

INTRODUCTION

This magazine normally goes out to about 700 homes. This month it is being delivered free of charge to every home in the parish. About 3000. It is our ambition to be able to do this every month so that we can have contact through its pages with everyone living in St. James's area.

Some of you live so far away from St. James's church that you can know little of what sort of a church it is or what sort of people we are. But you are in the parish. We hope that you will read this copy of The Spire, enjoy it, and find in its pages something to interest you, inform you and perhaps inspire you.

If you would like to continue to receive it monthly, at no charge to yourself, please fill in the slip at the back of the magazine and return it to the most convenient of the addresses given.

PRE - OPEN DAY

Although many people will have seen the splendour of the church and the excellence of the exhibits on Open Day, few will be aware of the vast amount of work and organisation that went into producing them. Some of the more obvious results of all this effort were very apparent - like the gleaming floors revealing magnificently patterned tiles long hidden; but others would not strike one immediately - such as the interior of the West Porch which on the day was almost completely filled by the absorbing history exhibit. But obvious or not the same loving care and attention had gone into all of them, as many an aching muscle and splinter-laden hand could testify.

Of course such results do not just happen: they require a great deal of thought and organisation and for this we have to thank the Properties Committee (aided, abetted - and sometimes harassed - by a number of ladies).

They set about their task with military precision, by drawing up a chart of the jobs to be done and calling for volunteers to be at the church at specific times each weekend. As one of those helpers I was greatly impressed with the efficient arrangements, although I must confess to doubts towards the end as to whether everything would be completed on time. But I need not have worried. Everything that mattered or showed and even some that didn't were bright and clean.

Apart from the scrubbing and polishing, there was a considerable amount of furniture shifting to and from the Hall and Wayside, which was also accomplished by a faithful few old timers and numerous Cub Scouts, both before and after the event.

Although when you are on your knees scrubbing a floor with a wire brush there may be some doubts about whether you were really wise to have volunteered, the final result on the day made it all worthwhile.

H.E. Severn

. and what about the Steering Committee of three who planned the scheme of the Open Day itself; the thoughts, discussions, lists of things to be accomplished, the visits, telephone calls; the checking and re-checking, the liaison, the unflappability and never-failing good will and helpfulness - and the same repeated in miniscule by every one who took part in the individual exhibits.

And the remarkable ambience of love, worship in service and in the offering of talents the day before the event as all the strings were gathered together and we could see and feel the results of our labours. Truly, as one contributor puts it, "Our Great God was there."

M. Orton.

OPEN DAY 13th May 1978

After months of preparation - was everything ready - had some important item been forgotten - what would be the response from the Parish? These thoughts along with many others passed through our minds, quite unnecessarily though, for approaching the church an hour before the official opening time, all such worries were quickly dispelled. The last minute touches were being made to welcome visitors. Church railings were being adorned by the Young People's Fellowship with jars containing bluebells and other wild flowers freshly picked from the churchyard and giving just the right setting for the occasion. The floral arrangement in the south porch - the various shades of greenery, with just the right blend of flowers, could not have been bettered to convey a welcome - please enter - spirit.

What a transformation inside! A quick glance round indicated that there was much to see - no marshalling of visitors or direction to proceed notices - just a word here, a welcome there and have you seen so and so, and then a little after ten o'clock the first visitors began to arrive.

Young Mums had taken over the Baptistry - adapting it as a creche. A very delicate floral decoration surmounted the font. The steps leading up to it and the font itself had been cleaned and looked as new and the tiled floor had been scrubbed and polished and we saw how beautiful it all must have been when the church was built. The walls were covered with nursery pictures for the day and there was no shortage of toys and books. Many a child was heard expressing pleasure when finding something different to play with.

Moving further into the church we were very surprised to see how effectively the west porch had been converted to a **History and Archives Centre**. Maps, pictures, postcards, newscuttings covered every square inch of wall space and yet space had been found for small tables upon which were displayed church records. There was much coming and going all day and our archivist-historian was kept extremely busy helping to trace relatives from the past and explaining many aspects of Parish Life that had almost been forgotten.

