

Shock! Horror! The 285 bus service is no longer red, but yellow. Things are changing in Hampton Hill. I suppose for most of us the surprise was greater because we have no idea of the world of bus franchises. I gather, on the grapevine, that London United, at Fulwell Garage, failed to win the tender and London Buslines proved victorious. The upshot is that we have splendid new vehicles, but our local garage now supplies many of Kingston's services. However, the 285 is lifeblood to our community, linking Kingston with Heathrow via Hampton HILL (not hampton as the destination boards claim). Is there any chance that the new 285 service might arrive regularly, one at a time, rather than in bunches of threes? Any ideas on this to London Buslines, please - and I suggest you patent your ideas first.

Talking of both change and things coming together, what days we have recently seen. The state visit of President Nelson Mandela set amidst the depressing and frightening return of widespread violence on the streets of Northern Ireland. Nelson Mandela's visit seems to have been quite extraordinary for a visiting Head of State. He was here, as he stated, for two reasons, yes, to say thank you to the millions of people in Britain who had been active in supporting the movement to destroy apartheid in South Africa (St James's certainly has a good track record there) and also to encourage the international community to invest in the new multi-racial South Africa. He appears to have been feted in both parts of this enterprise. Vast crowds gathered to meet him in Trafalgar Square, Brixton and at the Albert Hall. The Governor of the Bank of England was also fulsome in his praise of Mandela's determination to succeed in providing more jobs, more economic strength, amidst huge social and economic problems.

Little attention has been given to the fact that just two weeks before President Mandela's visit to London, the chief negotiator of South Africa's new constitution, Cyril Ramaphosa, was invited to Belfast to advise on the deadlock in the peace process. He told his audience that the key to South Africa's settlement had been both a willingness and an ability to risk empathy with past opponents. What is paramount, is a willingness and an ability to see the issues through my opponents eyes, while remaining true to justice. Nobody is suggesting this is easy. In his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom* (pb. Abacus £8.99 or Hampton Hill Library - a great read for the summer holiday!) Mandela talks of the costs of standing out, both against one's opponents and standing out amongst one's sympathisers - seeking reconciliation rather than revenge.

With the prospects for peace shattered once again, the pain over the past and the future of Northern Ireland is so great that we long for true leaders to stand out. Jesus stood out and it cost him his life. Nelson Mandela stood out and it cost him 28 years brutal imprisonment, yet the standing out of political leaders in Ireland so often seems to be only a standing out against; against the other community and not a standing out

for, for reconciliation, for hope, for justice and for the common future. God deserves it and so do all the rainbow children of God, made in God's image and likeness.

But change can only ever start with me. Take to heart and mind this month, especially if you have time for holiday and re-creation, the question, where and what do I stand out for? Where do I need to make changes in my life? Then in September we will begin to see that it is not only the buses that are changing in Hampton Hill, but also the passengers.

Brian Leathard

A Letter From South Africa

Here in South Africa we recently remembered an important anniversary which gives me something to write about. Sunday, 16 June, was the 20th anniversary of the 1976 student uprising in Soweto which gave fresh impetus to the struggle culminating in the democratic elections of 1992. Some accounts of the uprising give the impression that it was a spontaneous protest against having to learn certain school subjects in Afrikaans. That certainly was the spark that set it off. But for many years there had been dissatisfaction with the provisions of the Bantu Education Act of 1953 and the disparity between money spent on the education of whites and money spent on the education of blacks in State Schools. In effect, those responsible for this Act said: "You blacks are inferior to us whites. We don't want you competing with us for the good jobs. This is what we want you to learn so that you can be of service to us. You must stay in your (inferior) place".

Blacks in South Africa might have believed this if it hadn't been for Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness Movement. Steve and those with him said: "No! We are not inferior to whites, but we are different, - and glad to be different. Black is beautiful. What we want is real education to help us to develop our full potential so that we can take our proper place in society".

This links up with the Christian Gospel which says that we are all beautiful whatever our colour when we are what God made us and means us to be. Our salvation consists in discovering who we are and being true to ourselves. We discover our true selves by living in right relationship with God and with other people. This is what the Kingdom of God is. 'Membership in the kingdom is a life of perfect relationship with man and nature based on perfect fellowship with God'. That is a quotation from a book by Charles Gore written over 100 years ago.

With love and best wishes to you all.

Tom Stanton

The Lord's Prayer - as used by London Bus Drivers

Our Farnham which art in Hendon
Harrow be thy name
Thy Kingston come
Thy Wimbledon
In Erith as it is in Kenton.
Give us this day our Leatherhead
And forgive them that bypass against us
And lead us not into Thames Ditton
But deliver us from Ewell
For thine is the Kingston
The Purley and the Crawley
For Esher and Esher
Crouch End.

