

If you can be drawn away from the prospect of 1993 as the year to import 110 litres of Belgian lager or 800 Gaulloises, or even the dizzy heights of Carlton TV, perhaps I can use this opportunity to describe some of the things which will happen in 1993 in and around our parish of Hampton Hill.

Many activities, projects, events are in the planning stage, as I write, but you will no doubt already be aware of the changes taking place in our church properties. Wayside, 25 St. James's Road, has been sold. It was purchased by the church in 1955 and we have had tremendously good use out of it. The prospect of heavy maintenance, expensive running costs, and the nature of church activities has meant that it was prudent to sell.

This sale has released capital, which combined with money from the earlier sale of the Church Hall will allow us to proceed with our new church hall next to the church. However the budget is extremely tight - we are certainly not in a position to rest on our laurels, but with careful design and execution of the project we can proceed. Temporarily we need to make alternative plans for the activities which were held in Wayside. It seems that a portakabin hired for the duration of the construction may be the answer; new access to the Vicarage will be constructed and there will be minor works to the Vicarage kitchen and exterior.

Before the summer, work should begin on the hall and we hope it will not last more than eight or nine months. The hall will provide us with excellent facilities for our witness to God's love in this place. For our church hall is not just bricks and mortar but is a place to foster the community of care, a place where the values of the Gospel find solid expression, where our young people, our old people, can find a safe, warm accepting place to be and to grow. That is just as much evangelism as any more overt activity which may bear the name - to create a climate in which love, trust, compassion, joy and honesty can flourish. Surely, that is what Jesus of Nazareth did in his encounters.

Secondly, our parish does not exist in isolation. We are part, a small but valuable part, of the universal church through time and across the world. We are not an island; we fail to be the Church if our vision reaches no further than our parish boundaries. Last year real financial difficulties caused us to squeeze our giving to the wider community and that is a very sad sign if it continues. Our giving, as a church and as individuals, is both an extension of our family care for the work of the agencies we support and also an expression of solidarity with those alongside whom those agencies work - be it through Welcare's work with Single Parent Families in our Borough, Christian Aid's work with the world's poorest people or CARA's work alongside victims of AIDS and HIV infection. Our giving is a sharing of the light of Christ with those for whom the darkness can seem overwhelming. We must restore and strengthen those bonds of compassion and justice which bind us together with all in need. Parochialism must not rule.

Thirdly, we all need to grow and be deepened in our journey of faith. This year during Lent I hope to use the four Sunday evening slots at 6.30pm to talk and then hold open forum for questions and remarks. There are details elsewhere in this magazine. They won't be lectures for which you need a certificate to get in, but four opportunities to listen, speak, react for one hour a week - safely, comfortably, nobody feeling smug or shy. During Lent parish housegroups will meet, looking at the Bishop of London's Agenda for Action, taking the church forward across our city in its witness, service and care.

Fourthly, 1993 marks the 130th anniversary of our parish. Our archives show just how much the parish has changed in that time. And yet, the light of God's love is still to be found across our community - in the church and outside. So we want to celebrate 130 years of this parish giving and receiving God's love - the community in which it is set. From the beginning of July to St. James's Day (25th July) we shall be having celebrations by and for the whole parish - services, drama, music, parties, treasure hunts, barbecues, beating the bounds and much, much more.

We can't promise you duty-free bounty or breakfast TV, but we do deliver a warm welcome and an ongoing care for you and the community. Come and join us.

Brian Leathard

A Tribute to Helen Joseph

An appreciation of Helen Joseph in 'The Times' states that 'while she was sharing a cell with Hannah Stanton after being arrested for treason she was brought back to her childhood faith': Editor

Helen Joseph in her autobiography 'Side by Side' quoted the following item from a comic gossip column in the South African Sunday Times, with appreciation: 'Speaker at an imaginary meeting of South African government supporters: "We have the finest army in the world, the finest air force, the finest navy - what do we have to be afraid of?" Voice from back of the hall: "Helen Joseph" '.