The next exhibit to catch our eye had been arranged by the **Questers** - that small group of young people who meet weekly in Wayside or sometimes outside to enjoy searching for new games or playing those already well proven - the early stages in their development to be self-reliant and, hopefully, to find a relationship with God. The **Young People's Fellowship** display was adjacent and although their activities vary throughout the years sufficient can be recalled of those small bands starting off at crack of dawn for their Fellowship holidays in Scotland, the Lakes or Wales. It is a pity that from time to time the many activities are interrupted by breaks in the continuity of leadership as is happening now.

Turning round we faced the **Sunday Schools'** corner with its display of models and drawings and we could not miss the feeling of peace and security it seemed to have - a real devotion to duty and belief must be with those who are responsible.

Then we came to four displays arranged along the north aisle. **The Brownies, the Guides, the Cubs and the Scouts**. Each a separate arrangement and full of interest. Badges for handicrafts, skills and knowledge. Samples of work, records of events and photographs of individuals. Posies, flowers and flags, all of which had been prepared with enthusiasm and fun - all credit to their leaders.

Using the organ pipes as a stage back-drop the **Choir** had cleverly arranged an exhibit of their vestments - an original and interesting lay-out. Short tape recordings of the choir's vocal achievements added to the pleasure of sitting awhile and meditating.

By this time - nearly midday - the church was full and seeing much activity in the vicinity of the Vestry we thought a visit was called for, and it was worthwhile, for there we were provided with a very welcome cup of coffee and biscuits and of course a long chat about what we had seen and had still to see.

Immediately outside the Vestry the **Ladies' Choir** had an exhibit showing a model in choir dress - long black skirt and white long-sleeved high-neck blouse with music folders in three shades of rose, arranged with a beautiful display of pinks and other plants. The music symbols rising up the walls recalled to those who had heard them sing, the wide range of their repertoire and the light-hearted enjoyment the choir members have themselves and convey to so many. Moving westward but still on the southern side of the church, we found a wall display by the **Social Committee** - coloured prints showing groups of happy parishioners at parties and outings that had been organised in the past ten years, which with a schedule of all the events, brought forth many a comment - and if summarised goes to show how quickly the years go by, and how soon one can so easily forget. But the record speaks for itself - a wonderful decade. "Not for profit but pleasure" would be a fitting motto for this indefatigable committee.

Facing the Social Committee's exhibit we found a table showing how "**The Spire**" is compiled and distributed free each month to all who ask for it; the sifting of and, more often than not, searching for articles of interest by the Editorial Board.

"**Church Properties**" caught our eye and thinking we would be presented with a long list of money spent and why - we felt a look at least was called for. But no - this time we were enlightened as to how the three properties - the church, Wayside and the hall were being used - with coloured prints to show some of the activities carried on and other useful information. We were intrigued by the list referring to the churchyard and wondered what pleasure the artist had in its preparation. We also liked the black and white enlargements showing "Men at Work" or "Otherwise Engaged". Whose was the dog - was it the one the churchyard artist was trying to capture?

Catechumenate - this difficult word must have had many of the visitors puzzled. What was this all about - was it just another "Fashion of the Day" being tried on the Parish in order to enliven interest in the Church? Very careful thought had obviously been given to the arrangement of the exhibit. The information given in the text displayed above their altar helped to convey what were the aims of those striving to find a more basic way for Christianity. Our versatility was shown by the display of photographs of many dramatic productions, some light-hearted, some deeply serious, performed by the **Drama Group** over the years. With luck this display will spark off new enthusiasm.

The **Mothers' Union** table was arranged beautifully - the coat of arms, embroidery, flowers, record of events and centenary book all complemented one another to give an impression of the many concerns at home and overseas of this worldwide organisation - a significant and eye-catching exhibit.

Next we turned to look at the **Tuesday Club's** display which we found full of interest. What a wonderful range of topics. From the police to interior decorating and many other arts; mystery tours, theatre outings, games evenings, and many more.

A large placard on the south wall announced that St. James's is a **Stewardship Church**; for those wondering what this means - it is quite simply a church where the individual members assess the value they place on their religion and commit themselves and their resources accordingly. The display limited itself to the financial aspects whereas the overall aim is, of course, much wider. We noted the proportional allocation of the Church's income; the benefit derived

from those who give and are willing to enter into a "Covenant"; annual statements of accounts were available for those interested in more details of "Receipts and Expenditure" and it gave a large measure of satisfaction to see how carefully the financial and business aspects were managed.

