

If I had £1 for every time I have been asked who I might lay money on for the successor to Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury, then I am sure I would have amassed sufficient funds to have a flutter on all likely candidates and so to win on at least one of my bets. I have not placed any money on anyone.

Does it strike you as odd that while, on the one hand, for most people most of the time the church is ignored, or treated like a piece of furniture, simply there to be used or sat on occasionally, nevertheless so much interest seems to be aroused by the selection of a new Archbishop? People who I would never dream of being at all interested have asked me. Why?

Is it because the selection happens in such a secretive manner? Is it because the Church of England is established and has complex links with the state? Is it because people are genuinely interested in the detailed internal structures of the Church of England? Is it because our present Archbishop has become a respected national figure?

The manner by which a new Archbishop is chosen certainly precludes spontaneous election, as it is told happened in the case of Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, who happened to be walking across the piazza one day in 374 and all the congregation rushed outside the cathedral, waylaid him and dragged him inside shouting 'Ambrose for Bishop'. Equally in the Church of England it is not just a question of church delegates voting for a particular person, witness the quiet and humble way in which the Anglican Communion's first woman diocesan bishop has recently been elected and enthroned in Dunedin, New Zealand.

I think there is something of an answer to be found in the fact that however subconscious or unarticulated the feeling is, there is some need in most people to have a handle onto a religious connection. Some clergy and laity pour scorn upon this, emphasising total commitment and nothing less. I take it more seriously. So often the church appears monolithic, hard to approach, offputting if you are not immersed in it, something of an exclusive club and yet despite that people want to relate to it in some sort of way.

An Archbishop, St. James' Church, the Vicar, the members of the PCC, the Churchwardens are in the public domain. And if we really want to take evangelism seriously then I for one think it far more worthwhile to take the time to stop and talk to people about a new Archbishop, or whatever else they want to discuss, than to assault them with churchiness or squeaky-clean pre-packaged answers to every issue under the sun.

After all the punter makes it his business to study the form and will soon see whether we are really interested in him or her. Or are we more interested just in winning the Ecclesiastical Sweepstakes?

A Parish Placement

I come to write this piece for the magazine exactly half way through my Parish Placement here at St. James's. It has become increasingly busy for me over the last two weeks with a day spent in the company of the Chaplain of the West Middlesex Hospital, involvement with the worship in St. James's, visits (as many of you will know!) around the parish, attendance at some of Brian's marriage interviews and - tomorrow - the leading of school assembly at Archdeacon Cambridge School. All this - and, as they say, much more.

Looking back, it seems long ago (actually in March) when I began the process of placement selection - amid the end-of-term chaos. And, although I had met Brian in the meantime, Hampton Hill was little more than a name when I arrived at the beginning of July. Fortunately, I seemed to time my arrival with the start of the Hampton Hill barbecue season. This provided a rapid - if extremely confusing - introduction to a great many of you, and was the foretaste of an openness and generosity of hospitality which I have continued to enjoy. Thank you for this.

Fortunately, I have not been too busy to spend some valuable time reflecting on my experiences over these weeks. I chose to apply to come to Hampton Hill largely because I wanted to be in a parish significantly different from any to which I had been before. With a background in the market towns and rural life of Lancashire, time abroad and in the Eastend of London (not the same thing!), it seemed natural for me to come to 'anonymous suburbia'. Of course, such a thought could only come from someone unacquainted with the sense of history and community held here amongst the congregation of St. James's. Many of you have spoken to me powerfully of the past, of the unique history and development of Hampton Hill and St. James's, and of the struggle to make these qualities of community a continuing reality today. The opinions of how this should be done are particular to each one of us, and it's quite right that we should argue them passionately when they concern something we care so much about. No one would say that these are easy times for the church, and that's why placements, like the one I'm doing with you here, are so important in allowing those training for the ordained ministry to see and hear about life at the parish level.