Helen Joseph, a very dear friend of mine, died on Christmas Day. She had lain unconscious for ten days, but before that had planned her annual Christmas party at which she toasted those opponents to apartheid still in prison and in exile. The party was held, 11 o'clock to 1; all the old warriors were there, writes my brother. Helen died at 2 pm on that day.

Much has happened in recent years to shake the South African Government. International pressure, sanctions, the economy, the children's rebellion against Bantu Education, the rising tide of confidence among South Africa's African population. Helen during the last fifty years has been vital in playing her part. She refused to leave the country although undergoing imprisonment, banning, years of house arrest, accusation

of treason, her life threatened, shot at at night, subjected to foul telephone calls, a bomb attached to her gate. Her example of courage and commitment has been a strength giving hope to thousands. Despite illness, she has had cancer and a heart attack, she has gone on 'sparing nothing of her strength and courage' in the words of the Freedom Charter.

Tireless in her concern for the oppressed, she travelled extensively in the sixties to visit those banished to desolate parts of South Africa because of their political activities; 8,000 miles on one holiday trip. In recent years, already 70 and 80 years of age, she lectured to students at the Universities; the young people crowded to hear her and gave her ovations. She only stopped addressing meetings three years ago because her voice could not take the strain.

In 1960 I knew of her as an outstanding leader, and felt very much in awe of her. She was an accused in the Treason Trial being held at that time, and was detained in Pretoria Gaol - as I was after the Sharpsville Shooting and the subsequent racial turmoil. After initial weeks of solitary confinement we asked if we could share a cell, and thus I had one of the experiences in my life of which I am proudest. 'Don't worry about sharing the sanitary bucket' said Helen 'we'll soon get used to that'.

During our weeks together, Helen with great courage had agreed to be led in evidence at the Treason Trial, although the State of Emergency was still in force and she risked official resentment. This took her out daily, and while the light was on in our cell she read and studied for her ordeal the next day. In the darkness of our cell at night she educated me in African politics. She outlined the history of the African National Congress since its start in 1912; she talked of her friends Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, co-accused in the Trial; she told me about the Congress of the People and the adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955; she described how she and Lilian Ngoyi had led the march of 20,000 women to the Union Buildings in 1956; how they had given in thousands of signed protests against unjust legislation, and then stood in silence for half an hour. They then sang Nkosi Sikelele, and dispersed quietly. The quality and maturity of these people impressed me tremendously.

We had various vicissitudes. A rat got into our cell one night. We made the most of it: 'This is a rat-infested cell! What are you going to do about it?' Workmen tried to put an extra bit of wood on the bottom of the door; then the door wouldn't shut. That wouldn't quite do. At last Matron lent us her black Persian cat, and he spent every night with us. We named him Horace; it seemed to go well with Helen and Hannah.

What a privilege it was to live at such close quarters with this committed and steadfast woman. Helen's life and example has been the inspiration of countless friends and contacts. It will have made a great difference to the thinking of many in South Africa; she will have done a lot to prepare people for change.

What did I do in gaol? I admired and loved Helen. Although she was a confirmed Anglican, she hadn't much time for the Church at that time, with the exception of Bishop Ambrose Reeves and Father Trevor Huddleston. Something in our stay together made her aware of her need for spiritual support. I don't know what. My prayer life at that time was distracted and all over the place. I must have told her of my latest studies in theology and how exciting I had found them; she followed this up later with her own theological studies while under house arrest. Father Leo Rakale, an African

member of the Community of the Resurrection, now sadly dead, a great friend, welcomed her back to full church membership and this had been a great support and strength for the last thirty years. Towards the end of her life she wrote: 'I hoped that I might be able to give some Christian witness in the political world and some political witness in the Christian world'. In this she undoubtedly succeeded.

It gives me great joy to be able to say that my brother Tom has been very closely attached to Helen for many years, in love and in service, and he has been able to celebrate the Eucharist every week in her cottage during these last years. I was able to join him, and saw her in September.

