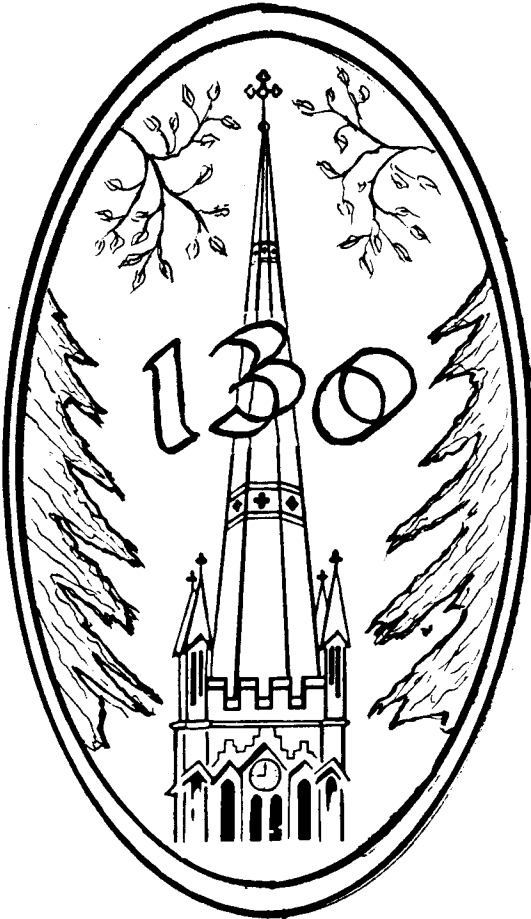


1994

ARCHIVES

THE SPIRE

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
HAMPTON HILL



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Services

| | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| Sunday | 08.00 | Holy Communion |
| | 09.30 | Parish Communion or, first Sunday in month, Informal Service |
| | 18.30 | First Sunday in Month - Choral Evensong Second Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise Third Sunday in Month - Service of Prayer for Healing Fourth Sunday in Month - Open Forum - a short act of worship and time to think or speak together Fifth Sunday in Month - Prayer and Praise |
| Monday to Friday | 09.15 | Morning Prayer |
| Tuesday | 09.30 | Holy Communion |
| Thursday | 19.15 | Holy Communion |

The Jays (children, aged 4+)

Sunday 09.15 - 10.05 and then in church (except first Sunday in month and holiday periods) Contact the Vicar.

Baptisms and Marriages

Please contact the Vicar.

Our ancient forbears used to light great bonfires in the middle of winter. It seems an emanantly sensible idea. After all, the energy used up in collecting the firewood and building the bonfire would warm up the average ancient Briton, and the heat of the blaze itself would have kept many a family aglow. But the purpose of such bonfires was not primarily to keep our ancient cousins comfortable - rather it had a more urgent function. For the ancients believed that by lighting great bonfires they could help the sun rise again from its low position in the sky and so usher in the spring and the promise of new growth, fruitfulness and prosperity. Of course, every time they lit their bonfires in mid-winter they were proved right - spring did follow, days grew longer and warmer, new growth occurred. Equally, if they hadn't bothered with a bonfire, exactly the same would have happened! Alas, poor ancients, what a wasted effort.

People often say something similar about Christmas too - when January comes round - wasted food, wasted paper, wasted effort and nothing much has changed. And of course in one sense they are absolutely right, nothing has changed by our keeping of one day as Christmas day. Absolutely right, that is, if we treat Christmas in that light - a one day extravaganza.

Epiphany on January 6th was a much more important celebration for the early church than was Christmas. However Epiphany, and Christmas, are not about a one day, or even twelve day, binge, but about God showing his true colours. And if true for one moment in time, then true for every moment of time. God shows his true colours, shows himself as a giving, loving, entrusting, risk-taker. God shows himself to shepherds and wise men, in times past and times present - when we bother to look.

The hymn I most associate with evensong has some great verses:

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn breaks on another day
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren neath the western sky
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

When you read this the sun will indeed be waking Ramani, Anusha and me 5½ hours before you. Bonfires won't change that, but looking at God's world, expecting to find God in our neighbour is the clue to living in the fulness of Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. In the light of God showing himself in humankind we see his true colours. Our true colours are known when we bother to respond - or fail so to do.