How and why did we get involved in a "Waste Paper Salvage" scheme? Firstly of course it is well known that similar schemes have for long been operating in neighbouring parishes and we thought our parish could also benefit from this war on waste. Local needy charities have a share in the money received which quite substantially augments the funds made available to charity from the general income of the Church.

Passing to the centre of the nave, the first exhibit was a splendid layout of **church linen**, altar frontals, vestments and other items. What a lot of hard work had been put into the preparation for the display! Linen meticulously laundered and folded to show the fine lace and needlework to its best advantage; the embroidery of the altar frontals superb in every respect. The origin and use of all was explained very clearly. It was interesting to find and count the real pearls on one of the earliest, and to see the embroidery of heads of corn and poppies on the oldest of the linen - embroidered when St. James's was a country parish. Such a lot of loving care has so obviously been given during the last hundred years and continues into the present.

The **Liturgical Committee's** display was dominated by an impressive and beautiful large coloured photograph (presented to us), showing a communion setting in our church. Information was given showing our various forms of worship, including the popular new Christingle service; how St. James's own hymn book was compiled and questions of copyright dealt with. There was a continuous stream of visitors showing interest.

A model of the church was used to show how various groups and organisations with which the Parish is blessed had originated within the Church - and how many there were!

We then moved on to look at the lovely display of **church plate**; the ornamental and the plain chalice, the communion plate and the alms plates, all polished and shining in the reflected light; nothing elaborate or unnecessarily ornate, but simple and sufficient. Is the origin of each piece known?

On a small table by the large lectern, as though guarded by the eagle, we found information about the **Wayside Monday Centre** - its purpose and role in Parish Life and an invitation to share worry and distress or loneliness with those who are willing to try and help.

Another visit to the Vestry, this time to partake of a very refreshing cup of tea and replenish energy with delightful sandwiches and home made cakes. What a pleasant atmosphere there was everywhere - no hurry or bustle, no queues! Thank you, Mothers' Union, for organising the refreshments.

Hearing the organ being played we sat down with others and listened to a wonderful selection of music and as we sat we appreciated the beauty of the chancel and sanctuary - the tiled floor all clean and polished, the superbly arranged altar flowers and the other floral decorations setting off the carved oak choir stalls, the stone work and the lofty ceiling; we listened and talked and even dreamed awhile!

Someone suggested we visit the **Tower** - up the winding stairs to the first floor where the clock mechanism is housed which was now electrically operated. The bells are played from a manual key-board on the same floor and we were given a demonstration. Next an invitation to go higher, up perilous wooden stairs, first to the bells and clockface level and then a floor higher still from which

there is a glorious view of the surrounding district, on a clear day to Windsor, Richmond and beyond.

Down again to find more visitors being welcomed and small groups gathered throughout the church merrily chatting away - slides being projected by a young mum in the baptistery - stewards inconspicuously walking around proffering help. What had we missed? The artistic decoration of the pulpit - the Book of Remembrance - the shining brass and marble plaques that adorned the walls - the floor of the south aisle newly sanded, sealed and polished - the very many artistic flower arrangements in the body of the church - the colourful and wellstocked bookstall - the stained glass windows, in particular that at the west end. The whole church looked so clean and beautiful, the air perfumed by the flowers; and now we had the organist inviting us to join in singing well known hymns - what a pleasure and what tranquility!

Making our way back to the south porch entrance we stopped where perhaps we ought to have started, at a small display depicting **The Spirit of St. James's**; what clearer message could be given than that which was all around us this day - peace - sincerity - cheerfulness - fellowship - kindness - tolerance - generosity - holiness - blessings in plenty - freely offered for all to share - these comprise the **TRUE SPIRIT OF OUR PARISH**.

We realised that we had not signed the Visitors' Book and hastened to do so thus joining the three hundred and fifty who recorded their presence, and then we noticed the carboy just inside the inner doors of the church with a notice inviting all to give generously to Charity. Making a contribution we thought how typical of St. James's, charity is forever in mind. Oh, what a wonderful day it had been!