Hannah Stanton

LENT 1993

Four Sunday Evenings at 6.30 pm:

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| March 7th | We believe in one God, the Father |
| March 14th | We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ |
| March 21st | We believe in the Holy Spirit |
| March 28th | We believe in one Church |

Teaching through talking, listening and discussion.

All welcome 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Confirmation

..... is for people of all ages, of all stages of life, for people of all shapes and sizes, histories and backgrounds. Young or old. Is it right for you to explore the possibility of Confirmation this year? It is a public statement of belonging to the Christian Community.

If you are interested in exploring further please contact the Vicar as soon as possible.

Crisis - Open Christmas

On the 23rd December the Open Christmas shelter began. For eight days its doors remained open - 24 hours a day - to homeless people seeking temporary sanctuary from the misery of everyday life on the streets and the particularly cold Christmas weather.

The shelter once again proved to be very popular. Up to 400 homeless people slept at the Caledonian Road site in Islington, north London. A further 200 stayed at the 'quiet' site in Farringdon and the women's only site near by.

Food, warmth and companionship were, of course, on offer. Medical and dental attention, chiropody, hairdressing and counselling were also available, free of charge and on hand whenever people needed them.

For the first time Crisis expanded the Open Christmas concept outside the capital. The Crisis North West office helped to organise shelters in Barrow, Skelmersdale, Stoke, Lancaster and Southport, the latter attracting as many as 40 rough sleepers every night. Six other shelters in Hull, Oxford, Hastings, Peterborough, Glastonbury and Haverhill in Suffolk also took place largely because of help, finance and advice from Crisis 'HQ' in Whitechapel, London.

Of course, these shelters are now closed. Volunteers who ran them had to return to work and the buildings in which they were based had to be returned to their owners. Some of the people who used them would have been found alternative temporary or permanent accommodation - in London the organisers were very proud of the fact that 70 people were rehoused - but for the majority, the shelters' closure meant a return to life on the streets.

Crisis will not forget these people during the rest of the year. The charity will continue to run its 60-bed emergency hostel near London Bridge and channel almost £2 million to 260 other hostels, day centres and resettlement schemes all over the country. This work, although it fails to generate the high profile publicity which the charity enjoys at Christmas, is of central importance.

Just before Christmas we were reminded of this fact when Crisis published new research into the links between homelessness, health and mortality. This revealed that over 600 homeless people died last year and that 65% of those deaths would probably have been preventable given proper housing and health care.

The report - called 'Sick to Death of Homelessness' - showed that the average age of death of homeless people was 47 compared to 76 for the general population. The general health risks of sleeping rough are dramatically higher. Homeless people are 150 times more likely to be murdered, 34 times more likely to kill themselves, 8 times more likely to die in an accident and 3 times more likely to die of pneumonia or hypothermia.

The report revealed that homeless people are - quite literally - dying for a home. Whilst the Open Christmas schemes cannot be extended, Crisis desperately needs extra funding to support long term work to get people the housing which will keep many of them alive.

Adam Woolf, Crisis, 7 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU TeI: 071 377 0489

Lent Groups

This year there are no plans for Deanery Lent Groups. Instead we shall organise our own groups as in other years. The groups will meet to discuss the various points raised from the results of a questionnaire issued on Sunday 10 January. The questionnaire is based on the Bishop of London's plan for the diocese called 'Agenda for Action'.



There are three main areas where we are asked to consider how we respond to their challenge:

- 1) Proclamation of the Gospel;
- 2) Teaching, nurture and growth;
- 3) Pastoral care.

A list will be put up in church asking people to sign up to join a group. In the meantime we need to recruit a number of leaders and venues. If you would like to offer either please see Helen Taylor (979 7042). We hope to have groups during the day time as well as in the evenings.

Piano Wanted

Is there a good piano out there which needs a home where it will be used, cared for and valued? We need a good piano for use in church. Can you help? Please contact the Organist, Marcela den Boer (979 1777) or the Vicar.

