1991

Any who wish to go on this holiday should give their names to either Coryn Robinson or myself before Sunday 24 June. If you are interested and have not yet had details, please contact me.

Paul Revis



"I've joined Friends of the Earth".

Around the Spire

Almost everyone who has lived any length of time in Hampton Hill must have known Les Lambert, a familiar figure on a bicycle often seen about and always ready for a chat. His recent death comes as a blow not only to his wife Pat, and son Keith and his family, but also to many people, especially the elderly, who live locally. For many, many years Les was involved in the Old People's Welfare Committee and ran a weekly bingo evening for them for about fifteen years. Les and Pat also supported the local Scout Group for years and were always to be seen, busy, at fetes and jumble sales. The old people of Hampton Hill have lost a good friend in Les, and to his family we send our love and condolences.

Mrs. White has recently been in hospital, but it is very nice to see her walking around again. We hope she continues to improve. She has, however, had to give up arranging the weekly whist drive in the Parish Hall - something she has done for twenty to thirty years. Thank you.

Freda Moses has been in hospital with a bad chest infection. She is improving slowly. We wish her a good recovery, send her our love, and hope to see her back among us soon.

Children's Society Boxes

Will all the people that have Children's Society boxes, please let me have them in the next few weeks for opening. I already have a good sum of money from boxes that were overflowing, and with many new box holders, we should reach a good target this year. Thank you to everyone who helps in this way.

Helen Taylor

From the Registers

Baptisms

April	15	Bernice Ellen Blouddyn and Heidi Jane Blouddyn, both of Daniel Julian Breese Kristy Louise Carter	2 Laurel Road 29 Victor Road, Teddington 15 Laurel Road
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Marriages

April	21	Haydn Lewis and Wendy Snewing
	29	Michael Newton and Julia Rosamilia

Funerals

April	10	Norah Brown	40 Myrtle Road	Aged 81
	19	Caroline Alice Hoyle	24 Hampton Rd., Tedd.	Aged 93
		Albert William Newman		Aged 84
	20	Mary Elizabeth Frampton		Aged 88
	24	Charles Duncan Belcher	63 St. James's Ave.	Aged 73
	26	James Whittle	'Margot's', 118D High St.	Aged 63

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion (except, normally, first Sunday in [month])
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion
Thursday	19.15	Holy Communion (with Ministry of Healing on the first Thursday in month)

Other Services and Dates to Note

June	2	09.00	Beating the Bounds of the Diocese, Heathrow Airport Chapel (in aid of Church Urban Fund)
		14.00	Preparation for Pentecost and Fun Day
	3		Pentecost
		09.30	Parish Communion followed by Parish Lunch
		18.30	Choral Evensong
	4	14.00	Editorial Board
	5	20.30	Finance Committee
	10	18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise - Speaker from the Leprosy Mission
	11		St. Barnabas the Apostle
	12	20.00	Tuesday Club: Talk on the Environment, Wayside
		20.15	Stewardship Committee, 5 Oxford Road
	16		Parish Outing to Wellington Country Park
	17	18.30	Coral Evensong
	18	20.00	P.C.C. Vestry
	20	20.00	Confirmation at St. Richards, Hanworth
		20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, All Saints', Hampton
	24		The Birth of St. John the Baptist
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	26	20.00	Tuesday Club AGM, Wayside
	29		St. Peter the Apostle
July	1	09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Choral Evensong
	3		St. Thomas the Apostle

Advance Notices

July	7	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	10	20.00	Tuesday Club: 'Japanese Gardens in Spring', Wayside
	17	20.00	PCC, Vestry
	18	20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. James's
	24	20.00	Tuesday Club: Summer Supper, Wayside
	29		Celebration of St. James's Day

COPY DATE FOR JULY ISSUE: 10 JUNE



The Ministry of Healing

now forms a part of the
Holy Communion Service
at 7.15pm on
the First Thursday of each month