G.I. Robinson

A composition based on
remarks and notes
submitted by many people.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OPEN DAY

I went to the church Open Day,
On Saturday the thirteenth of May.
You didn't have to pay a fee
Even though there was much to see.
Beautiful flowers were there,
Put in vases with such care.
In the Refreshment Room people were
chatting over cups of tea,
Little cakes I could also see.
I went to the top of the steeple;
Up those stairs as well
Went many other people.
It had been a good day,
Good weather, good fun,
And very, very gay.

(Clare Hewitt, age 10 yrs.)

"When I first arrived at the church I was met by Helen staggering behind a pile of bluebells which she had already picked from the churchyard, so we quickly set about 'stringing up' the jam jars and filling them with flowers. Although it took over an hour, with the help of fellow Y.P.F. members we decorated the church approaches by hanging the jars on the

railings and it was well worth the effort because, even though I say so myself, it looked very impressive. By this time there were already a great many people milling around the exhibitions, there seemed to be something of interest for everyone from the young children happily involved with the toys in the baptistery to the many older visitors who took this opportunity of going up the spire to have a go at ringing the bells or even going higher to see the view".

(Ann Creech)

" "It was great." "It was horrible!" "The noise of the big bell made me feel funny". "It frightened me". "There were cobwebs and pigeons on eggs." "I didn't go that high up." These were some of the remarks of two of my children. Had they enjoyed the exhibits too, I enquired. "Well, yes" they replied, but these were what they had expected to see; after all, they took it for granted that as Christians we help each other through organisations and by holding events so that others may enjoy themselves. To them Open Day was the chance to visit parts of the church they didn't normally explore, especially the belfry. But, thank you everyone who worked so hard; it gave me a chance to re-appraise what working Christianity is all about - particularly as shown by our church - in the way our children take it for granted."

(Ann Kibble)

"On a dull Saturday afternoon our spirits soared at the sight of the jars of bluebells decorating the railings of the church. This was just a foretaste of what was to be seen. Inside, the revelation of so many varied activities must be quite thought provoking to younger people - especially the suggestion that helping to clear the churchyard is one good method of dissipating surplus energy! Was it really ten years since we went to Beaulieu? and who is the anonymous youngster whose ideas for improving the parish included "More policemen and a vet?" "

(Phyllis Dowse)

"The church looked lovely, particularly beautiful due to the lovely flowers, the lighting and all the extra cleaning of it which made me aware of plaques and other details I'd never noticed before . . . the carefully laundered linen deserves special mention. Mrs. Orton pointed out that the wheat sheaves and poppies embroidered on some of the pieces showed us that ours was once a country parish. I think everyone was intrigued by the historical section and it amused me when so many "oldies" put their names down on the list for the next Newcomers' Party so they can learn yet more."

(Judy Hewitt)

"My first impression was one of peace and caring by all the folk joining in the happy day. Our cares were laid aside and I know for me, and I hope for many, that to be with our dear ones in such a caring atmosphere brought great comfort and joy . . . the organ recitals and the singing were to me the highlights of the day, even tho' the organ and I seldom finished together! The success of the day was a great token of love to our God, and to our much loved and respected vicar and his wife. Congratulations to all who contributed in any way. May God bless you all."

(Freda Moses)

"There was such a strong feeling of enthusiasm amongst everyone and I was pleased to be part of this community."

(Ann Creech)

"I have just got back from St. James's Open Day and I want to say "THANKYOU" to the young and the grown-ups who must have worked so very hard to arrange everything so artistically, starting with the hanging jars of white and bluebells and the high banks of flowers and beautiful many-coloured foliage in the porch. Everyone was welcomed at the door and everyone was helpful and friendly on the exhibition stalls - the communion table with all its beautiful silver, and the choir corner arranged to show visitors what is worn at the services. I must mention the masses of flowers arranged beautifully everywhere, they were so lovely that they are beyond my description; and the music which was played all through the day; and the busy Mothers' Union in the vestry doing all the refreshments. I came home very happy and will savour the 13th May, St. James's Open Day for a long time."

(Christina Hockley).