Brian Leathard

Hannah Stanton



Hannah's Funeral Service took place at 9.30 am on Tuesday 14th December. The following is taken from the Vicar's address:

Thank God, thank God for Hannah.

As sister, as cousin, as friend, as neighbour. Hannah the fighter, Hannah the tenacious, Hannah the visionary, Hannah the motivator, Hannah the gracious and charming and hospitable, Hannah the scholar, Hannah the peacemaker, Hannah the generous, Hannah the encourager. Hannah the servant of God.

Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just - Hannah not only thought on these things, but lived for them.

'For what does God require?' asks the prophet Micah

Only, only

to do justice, to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God.

Hannah, the Old Testament scholar's loved that 'only' for ironically that seemingly small word occupied so much of her life.

Only. To do justice: Hannah knew all too well the cost of doing justice - not only thinking about it or praying about it, but doing it. Doing justice - in Liverpool, trained as an Almoner, in Austria immediately at the end of the Second World War in rehabilitation and refugee camps; and of course the justice she learned to do the costly way in South Africa, and publicly and privately over the long years since with Anti-Apartheid, the A.N.C. and in many other ways. The justice she sought to establish for and among women in Makarere, Uganda, and her own church of England in the ministry of the laity and promoting the ministry of women, in particular.

Only do justice.

Only love kindness - None of us here could fail to have blossomed and felt warmed and special in Hannah's kindness - the kindness of her open house, her giving lifts, her little notes to say 'thank you' - for some trifle done. Her kindness over years and years to her friends and neighbours has inspired so many people and touched us - it was of course transformed into a structure, an organisation with her zest and input to the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group. Her immediate community was never forgotten - but neither was the world's community. Hannah's kindness was as much to an odd-ball in need as an Archbishop.

Only love kindness.

Only walk humbly with your God.

At Morning Prayer day in and day out, always here for Holy Communion at 9.30 am on a Tuesday morning, preaching, taking services at one of our Old People's Homes, baptism visiting. Hannah knew the humble path of the follower of Christ - so committed, so loyal, so true that she could rejoice and delight in the sharing of other people's journeying to God in other religious traditions - delighting in embracing Hindu and Sikh, Buddhist and Bahai, Jew and Muslim in the search for peace and the longing of the human being to reach out and touch our creator, in justice, in harmony, in peace with one another.

Only walk humbly with your God.

Thank God for Hannah, this ministering angel who knew how to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with her God.

Brian Leathard

I first met Hannah Stanton nearly twenty-five years ago at a Council of Churches meeting; and with Dr. Woodroffe we formed the original planning group for the Community Care Group. We spent hours together, and during this time I got to know Hannah very well indeed. What I noticed most was a person who lived with the Christian faith, and a person wanting to do more. The Hannah I knew never recalled a moment when she said she was too busy. Somehow she always managed to find time, and I doubt that she ever gave much time to herself. Great people are remembered because of their self-effacing approach in giving themselves to the task rather than seeking for themselves power or honour. I think of Hannah in this way. A person

motivated and driven by a vision rooted in scripture of how life could be if we each work at our own selfishness in putting the needs of others first. The Community Care Group was never set up as a specifically Christian organisation, but was set up with the vision of drawing from people the goodness in every human heart, and using it in the service of others. Hannah believed in the intrinsic goodness in every human life, and she gave encouragement and made people feel of value. Hannah was strong minded but never arrogant. She had firm convictions but never rejoiced in conflict. Hannah was a peace-maker who would spot the potential for conflict and work to avoid confrontation.

When I heard of Hannah's death I was shocked. She always seemed to me to be one of those timeless people who would always be there. But that is not reality and Hannah is now with God who gave meaning and purpose to her life, and we honour her most by continuing to ensure that what she gave will go on being of value. If we can learn from such an unselfish person, and be less selfish in our own relationships, then situations and communities will change for the better. Whilst we are sad at losing Hannah let us also be thankful for her life. I last saw her at the opening of the Greenwood Centre. Still full of life and still wanting and enjoying the fun of living. That is how I will remember Hannah.