And now for some more serious prayers found amongst Alison Thompson's papers, which you might like to share.

He whom we love and lose
Is no longer where he was before.
He is now wherever we are.

John Chrysostom

Don't worry about anything.
Pray about everything.
Don't forget to thank God for the answers.

Found on a card.

500 Pilgrims needed for 1997

Churches Together in England and Wales are organising a Pilgrimage in 1997 to celebrate the 1400th anniversaries of both the arrival of St. Augustine at Canterbury in 597 AD and the death of St. Columba on the Isle of Iona in the same year.

A small group of Pilgrims, already chosen, will set out from Rome on May 18th, Pentecost, and arrive in Canterbury a week later. There they will be joined by a further 400 Pilgrims who will be commissioned on Monday 26th May - the Feast Day of St. Augustine and then set out by various means and different routes for Derry, in Ireland. The Pilgrims will arrive there on Monday June 9th, the Feast Day of St. Columba.

During the journey all Pilgrims will be entertained and cared for overnight by local people. The charge per Pilgrim will be £250. As places are limited early application is essential if you would like to be included. It is hoped that at least half the group will be people under thirty.

If you are interested in joining this Pilgrimage, the closing date for which is September 30th 1996, please get an application form from:-

Pilgrims Way Office,
Glyn Preece, Group Co-ordinator,
11 Strawberry Hill,
Northampton NN3 5HL.

St. James's Day - 100 years ago

At the end of July we celebrated St. James's Day, just as they did in 1896 (well, not quite). We thought to-day's readers might like to know how it was done a hundred years ago. N.B. The Vicarage garden then stretched the length of St. James's Road.

"The Flower Show, which took place on 15th ult., was in many respects a very successful undertaking. The exhibits were exceptionally fine and good, and the prizes were in most cases well earned. It would have been source of still greater pleasure to the Committee if a larger number of cottagers had tried what they could do. The products of the small gardens were excellent, showing what can be done by those who try" "The attendance night have been larger, but not doubt the threatening weather, which culminated in a terrific storm early in the evening, was accountable for this, to some extent at least."

Although now, as then, some events are better supported than other, I am glad that Brian does not give us such a 'must try harder' report!

"The St. James's Festival was in every way a great success. The weather was perfect. About 570 School Children assembled at the Schools and marched with their banners, preceded by the Band, to the Church. The procession was very long and most picturesque to all lovers of children. During the afternoon nearly the whole rising generation of the parish was present in the Vicarage Grounds" "It was estimated that, including the children, about 1,200 souls entered the gates during the afternoon. Hearty cheers were given by the children for all who had so kindly contributed towards the day's entertainment."

I am not sure whether Brian and Ramani would be delighted or horrified at the prospect of 1,200 souls on their lawn in one afternoon.

"A very pleasant episode took place on the lawn in the course of the afternoon, consisting of a presentation to our god organist, Mr. Dawkins, who for twenty years has been at his present post, and during the whole of that long period his duties have been faithfully and efficiently fulfilled, to the advantage and comfort of worshippers at the Church. The presentation took the form of a Gold Watch and Chain, the former having a suitable inscription on the case. Most of the contributors were present and heartily cheered Mr. Dawkins."

We still make presentations, although Gold Watches and Chains seem to have gone out of fashion, some gifts nowadays being of a more consumable nature. Should we revive hearty cheering?

"During the Day School holidays the Sunday School will meet on the Sunday morning, as usual but there will be no School in the afternoon. There will, however, be a service for the children, at the Church, each Sunday afternoon as usual, at 3.15pm, and I hope the children will come. This service has been made much shorter than formerly, and more suitable for young people. The whole will never last more than three quarters of an hour. Will parents encourage their children to come? I am anxious that they should feel that the service is for them, and to make it in every way suitable to their powers of comprehension" "It is most important that the children should grow up with a love for the Church".

One wonders how long the children's afternoon service usually was, remembering that they had already attended morning Sunday School. Today there are so many other

activities available for children that we would be unlikely to persuade them to come twice on Sundays, but St. James's still thinks it 'most important' that the children see themselves as welcome and the monthly Informal Service is specifically aimed to be 'suitable to their powers of comprehension'.

A hundred years on and the overall aims are still the same, although we find different ways of achieving them. I wonder what contributors to The Spire in 100 years' time will make of Beating the Bounds by Bike?

P.S. The above article was the first one written for us by a new member of Magazine Committee, Sue Horner. I think she has got off to a flying start and we look forward to more of the same. Thanks Sue.



Children's Corner

August is holiday time. We don't have our normal routine of school, homework, guides or scouts, Sunday School and Church. However the holidays are a great time to do something different and this could be looking at different churches and religions.