So dear and lovely was the church
To greet our open day.

Just for a day
All care passed away.
Many things we saw, many friends we met,
Each stand so varied, such crowds and yet . .
Space for all to stand and dream.

Opened wide to all who came.
Peace within . . . Oh praise His name!
Enter God's house and seek Him there;
Now and for always he hears our prayer.

Done with such loving pride and care,
A day to remember, much beauty to share . .
Yet most precious of all - our Great God was there.

(Freda Moses).

To prevent too much repetition these articles have been edited. We are very grateful to all those who sent in contributions and thank them for their time and thought.

Editor.

SOCIAL EVENTS

By the time this magazine appears our tennis evening will already have taken place, and also the car treasure hunt in early July, but there will still be time to join the ramble to be held in the Leith Hill area on Saturday July 15. If you are interested, contact Ron Bridges 979 6865 who will give further details.

Watch out for announcements of other interesting events such as a musical outing in the Autumn, the Harvest Tea in October, and our annual Firework display in November. These, and many other social occasions are usually well supported, and provide an opportunity to meet others in congenial circumstances.

REPORTS:

(9) The Social Committee

1977 had a special flavour, and we did our best to catch, and perhaps develop, the wonderful community spirit that became apparent in the Jubilee year.

After the Party and Concert reported last year, the big event was the Jubilee Celebration that we arranged with the HHA. A procession through crowded streets was followed by a fete on the Holly Road Ground, which, with fancy dress, sports and a tea-party for the children, and in the evening, a barbecue and open-air dancing, was enjoyed by some 2000 people. An added bonus of the Celebration was that it provided the major contribution towards the cost of the Jubilee seats and trees in the High Street. A few weeks later, we entered a float in the enormous "Joypro" procession through the borough, and at the end of July arranged an outing, in the limited number of cars available, to see the decorations in London.

A number of events tend to be "regulars" in our calendar - the Harvest Supper, Fireworks, Carol Singing round the parish and New Year Party - and these have all taken place in the last twelve months. The Carol Singing last December was, however, greatly strengthened by the presence of members of the Richmond Band, who also, under their leader, Malcolm Smith, gave two concerts in our church.

Another innovation was a Parish Ramble on Ranmore Common. An attempt in 1976 to have one had been foiled by the great drought, but in May 1977, the problem (for the adults) and the joy (for the kids) was the mud! There was another ramble in October, and more are to come.

Other events included a Folk Evening in Hannah Stanton's garden, a Buffet Dance, and more recently a Barn Dance led by David and Janet Nunn and greatly enjoyed by young and old alike (and those in between). Also, we accepted a challenge from the Young People's Fellowship to a tennis match and we are looking forward to another one soon.

We thank all those who have helped the Committee with its various events, and are always anxious to hear from any who would like to join us and bring new ideas, and assistance with the work involved.

REB.

(10 The Junior Sunday School and the Over Eleven Group)

We continue to flourish much the same as in previous years, the only change having been the formation of the Over Eleven Group. We all meet at Wayside at 9.20 a.m. and then go to Church to join the Parish Communion Service at the Offertory procession.

We try to maintain a close link with the Church, and in particular the Parish Communion Service. We follow a course entitled "Share the Word" which takes the Ministry of the Word in the Series 3 Communion Service as the common ground for shared learning, and suggests how themes developed in the readings can be explored by different ages in appropriate ways.

The idea is that we spend most of our time doing things, and that our worship is in church with all the congregation, although there are occasions when our work naturally turns to worship while we are still together. Sometimes we have a discussion, explore or draw together ideas, which have been expressed in our activities, and we are always ready to talk with the children, while they are busy. Some of the most important questions, ideas and confidences are shared when people are doing things together, and children are no exception. Each week there is a church link, usually some thought for the children to take with them into church - something connected with the work they have done, or something to look out for, which we see or hear or do in church.

During the past year we have continued to celebrate Christmas and Easter with special services in church, which have included short plays. We all enjoy acting, and although there are sometimes shortcomings in remembering the words, or

what we should actually be doing, it means a lot to us, and we are grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from all the mothers and fathers and friends who join us on these occasions.