Dennis Green (Vice-Dean of Ely Cathedral)

Hannah's outstanding tribute was to love and cherish her fellow human beings with a really Christ-like quality, both as individuals and groups, and to serve them spiritually and practically. She warmed many lives by her care, radiance and enthusiasm and by her infectious joy in living. She had more close and devoted friends than seemed possible.

Particularly important to her were the peoples of Africa. Her local commitment to them, and especially to the peoples of South Africa, was manifested by the use of her strength, for she was very forceful, and her skill to work against apartheid and for the African National Congress. The Richmond & Twickenham Times published a letter from her in which she asked anyone concerned with the South African struggle to get in touch with her. This led to the formation in April 1982 of the Richmond Anti-Apartheid Group with her as the first Chairman (and later a Vice-President). Typically she worked for political type activities as well as to raise money and support for individual projects in South Africa such as the Pretoria school feeding scheme. She inspired its members and ensured that we realised that we would be needed after the anti-apartheid regime had formally come to an end.

Hannah, as is well known, was imprisoned without trial in South Africa while working as a missionary in Lady Selbourne in 1960 during the first Sharpeville massacre. In gaol she shared a cell with Helen Joseph, imprisoned as a defendant in the great Treason Trial. They became great friends and influenced one another's lives. Hannah said that Helen made her 'political', while Helen wrote of Hannah's influence on her Christianity.

Hannah's return to England after her searing prison experience will never be forgotten by the friends who met her at Heathrow, who included friends, members of St. James's,

local Women Citizens, of which Hannah had been Secretary'and Africans. Instead of the stereotype of a frumpish missionary whom the press clearly expected when the plane doors opened, a beautiful and radiant young woman appeared, her blonde hair shining, her arms opened wide with delight. She caught sight of me and shouted 'Hallo Margaret, do you like my hair, a friend did it for me in prison last night'. Of course the press were at her feet, the V.I.P. lounge opened and Hannah held the floor.



Hannah in Nairobi with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who sent her flowers when she was in hospital and in the Hospice

Hannah was a local girl who lived in Teddington and Hampton Hill all her life. Her father, Sir Thomas Stanton, worked at the National Physical Laboratory, and was considered to be one of the most brilliant engineers of his day. She went to Summerleigh School, better known as Madame Mottu's, and later to London University and the Institute of 'Almoners', now Medical Social work. She was always in touch with her beloved brother Tom. Until her mother died she looked after her and then used her new found freedom to read for a Theology degree at Somerville College, Oxford prior to the her service in Africa.

All of us who knew her and met her were better for the experience. We tried in some small way, and will go on trying, to follow her example. we shall never cease to love her and to miss her.

Margaret Bramall

My first recollection of the Stanton family was during the Second World War, when their house was demolished by a plane crashing on it. I remember Mrs. Harvey, the Vicar's wife, telling us that all the presents for the wedding of her daughter, Sybil, had been stored in the Stanton house and had been destroyed.

During the late 1940's my mother and I used to go to Evensong every Sunday at St. James's. We always sat in the same place and Hannah, when she was at home always

sat a couple of rows in front of us, dressed in a green suit. In those days nobody fraternised much at St. James's - we just went to the service and that was it! Some time later I learned that Hannah was involved with the Quakers in rescue work with refugees in Europe. The green suit was her uniform.

The one memory of Hannah I shall always cherish concerns myself. I was standing in church at the end of Parish Communion on the day after my mother had died. Although I was surrounded by people I felt quite isolated and the tears kept coming. Hannah came up to me, just took me in her arms, gave me a big hug and all was well!

Betty Stewart

It was several months after coming to live in Hampton Hill, in 1951, that I got to know Hannah really well. At that time she was at home looking after her mother, and their home was always 'open house'. I remember Rupert announcing that Miss Stanton had offered the use of the large room in their house for a meeting. Possibly it was the one at which discussions took place about stimulating interest in church activities on the Rectory estate. The distance posed transport problems at that time when few of the residents had cars and there were no buses to bring them to the church. Hannah was very active in this scheme, which was launched with a short open-air service, followed by house to house visiting. The outcome was that Hannah, with enthusiasm, took on the task of starting Sunday School classes in the Rectory School, and asked me to help her, together with three senior girls from the Lady Eleanor Holles School. She continued to be the lively organiser until she went to Oxford, after the death of her mother in 1955.