If you are going away on holiday, Churches are often some of the most beautiful and interesting places to visit. They could be an isolated country church in beautiful countryside or a city Cathedral. Look out for things that are the same as at St. James's - perhaps the altar or the font? and for things that are different as well - maybe the windows, the pulpit or the reading lecterns. Some churches may allow you to do brass rubbings - wax crayons work very well - but make sure you get permission first. If you manage to get to any of their Sunday service (a difficult thing on holiday I know) you will be made most welcome and once again it is quite interesting to see how different the same service can be in another church.

If you are going abroad, particularly to countries such as Greece, Spain or Portugal, churches from different religions will add further differences and in many places you will see roadside shrines where travellers may pray for a safe journey. So, keep your eyes open.



More Thoughts on The Asylum Bill

The bill passing through Parliament at the moment is an attempt to reduce the costs of asylum seekers on the national coffers (i.e. you and me). The proposal is to stop benefit payments to those whose first application for asylum is unsuccessful. There are many views expressed by politicians, "the man in the street" and by the newspapers. Here are a few to consider:

"90% of the so-called asylum seekers are economic migrants".

"The wealth of this country was built up on the backs of the inhabitants of the Empire".

"People arrive and make no mention of asylum as the purpose of their trip until they find out about our social security system".

"In some cases, the situation of asylum seekers is so desperate that the only way in which they can leave their country is by using false papers . . . Nigeria is not in the habit of issuing true papers for people who try to leave the country because their lives are at risk as opponents of a terrible and tyrannical government".

"The bill now adds . . . the new offence of entering or remaining by deception".

"For asylum seekers, an appeal right from abroad is useless. It is useless to those in most need of it; those who have already been returned to a country in which they fear persecution".

"The government acted illegally in refusing benefits to asylum seekers".

"The local authority acted illegally by refusing housing to destitute asylum seekers".

"That's all very well but why should these people be given houses when our children, born and brought up here remain homeless?".

"Refugees are shuffled from country to country . . . sent back again and again. That is a disturbing characteristic of the modern world".

"Elections are not a guarantee of human rights observations".

"There are over 40,000 illegal Australian immigrants in this country".

"We know of a great many cases of black British being stopped for illegal immigrants".

"In some cases the people of whom we are talking have the most profound reason to fear a knock at the door at 3am. I worked in central Europe . . . among people who know what it is to suddenly find their houses searched without warrant . . . Some of these people are today refugees in this country. They live in an atmosphere of extreme fear".

"For my part, I would rather err on the side of humanity than inhumanity. I would rather see one person saved from torture by not being sent back and having perhaps ten persons living where they choose to live and perhaps contributing to the community".

"This debate should not be about numbers, but justice".

Parish Weekend at Wychcroft - 1997

After a very successful Parish Weekend in February, many people have been asking when the next one will be. Here are the details so far:-

The next Parish Weekend will be held at WYCHCROFT, Bletchley, near Godstone, from Friday evening, 31st October to Sunday afternoon, 2nd November 1997.

The decor at Wychcroft is not as bright as at Fairmile, most of the rooms being oak panelled, but we were made very welcome on our brief visit and the house is set in extensive countryside. The views from the windows are magnificent, and there is an impressive collection of books in the Library. if only one had time to read them!

Such weekends provide a tremendous opportunity for building up the 'family' life of the Church and of the Parish. it is also a wonderful opportunity for us to grow personally in our spiritual life. It may be a life-changing event!

We also aim to have some fun, so if you feel St. James's is your Church you will be very welcome, we hope to cater for all age groups.

WRITE the dates in your Diary.

THINK about what you would like the Programme to include.

OFFER your services in planning the weekend, or what help you might be able to offer during the weekend itself.

GIVE your ideas to me or to Brian.

START saving towards it.

The cost is expected to be £65. We will start collecting money as soon as you like. Cheques should be made out to "St. James's Church PCC" and given to me. Make sure you get a receipt.

If money is a problem, please speak to me or Brian in confidence.

Everyone's contribution is valued. Problems can always be overcome. More details will be announced later.

Ruth Mills



Around The Spire

I thought August was supposed to be a holiday month when there was no news, or at least only 'silly season' news, but not a bit of it. When it comes to "The Spire" there seems to be an abundance of news, none of it 'silly' but all worthwhile one way or another.

After several false starts and much cogitating the Church is now open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from just before the start of Morning Prayer at 9.15am until 1pm. Two people will always be 'on duty' and anyone wishing to come into Church in that time, for whatever reason, will be very welcome.