B. Stewart

(11) The Infant Sunday School

We now meet at 71, St. James's Avenue at 9.20 a.m. on every Sunday except Parade Sunday so that both parents and children can participate in the popular 9.30 a.m. Family Service.

Four - Seven year olds have a relatively short span of concentration, so each week there are a variety of activities, simple cutting out, and collage work, illustrating a story or theme, with a short piece of memory work, some prayers, songs, a mime or a game. We follow the Scripture Union Teaching Syllabus for Under Sevens which has many creative ideas for developing themes and explaining the Christian message.

Parents wishing to pick their children up early, do so at 10.05 a.m. just before we leave to join the rest of the Parish at Communion. Children being picked up after the service will sit with children and teachers from the other Sunday School at the front of the church or they can join their parents in the congregation.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children. To date, parents and teachers, Gill Gostling, Prill Smith and myself feel the arrangements work very well. We wish to extend our thanks to both parents and Parish for their support. If you, the Parish, know of anyone who would like any further information don't hesitate to contact me on 979 6166.

Pam Atkinson.

DO YOU NEED THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH?

Do you want the freedom to choose:-

- a) Whether or not to worship?
- b) Whether or not you or your children marry in church?
- c) Whether or not you have your children baptized in church?

WITH NO CHURCH, THERE IS NO CHOICE.

Might any of your family want:-

- The Sunday School?
- To be confirmed?

Do you like to feel there is a Vicar available, just in case?

Do you like the spire as a land mark or structure of beauty?

Do you feel a) It would be a waste to pull down the building?

- b) It should be put to wider use?

Do you think the church should support more charities?

Has the church any purpose in life today?

Would you like more church music or organ recitals in the area?

DO YOU CONSIDER ST JAMES TO BE YOUR CHURCH?

At the moment the Church is here with us, part of the accepted daily scene and as such is taken for granted, but like any other organisation it cannot be maintained without an income. If you have answered YES to any of the above questions perhaps you would like to hear how you can contribute to the income and also to the work of the Church. If so, please tick in the appropriate box on the relevant page at the back of this magazine and return it to one of the addresses listed.

A VICTORIAN VERSE

On looking through some old papers recently, my mother Mrs. Vivienne Prentice came across this letter written in beautiful copper plate writing by her father to her mother prior to their marriage in 1890

“This has been to me one of the most comforting, in fact the most comforting verse I have ever read in my life. I hope my darling Edith it may be the same to you.

Prayer needeth not the use of skill or art,
In forming word, but a devoted heart.
For if thou art truly in the mind to pray,
God knows thy heart and all that it would say.”

A CHRISTIAN LOOK AT PERSONAL ETHICS IN A SECULAR SOCIETY.

A vivid illustration which the Rev. Edward Rogers gave us at the Hampton Council of Churches' lecture on Tuesday, May 16, was from American television, each programme of which is paid for by sponsors. The representatives of the medium say: “We know that we ought to put on more items containing comments on ethical standards, but we have got to think of the sponsors and the rating. O Lord, you have put us on a spot!”

This cry, “We know what we ought to do, but we don't do it” has echoed down the centuries. Even St. Paul was saying “For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I practise.”

Paul speaks of flesh and spirit being in opposition, but by flesh he didn't mean man's animal nature. Ours is an incarnational theology, our flesh was shared by Christ in his life here on earth; and the body is not to be discarded and reviled as in some religions. We are born into our contemporary society, and what effect does this have on our motives, standards etc; are we dragged down? In contrast, Mr Rogers talked of the strengthening and liberating influence of the Spirit.

What of these contemporary standards?:- The permissive society in general refers to the lax morals in sex, with the 50% divorce rate after marriages; and he sorrowed over the low standards anticipated in marriage, when, even after vows in church and before witnesses, the sacramental joining together was taken lightly, with the attitude “We'll see how it goes, and then if it doesn't work out in 2 or 3 years time we'll have a divorce”; and so there was no idea of working at a relationship which with all its difficulties is infinitely precious. He asked if the appetite for violence on the television-screen was the result of the dullness of many humdrum jobs. He mentioned the frequency of shop-lifting and pilfering, and the need to spend money on more and more expensive things. He spoke of the attitude to the State and what one could get out of it; the Welfare State, a noble concept born out of growing prosperity, he said, had now become an Entitlement State. He cited the recent strike at Heathrow which resulted when, in an attempt to do something about the frightening degree of stealing, a policeman did his duty and searched a member of the air-port staff.