One unexpected pleasure of my time here has been my stay with Hannah. Little did I realise that staying with Hannah would be like living in a miniaturised version of the departure lounge at Heathrow Airport (even the sherry's duty free!). My heart-felt thanks go to her and Vera for allowing me to stay in their homes. I am also very grateful to Brian for offering St. James's as a placement. It has been a pleasure to spend time with him, and to get to know Ramani and Anusha.

I do hope to be able to keep in touch with you all. Although, as some of you know, I will be studying in Geneva from October to March, I can best be contacted through college, at Westcott House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BP. With thanks and best wishes,

Chris Swift

CHURCHES

TOGETHER

IN

ENGLAND



Churches Together in England is a new body which comes into existence on 1 September 1990. For the first time there is a body in England representing a wide range of churches: Anglican, Black-led, Free Churches, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, as well as many smaller churches.

On what basis are we committing ourselves?

Churches Together in England unites in pilgrimage those churches in England which

- acknowledge God's revelation in Christ;
- confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures;
- commit themselves, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body, and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world, to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May we be like a city set on a hill,
Like a lamp shining in the darkness.
May we witness together with all Christians
to the glory of God and the fulfilment of his kingdom.

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The scallop shell was a symbol of medieval pilgrimage. Pilgrims to the shrine of St. James at Santiago de Compostella in Northern Spain wore a shell on their hats. The cross and the boat together are symbols of the modern movement for Christian unity, with the church represented by a boat or an ark.

M.U. Centenary

This year, 1990, is the 100th anniversary of the Mothers' Union in the London Diocese, and this is being celebrated in many ways. There was an invitation Garden Party at the College Garden, Westminster Abbey at 6pm on Friday 15 June and many of our members went. From 4 June to 28 July an exhibition was held in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral at which M.U. literature and Centenary souvenirs were on sale.

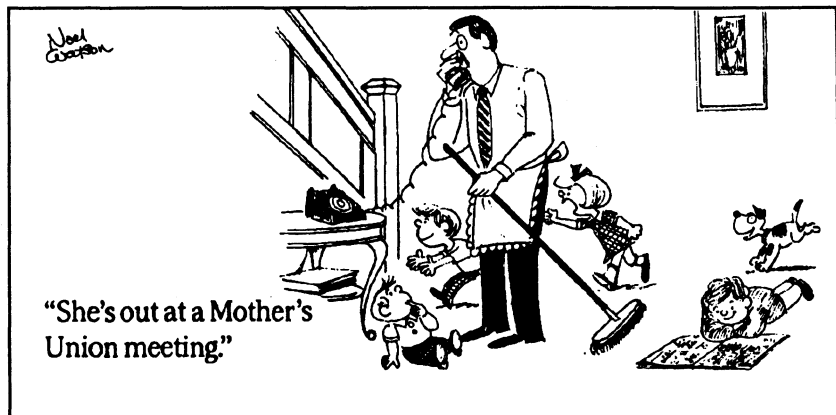
Friday 5 October will be Diocesan Day. Celebrations will be held at Mary Sumner House at which the morning speaker will be Dorothy Jamal, and at 2.30pm on Saturday 13 October a Diocesan Service and Eucharist will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral in which the Young Families of the Diocese will join.

More locally, there was a Kensington Area Eucharist Service on Wednesday 6 June at All Saints', Hampton. This was very well attended and I counted 26 banners.

In the parish, we held our usual invitation meeting on 4 July which was to have been followed, hopefully, by tea in the church garden. This year the weather defeated us but nevertheless we had a very happy meeting, with tea in church. The Vicar conducted the service and the speaker was Mrs. Mollie Nicholls, the Diocesan President, who, as always, was both amusing and interesting.

The M.U. does not meet in August but we get together again on 5 September for an open social afternoon. This would be a good time for any ladies in the congregation who want to know more about the M.U. to come along and hear about the future programme.

Hettie Burgess



Book Reviews

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster.

Richard Foster believes that the spiritual disciplines, meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance and celebration are the only true way to promote a deep inner life and infuse it with overwhelming joy. This expanded edition, incorporating a study guide, aims to help the reader on the road to inner peace and fulfilment.