Stewardship giving over the last two years has been as follows:

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>
January - March	£ 7,501	£ 6,802
April - June	£ 6,805 ⁷⁰⁶⁵	£ 6,042
July - September	£ 6,888	£ 5,713
October - December	£ 7,335	£ 6,149
Total for year	<u>£28,529</u> 28,789	<u>£24,706</u>

This is an increase in giving in 1992 over 1991 of 15.5%.

Parish Quiet Day

The Quiet Day will be on Saturday 6 March from 10.30 am to 4 pm at St. Michael's Convent, Ham.

It will be conducted by the Rev. Joan Kitney who, after 18 years as a hospital chaplain, worked in a Team Ministry and then became Warden of The Close in Staines, which was where I knew her. Those of us who attended the Quiet Day in 1988 led by the Rev. Peter Sills will remember her. She welcomed us to The Close and told us about the home and its residents.

Her theme will be 'Believing Today'.

All are welcome. Transport can be arranged. Bring a packed lunch. Do come.

Hannah Stanton

The Women's Forum

The time of the afternoon meetings has been changed in the hope that, if ladies have older children, they could come to the meeting and leave in time to meet their children from school.

The object of the February meetings is hopefully to make you safer - both inside and outside your home. Two representatives from Teddington Police Station are expected to attend:

February 3rd at 2 pm - Crime Prevention

February 17th at 8 pm - Self Defence

The new programme will also be available at these times, so do come along and see what is in store. Meetings are friendly and informal - and all are welcome.

From Small Beginnings

The story of the Missions to Seamen began in England in 1835 when an Anglican clergyman John Ashley was on holiday near Bristol. He noticed the ships anchored offshore awaiting a favourable wind and became curious about the seafarers on board. When he visited them he found that no clergyman had ever been near them before.

·BE·STILL·

and know
that I am God



BE STILL
AND KNOW
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© Robert Cooper

He was so moved by their isolation and need that he gave up a secure living to start a ministry to them. He bought a boat which he equipped with a chapel below deck so he could hold services. He called her the Eirene, meaning peace.

John Ashley's work soon inspired Anglican ministry in other ports, and it was decided in 1856 that the Missions to Seamen should be formed to co-ordinate and expand this ministry to seafarers. It adopted an angel as its sign, inspired from a verse in Revelation: 'Then I saw an angel flying in mid heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those on earth, to every nation and tribe, language and people.'

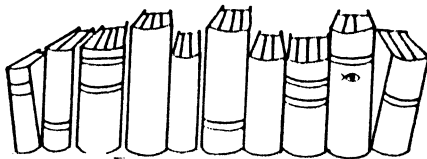
Like John Ashley, early Missions to Seamen chaplains concentrated on holding services on ships and distributing Bibles and tracts. But before long they saw the need for more. Reading rooms and clubs were established for seafarers to use when they came ashore, first in the UK and then in other parts of the world. Chaplains also became involved in campaigning for improvement in the terrible conditions under which seafarers worked, and in providing education and welfare services.

It is a pattern which continues today, a Christian ministry of word, sacrament, prophecy, welcome and practical help.

Violet Clark, Honorary Secretary

Faith in Print

Nearly thirty years ago a campaign was launched by the various Christian literature organisations such as SPCK to provide good books for under-developed countries where there was a tremendous hunger for the printed word. Much of the matter that was available was of a poor and often violent nature. The 'Feed the Minds' campaign as it came to be known was called to re-dress the balance. The Hampton Council of Churches raised funds for that cause all those years ago, and more recently it has supported a similar venture locally called 'Faith in Print'. Each of the member churches of the Council donated a sum of money to buy good Christian literature which was then put into local public libraries and schools.



Not long ago I received a letter from 'Faith in Print' appealing for money which it urgently needs in order to carry on its work. Librarians report a higher than average borrowing of such books and the anonymity of a library may help people seeking answers to spiritual questions.

Just as Third World countries need Christian literature so does our own mission field here at home. If you feel you would like to support this cause in any way, please contact me on 979 7042.