Mr Rogers judged that socially standards had improved: there was now a net-work of services to care for the elderly, the handicapped and the ill; there

was concern for the unemployed: very good child-care by the State; but it was the personal standards of morality which had declined, and he warned that to maintain the quality of our society, and particularly of our caring services, the quality of the standards of the people carrying them out had to be maintained at a high level.

Good training was needed but was not the whole answer; he had himself had experience of a situation which had been coped with inadequately by a trained social worker and when an intelligent grandmother could have done better. But experts can help in many ways; he had recently found himself arguing with the Home Office on the necessity of employing an inspector so that a Casino could be well and honestly run. Many of these problems must be met by experts handling them on their own intellectual levels.

He advocated service; he wished the idea of service for the young to be encouraged, with payment at subsistence levels. I should have raised the point at question time of the Community Service Volunteers who do just this, and, as youngsters, make a tremendous contribution; Mr Rogers would presumably like to see this done on a larger scale.

He finally turned to the duty of Christians to try to demonstrate the enabling power of the Spirit, and let judgment and courage, happiness and serenity shine out of their lives into the Secular Society.

Hannah Stanton

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH - ITS PAST, PRESENT AND ITS HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

Our parish church was inaugurated in 1863 to cope with a specific social problem. The extension of the Thames Valley Railway Line and the building of the Hampton Water Works brought a flood of inhabitants into an area totally destitute of all amenities. Consequently poverty, disease, drunkenness and violence were rife. The Common, as our area was then called, was described as "a miserable area inhabited by an even more miserable band of people" and the little district Chapelry of St. James as "a barn of a church in a wilderness of a parish". Such was the character of the first vicar and his wife, and indeed of their successors, who devoted their lives and much of their fortune in ameliorating the mean living conditions and hopeless prospects of the parishioners that soon the new parish was on its way to becoming a self-helping, self-respecting community.

Before the 1890's, the Vestry, which consisted mainly of church officers, was responsible for everything from a man's soul to his drains - or lack of them. It was the only Welfare there was and it took its duties seriously. In the early days of St. James's with a regular income of about £250 there was a Sunday collection once a month for Poor Relief (£40 a year.) To-day our first concern is still the money we give away in aid of one sort or another.

By the time the 1890's brought in the Local Government Acts our village was a very different place. Its houses were wellfound, its children well taught, its health record good and it possessed "every institution necessary for community life". Seldom can any village have owed so much to any church.

Over the years St. James's has continued its caring vocation. Throughout its history its members have been amongst the inaugurators of many of the institutions formed for the good of the community. In more recent days, a year after our present Vicar, the Rev. Rupert Brunt came to us, his Commission to the Wider Church formed the Old People's Welfare Committee. There were members of our congregation on the first executive committee of the Hampton Hill Association and of the Twickenham Mental

was concern for the unemployed: very good child-care by the State; but it was the personal standards of morality which had declined, and he warned that to maintain the quality of our society, and particularly of our caring services, the quality of the standards of the people carrying them out had to be maintained at a high level.

Good training was needed but was not the whole answer; he had himself had experience of a situation which had been coped with inadequately by a trained social worker and when an intelligent grandmother could have done better. But experts can help in many ways; he had recently found himself arguing with the Home Office on the necessity of employing an inspector so that a Casino could be well and honestly run. Many of these problems must be met by experts handling them on their own intellectual levels.

He advocated service; he wished the idea of service for the young to be encouraged, with payment at subsistence levels. I should have raised the point at question time of the Community Service Volunteers who do just this, and, as youngsters, make a tremendous contribution; Mr Rogers would presumably like to see this done on a larger scale.

He finally turned to the duty of Christians to try to demonstrate the enabling power of the Spirit, and let judgment and courage, happiness and serenity shine out of their lives into the Secular Society.