For many years "The Spire" has been printed by Norman Carter of The Print Centre in Teddington. Norman died recently after a short illness and the business is being run for the moment by his family. Many other local Church Magazines as well as the Hampton Hill Association Newsletter were printed by Norman and he will be much missed by us all. He was always in the fore-front of printing technology (and you all know how much that has changed) and invested in all the latest equipment. A few years ago we were going on holiday to Africa and had a recent photo of a friend printed on to a T-shirt for her as a present to take with us, she was thrilled to bits with it, needless to say, Norman did it for us. In addition to all this he also ran a small Travel Agency as well as doing photocopying for people coming in off the street, it was always busy in Norman's shop. We send Sheila and all the family our love and condolences, and wish then all the best as they come to terms with their loss and difficulties of running the business.

In a recent letter from Nicholas and Susan Chubb we heard of Sarah's imminent marriage to Tim Hooper in York on July 6th. Sarah is now a G.P. in Selby in Yorkshire. Naomi, now married of course, is still working at a very small country school near Mansfield and Andrew is Head of Modern Languages at a school in Solihull. Nicholas and Susan are well, and if you are ever in Peterborough Cathedral look out for Susan behind the counter in the Bookshop, where she now helps out.

Now for a further instalment of clerical news, local this time. A new Vicar has now been appointed for St. Mary's, Hampton. His name is Derek Winterburn, who is at present working in Hackney, and his Induction will be in September, more details of this in next month's magazine. All Saint's, Hampton, have also just appointed a new Curate, the Rev. Alistair McCullum, good wishes to both these new-comers, we hope they will be very happy among us.

Margaret and Bill Robinson welcomed their third great-grandchild into the family on Monday 3rd June. A girl, Megan Amy Rose, the first child of their grand-daughter Jacqueline and Ian Fereday, her husband. Jacqueline is the second daughter of their eldest daughter, Diana, who married Geoff Eaton thirty-one years ago. Geoff ran the regular bell-ringers and took great interest in the clock chiming the old year out and the new year in. He and Diana were married at St. James's.

On the 18th June, Alice Margaret Florence, made her appearance into the world, the ninth grandchild of David and Margaret Taylor. Alice is the second daughter of Helen and Paul Shepherd, Helen is David and Margaret's eldest daughter. We wish the families and their new additions every blessing.

The Organ Fund continues to grow, it now stands at approximately two and a half thousand pounds. Several recent events have helped to swell its funds, all of which have been most successful and much enjoyed by those able to attend.

The Brownies have sent us a note asking us to pass on their thanks to all the people who came and supported the Big D Tea Party on June 18th. Fifty cream teas were served and MENCAP benefitted to the tune of £85.

Don't forget, if you know someone who would like "The Spire" on a cassette tape, get in touch with Prill Hinckley. We already have a few customers who very much enjoy this service.

"The Spire" is also delivered to your door by one of a willing band of volunteers. If you know anyone who would like a copy delivered regularly in this way please let Alwyn Loyd know. Alwyn is responsible for collecting the Magazine from the printers and taking the copies round to the deliverers. Many thanks to him and to all the people who deliver the Magazine.



ANTIQUES VALUATION EVENT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14th
12 noon - 2pm

Bring your antiques to be valued by
Academy Auctioneers and Valuers

Tickets £2 to include valuation of one item, subsequent items £1

There will also be a:-

1. Short Auction of not more than fifteen items.
(Donations wanted for this, goods or services)
2. A Cake Stall (Cakes wanted for this, please)
3. Refreshments
4. A Quiz for you to enter

Tickets may be bought beforehand in Church, any queries to
Kate O'Sullivan or members of the Social Committee.

This event is being run as a fund raising event for the Church

DO COME AND SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

From the Registers

BAPTISMS - JUNE 1996

- 2nd Laura Leigh Kettelson Clifford
26 Holly Road
William Joseph Foster
5 Durham Road, Feltham
- 16th Leah Anna Louise Atkinson
2 Vincent Row
- 23rd Hannah Molly Banks
49 Burtons Road



FUNERALS

- 29th May Ivy Underdown 91
Laurel Dene
- 10th June Jane Esther Goodburn 89
Laurel Dene
- 14th June Alison May Thompson 88
6 Rotary Court
- 20th June Donald Neesham 72
96 St. James's Road

Although there were no Weddings in Church in June, there are several in August. Please remember those about to get married in your prayers. Remember those who mourn a loved one, and pray for those who are sick, or in need of help.



THE QUIET GARDEN

at

STOCKBRIDGE, HANTS

The Quiet Garden at Stockbridge in Hampshire is managed as a wild garden with ponds for frogs, a hide for observing wild life, and a summer house for shelter.

It is a place for seeking and finding inner peace and for personal reflection.

Groups are also catered for. For further information phone 01264 810838.

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