DeLia Smith writes: 'For any Christian hungry for teaching I would recommend this as being one of the most challenging books to have been published.'

Joyce Hugget writes: 'This is a book I'd love to have written. It is most exciting, stimulating and joyful. I commend this update to all who yearn continually to go deeper into God'.

For myself, I can't put this book down.

Published by Hodder and Stoughton at £2.95. Over 200,000 copies sold.

Keeping a Spiritual Journal by Edward England and others.

Keeping a spiritual journal is a method of deepening your Christian life encouraged by Richard Foster, Thomas Merton, Catherine Marshall and Gordon Macdonald.

Luci Shaw writes: 'A journal is the catching and holding of joyful, crucial, exciting, significant moments in life'.

Sister Margaret Magdelan writes: 'I record the unexpected ways and places in which I have found God'.

I think a journal is a lovely way of recording one's spiritual life. It can be amongst other things a record of how God answers our prayers, not always in the manner we are expecting. It can take many forms and often helps others as well as ourselves. I have found spiritual help in the writings of a close friend. Time consuming it may be but for me it would be something to treasure throughout life. A record of my relationship with God.

Published by Highland Books at £2.95.

Janet Jeffries

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Our Vicar has been appointed to the Local (Richmond-upon-Thames) Education Authority as the representative of the churches, and will be pleased to hear your views on matters concerning education in the borough.

News from Down Under

Pam and Trevor Atkinson and family have arrived safely in Australia. Soon after their arrival representatives from all the catechumenate communities in Australia flew or drove in for a special service in Melbourne at which they received a blessing. They then drove to Adelaide in a hired car, and on the Sunday, the Archbishop of Adelaide (and Acting Primate of Australia) celebrated the Eucharist with them in Salisbury in his diocese, where they are now settled into a house at:

52 Harvey Avenue,
Salisbury 5108,
South Australia.

Trevor writes: 'It is really a very beautiful place - nothing like I imagined an inner city area, but the poverty is very real. I have also never met so many genuinely physically and mentally ill people.... Add to that all the single-parent families, alcohol and drug problems, and you begin to see why they have asked for two families to come and live here. The people really are destroyed...' They and the other family working with them (Alex, Trudi and Cynthia) are opening their houses and lives to those around them, and awaiting guidance from God as to how to proceed. They ask for our prayers.

The Therapy of Praise - A Meditation

'Let gratitude and praise rise like incense that with praise and thanksgiving we may build a bridge from ourselves to God. Let us give thanks for every good thing with which we have been blessed.'

'Give thanks and praise in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.' Give thanks in the midst of darkest nights for the sun is present shining in all its glory though veiled from your sight. In the depths of sorrow, in the midst of pain, rejection, resentment and misunderstanding, when the soul faints, the spirit is low and man fails, the Lord is near. His spirit is with those that fear him. His glorious spirit is never cast down, is never vanquished, and this Holy Spirit is his gift to mankind - so sing praises in the mind and in the spirit and worship the ever present loving God who is worthy of all praise.

Did you see love in a fellow's eyes? - then praise the Lord. Did you see scorn? - then praise the Lord who scorns you not; did you see hurt? - then praise the Lord for he will heal it; did you see lack of understanding and unbelief? - then praise the Lord who has given understanding and belief to those that wait on him to renew their strength.

When you are cast down, then of **all times** pray with praise and truly you shall be lifted up. 'Put on the garment of praise against the spirit of heaviness'. Whosoever offers praise to God glorifies him and shares in that glory.

'Praise the Lord O my soul, and all that is in me, praise him.'

Margery Orton

Stewardship giving for the last four quarters, and for the corresponding quarters twelve months earlier, was as follows:

		£		£
April - June	1990	5,517	1989	4,286
January - March	1990	7,080	1989	5,549
October - December	1989	5,883	1988	5,319
July - September	1989	<u>5,073</u>	1988	<u>4,395</u>
Totals for 12 months		23,553		19,549



These figures show an encouraging trend, but the membership of the scheme remains about the same: while we are joined by some new members, other members move away or drop out for other reasons.