Jean Western

Every other Wednesday was a highlight: it was the day of Hannah's House Group - a meeting not to be missed if at all possible. This was a group where we belonged to each other.

There was a time for greeting and coffee, a time for careful prayers and for Bible study which might be taken by any of the group's members. We worked very slowly through Romans, St. John's Gospel and latterly Acts, using a commentary, and exploring our own ideas, feelings and responses, often far away from the actual text - and having a good many laughs!

In some ways the House Group was quite conventional, but in others very special. A mutual affection developed between its members which reflected the loving leadership of Hannah, whose transparent faith inspired us all.

Beryl Smith

Hannah was much involved, with the late Canon Gordon Wilson, in the World Conference on Religion and Peace, of which she became an Honorary President, and the Week of Prayer for World Peace. We hope to have an appreciation of her work in these fields another time.

The New Hall

In Victorian times, 'topping out' marked the placing of the chimney pots on a new house. A flag or branch was also put on the roof of the house, and the owner would provide a firkin of ale for the men who had built it.

Nowadays, it is usually a glitzy P.R. exercise marking the completion and handover of some prestigious commercial building, with bubbly rather than beer.

We intended ours to mark the completion of the roof, making the building watertight, and when, due to delays, that stage had not been reached by the programmed date of 12 December, the impending start of Brian's sabbatical dictated that we should 'top out' with only the upper roof covering in place.

Despite this, and miserable rain falling on those of us who ascended the scaffold (including Helen as a modern day Mrs. Bligh!) with a branch, we had a splendid ceremony, including Bucks Fizz, taking the opportunity also to wish Brian, Ramani and Anusha 'Bon voyage et Bon retour!'

Overall, the project is now probably something over three weeks behind programme. Both we and the builders hope that no further slippage will occur.

Jack Gostling

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Noah's Ark



PARENTS and UNDER-5's

Come to the Portacabin (next to the church)

Fridays, 10.30 to 11.30

to PRAISE and PRAY

* * * * *

The next part of 'The Early Church', which continues the story of the second century, is held over, owing to pressure of space, until the next issue.

Wanted

Lent 1994. Hosts/hostesses are wanted for house groups meeting in Lent. We now have several Leaders who need a venue for their groups. The course is entitled 'Take Another Look' and will be an ecumenical venture with the other Churches in the Hampton Council of Churches. If you would like to offer your home or your services as a Leader please speak to me.

Pen Friend. Florence is a black Kenyan lady in her thirties who would very much like a Christian lady as a pen friend. Florence works in Nairobi as a house maid to support her four children who live in Western Kenya with her family. Her husband is in prison. The economic situation in Western Kenya is not very good, so life is difficult for Florence and those like her. Her English is reasonably good and she likes knitting and making things. Any offers of a pen friend for Florence? Please let me know. I have a photo of her.

Helen Taylor (979 7042).

Doris Warwick

Quite a few people who read this won't have known Doris, yet owe her a great deal. Her 'heydays' in the parish were in the early fifties, working closely with the 'new' Vicar, the Rev. Rupert Brunt, serving of his commission to the wider church. The 'wider church' was at all times Doris's field: founder member of the Old People's Welfare Committee, holding sewing meetings in her home and later at the then recently purchased Wayside, a project to which she gave enthusiastic support and of which she and her husband Russell were the first manager/custodians. Her work for Community Care both as Office Organiser and Policy Committee member served the community at large and won her many friends and admirers. Even her little Croft Shop (she had always wanted to run a little dress shop) served the village needs, providing good quality clothes at affordable prices. Kindness itself, she would go up to town on special trips to find just what some elderly lady had expressed a need for.

In the fifties she was a long term member of the Parochial Church Council, serving as Minutes Secretary. At all times a great lover of flowers she was always in charge of the Flower Stall at the church fêtes at Laurel Dene. (No Stewardship Scheme in those days, every penny had to be worked for - and Doris was a great worker!). Her incisive mind, clear to the last, was always available to help solve knotty problems. Doris got things done.