Helen Taylor

Around the Spire

Congratulations to Peter Horner who has gained a University place at Keble College, Oxford. Peter is at present our regular bell-ringer and, as explained in his article in last month's magazine, he is trying to arrange for others to take on this task.

Kathy and Nadine Rajan are expecting to leave at the end of January to join Roger who is already working in Abu Dhabi. We wish them bon voyage and a successful transition to their new home.

Edward Lawrance Rensmann was baptised recently. He is the grandson of Margaret and Tony Lawrance. with Helen and Thilo, his parents, he has now returned home to Bonn, after a very happy occasion. It has been a happy time too for the family of Mona and Ray Gow with the baptism of their first grandchild, Stephanie Jade Probert-Lewis, daughter of Nicola and Gareth. We send both families our best wishes.

Now some news of our various invalids. Hetty Burgess continues to make good progress after a stroke and is hoping to be moved to West Middlesex Hospital soon where re-habilitation facilities will be available. Hetty has asked us to express her very grateful thanks to all those who have either visited her or written to her. She is mindful of the fact that people have many commitments over Christmas and the New Year, so their visits have been especially appreciated. Vera Rockcliffe has been in hospital after being taken ill at Christmas while staying with her daughter in Kent.

Jean Western met with an unexpected and nasty accident while out walking in Bushy Park on New Year's Day. She and her sister, who was staying with her, and her sister's dogs became entangled with some other dogs, and Jean was knocked over, breaking both her legs. She is now in Ward A1 at the West Middlesex Hospital, and we wish her a full recovery as speedily as possible. She is quite cheerful but likely to be there for several weeks. Visitors would be very welcome.

We are very sorry to have to report that Jagdish Phaki, who was associated with Scotts in the High Street, has died following his stroke mentioned last month. Our condolences go to the family and our apologies for mis-spelling his name.

Ruth Taylor has now settled down in Nairobi where she is teaching. On holiday over Christmas she became engaged to Daniel Clarke, another teacher at the school. Congratulations to them both. As yet they have no definite plans to get married but are enjoying their stay in Africa very much.

From the Registers - December

Baptisms

6	Emily Constance Brooks	20 Edward Road
	Lisa Sharp	12 Browning Close, Hampton
24	Heather Marie Colquhoun	3 Blyth Close, Twickenham

Marriage

12	Peter Neville Gordon Cocks and Karen Piper
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Funerals

3	Edward Charles Patrick West	1 Stanley Villas, Wolsey Rd	Aged 66
8	Frank Younghusband	5 Rotary Court, Hampton Court Rd	Aged 80
14	Gladys Sparshott	44 St. James's Avenue	Aged 88
22	Sidney Jones	Laurel Dene	Aged 103
31	Phyllis Ellen Wardle	8 Sparks Close, Hampton	Aged 69
31	Dorothy Annie Tomkins	56 St. James's Avenue	Aged 89

Dates to Note

Feb.	2	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
	3	14.00 Women's Forum: Crime Prevention, Church
	8	14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
		20.00 Properties Committee, 21 St. James's Road
	13	19.30 for 20.00 Evangelistic Supper, Greenwood Centre
	16	20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
	17	20.00 Women's Forum: Self Defence, Church
		20.00 Deanery Synod, All Saints' Church, Hampton
	24	Ash Wednesday
		20.00 Parish Communion with Imposition of Ashes
	27	20.00 William Summer's Early Music Group, St. James's Church - A Concert in Aid of the Save the Children Fund



Advance Notices

Mar.	3	14.00 Women's Forum, Church
	6	10.30 - 16.00 Parish Quiet Day, St. Michael's Convent, Ham
	7	09.30 RNLI Service, St. James's, during Informal Service
	8	14.00 Editorial Board 19 St. James's Road
	17	20.00 Women's Forum, Church
	19	20.00 Come and Sing Messiah, St. James's Church, in conjunction with 'The Observer'
	21	09.30 Mothering Sunday Children's Eucharist
	24	20.00 P.C.C., Vestry

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