If we are to go forward in the parish as we would wish, we need more and more committed people.

Joining our Christian Stewardship scheme is an important way of making a commitment.

Early in June, we received a cheque from the Inland Revenue for £6,503. This very considerable help for our church finances was a result of the refund of income tax on the giving to the church made under covenant in the twelve months from April 1989 to March 1990. Many thanks to all involved.

If you would like to know more about Christian Stewardship, or about covenanting your giving (if you are a tax payer), please contact one of the Recorders - Dick Wilde (979 8887) or myself (979 6865).

Ron Bridges

Ethical Investment

The Diocese of Oxford has spent years trying to persuade the Church of England's Central Board of Finance to adopt a more stringent policy on South African investment. The Board state that it has for long refused to invest in companies with more than a small part of their business in South Africa, but is not prepared to adopt still stricter criteria sought by Oxford. These criteria are met by Ecclesiastical Insurance's Allchurches Amity Fund which also has a strong ecological policy, and the Oxford Diocese has now decided to switch its reserves into that Fund.

The chairman of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance says their decision to switch their reserves in this way is justifiable on financial grounds alone.

If you are fortunate enough to have £500 at least to invest, you might like to follow their example.

Give a Little Time to Guiding



During the autumn we will be actively looking for adults who will be prepared to help young people enjoy Guiding. Apart from people to help run units, we also want people with a variety of interests who will help our youngsters learn different skills from time to time, people who have secretarial skills, fund-raising skills - the list is endless. The Guiding programme can cover almost anything, so everyone has something to offer.

If you are approached to help, please don't refuse out of hand, give it some thought as the youngsters in our units are the future. With the experience they can gain through Guiding and help from YOU this could make the future look very bright. If we don't contact you, how about contacting us by telephoning 941 6504.

Christian Aid



On behalf of Christian Aid, Margaret and David Taylor would like to thank all who helped with the collection this year and all who contributed. Despite a somewhat restricted coverage this year, the total collected was, at £1050, a little up on the figure for last year.

With a few more volunteer collectors, we should be able to do even better. If you feel able to help next year, please contact Margaret or David Taylor on 977 1342.

MANY THANKS ALSO. . . .

. . . . from **The Princess Alice Hospice** at Esher to Sid and Monica Heaford and all who helped and supported them at their recent 'at home' which raised £350 for the Hospice - a splendid result.

. . . . from **The Spitalfields Crypt**, in London for the clothing collected in our church. They are most appreciative and say, 'sadly, the need never grows any the less'.

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Dire Warning

During a period when industrial unrest threatened the smooth running of funerals in the cemetery normally used for Christian burials in Bombay, the lady in charge, a Miss Dyer (!), sent out the following memo:

'During the period of the strike, the cemetery will be operated by a skeleton staff.'

Regular Weekly Services in August

Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Parish Communion
Monday to Friday	09.15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09.30	Holy Communion (with Ministry of Healing on the 7th August)

Please note there will be no evening services during August.

Other Services and Dates to Note

August	4	09.30	Churchyard Working Party
	6		The Transfiguration of our Lord
	7	09.30	Holy Communion with Ministry of Healing
		10.30	Editorial Board
	24		St. Bartholomew the Apostle
September	1	09.30	Churchyard Working Party

Advance Notices

September	8		The Blessed Virgin Mary
	11	20.00	PCC, Vestry
	13	19.30	Parish Prom, Royal Albert Hall
	15		Hampton and Hampton Hill Carnival
	20	20.00	Taizé Prayer Meeting, St. Richard's, Hanworth

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE: 12 AUGUST

Parish Prom

There are still some tickets left for the Parish Prom on the evening of 13 September at the Royal Albert Hall.

Please contact the Vicarage for details.

Magazine Appeal

In June, we reported that the appeal this year had raised about £500. The figure has hardly increased since then and now stands at £524. Although this is a little higher than last year's figure, it is much less than the figures for 1986-88, yet our costs have, inevitably, gone up - by rather more than 20% since 1986. If you haven't made a contribution this year and would like to do so, please send it to the Vicar.