She was a faithful and loyal friend, remembering anniversaries and birthdays, choosing 'special' cards with care and love to the very end.

Doris was a courageous person determinedly pursuing what she felt to be right. She had no fear of death. She had a convinced and deep faith. She will be remembered with affection, respect and gratitude by a great many people.

Margery Orton

Intercessions Book

Please remember that there is a book on the main altar in Church in which you are invited to enter the names of people or issues for which you wish us to pray. It may be that someone is ill or in trouble, that a particular matter concerns you - whatever it is, simply write it in the book and we shall pray at Morning Prayer each day and at Parish Communion for all these intentions.



Around the Spire

This month we have also lost another great supporter of St. James's. Mrs. Dorothy Annie White had been a member of the Mothers' Union for over fifty years and was a generous contributor to many causes connected with the Church. She had five daughters, four of whom were at her funeral as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even two great-great-grandchildren! Several other members of her family had also been part of St. James's extended family over the years, Miss Kolbe, Mrs. Robinson, Ann Douglas's grandmother, and another sister who was Hannah's nanny - so a long and treasured relationship and one which will be missed. We send our love to all the family.

The church was crowded for the Christingle Service on 5 December which was a very happy occasion - we actually ran out of the decorated oranges! Nevertheless the church made a splendid sight as a ring of candle-light was formed around the interior to celebrate the coming of the Light of the World.

Denis Leatherdale is at home again after an operation, and Margaret Shackleton is having further treatment at the Middlesex Hospital. We pray that they will both make good progress.

Many thanks to all who helped with and attended the 'Africa on a Knife Edge' soup lunch. £132 has been sent to that appeal as a result.

Many thanks also to all those who made sandwiches and cakes for Hannah's funeral repast. It was really wonderful how everyone rallied round to help on the Monday evening and again on the Tuesday. Thanks also to all who gave money for the flowers and arranged them; they looked lovely. Everything was surely just as Hannah would have wanted it to be.

We are very grateful for the gift by Vera Rockcliffe's family of a throat microphone. It is proving a tremendous help in enabling those taking services to be more mobile and ensuring that all can hear what is said. The splendid new display board, bought with a number of gifts to the church for which we are also grateful, is another great asset.

From the Registers - November

Baptisms

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 7 | Thea Constance Lester Maria Lisa Brack Aaron Smith Charlene Smith Elizabeth Louise Rosalind Yates | 12 Browning Close 7 Bishops Grove 7 Bishops Grove 7 Bishops Grove 28 Burtons Road |
| 21 | Jessica Elizabeth Lawson Joseph Riddett Brittany Francesca Wallace | 90 Holly Bush Lane 40 Carlton Avenue, Feltham 18 Taylor Close |

Funerals

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 5 | John (Jack) Cormie McBride | 56 St. James's Road | Aged 65 |
| 11 | William Robert Tomkins | 9 Myrtle Road | Aged 89 |
| 12 | Joan Ellen Squire | 12 St. James's Avenue | Aged 65 |
| 12 | Arthur George Giles | 11 Holly Road | Aged 77 |
| 22 | Doris Warwick | 19 Blandford Road | Aged 86 |
| 23 | James D. Anstead | 2 School Road Avenue | |

Dates to Note

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| Jan. | 1 | The Naming of Jesus |
| | 4 | 14.00 Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road |
| | 5 | 14.30 Women's Forum, New Year Fun, Church |
| | 6 | The Epiphany |



| | | | |
|--|----|-------|---|
| | 10 | 20.00 | P.C.C., Vestry |
| | 18 | | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins |
| | 19 | 20.00 | Women's Forum, church |
| | 20 | 20.00 | Taizé Service, St. James's Church |
| | 23 | 18.30 | United Service, 'Songs of Praise', All Saints' Church |
| | 25 | | The Conversion of St. Paul |

Advance Notices

| | | | |
|------|----|-------|---|
| Feb. | 2 | | The Presentation of Christ in the Temple |
| | | 14.30 | Women's Forum, Church |
| | 16 | 20.00 | Women's Forum, Church |

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE: 9 JANUARY