Hannah Stanton

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH - ITS PAST, PRESENT AND ITS HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

Our parish church was inaugurated in 1863 to cope with a specific social problem. The extension of the Thames Valley Railway Line and the building of the Hampton Water Works brought a flood of inhabitants into an area totally destitute of all amenities. Consequently poverty, disease, drunkenness and violence were rife. The Common, as our area was then called, was described as "a miserable area inhabited by an even more miserable brand of people" and the little district Chapelry of St. James as "a barn of a church in a wilderness of a parish". Such was the character of the first vicar and his wife, and indeed of their successors, who devoted their lives and much of their fortune in ameliorating the mean living conditions and hopeless prospects of the parishioners that soon the new parish was on its way to becoming a self-helping, self-respecting community.

Before the 1890's, the Vestry, which consisted mainly of church officers, was responsible for everything from a man's soul to his drains - or lack of them. It was the only Welfare there was and it took its duties seriously. In the early days of St. James's with a regular income of about £250 there was a Sunday collection once a month for Poor Relief (£40 a year.) To-day our first concern is still the money we give away in aid of one sort or another.

By the time the 1890's brought in the Local Government Acts our village was a very different place. Its houses were wellfound, its children well taught, its health record good and it possessed "every institution necessary for community life". Seldom can any village have owed so much to any church.

Over the years St. James's has continued its caring vocation. Throughout its history its members have been amongst the inaugurators of many of the institutions formed for the good of the community. In more recent days, a year after our present Vicar, the Rev. Rupert Brunt came to us, his Commission to the Wider Church formed the Old People's Welfare Committee. There were members of our congregation on the first executive committee of the Hampton Hill Association and of the Twickenham Mental

Health Association. The Wayside Monday Centre was opened 4 years ago to cater for the lonely and depressed and to offer an understanding ear and a sense of fellowship. The Community Care Group was formed under the auspices of the Hampton Council of Churches and one of its three inaugural Chairmen was one of our Parish Readers - she has recently been re-elected. Our paper collections have greatly benefited local charities and, on a lighter theme, our Social Committee was co-organiser along with the Hampton Hill Association of the recent Jubilee Celebrations which gave such pleasure to so many people.

In the present, St. James's is striving to be the sort of caring church it was in the past and to do whatever has relevance to current needs of caring, counselling, befriending and to offer its gift of companionship according to the needs of the human spirit not catered for in a materialistic society.

We have great hopes for the future. We know we have a great deal to offer and we also know that there is a great deal of good will towards us in the parish. As more people come, bringing themselves, their individual talents and material resources we have plans for outreach into our evergrowing parish; for mission and increasing pastoral care awakening people to their inherent need for God in their lives and in the lives of their children who are at risk in an increasingly secular world.

We want to bring our buildings into better use for community purposes. We want to serve our community in evergrowing companionship with it. We are one of the fortunate churches, but now that all churches are faced with increasing economic burdens and have become liable for their priests' stipends in addition to parish expenses and Diocesan claims some poor churches may be forced to close without help from the more fortunate ones.

We are confident that St. James's will go on from strength to strength owing to the quality of its priests, congregation and parish. At the present there are not many of us to carry such responsibilities although our regular communicants have doubled in numbers recently. But when Mr. Brunt came here he succeeded in making us see that The Church is made up of People individually and collectively and **by You, and Me, and Us the Church will stand or fall**. Our congregation is growing as more people come and experience the joy and strength which lies in being part of a real Christian fellowship and its worship in a loving, and caring community.

Margery Orton.

NEWCOMERS' PARTIES

Newcomers' Parties were started on a regular basis by St. James's church after its Centenary in 1963. They were, first of all, quite small affairs held in Wayside - our property opposite the church. As their popularity and our efficiency grew with the expanding parish their venue had to be changed to the church hall in School Road. Their form has not changed. A very interesting illustrated talk on the history of our area is given, followed by refreshments and a time for chat when there is an opportunity for newcomers to meet others, and also some of the more established members of the community.

No attempt is made to 'recruit church members'! We do stress that there are no strings attached but this is not always believed and so some people do not come, others do and find that the only motive is that of a caring church reaching out in welcome to contact and interest people who might otherwise feel they were moving into an area in which no-one knows or cares about them which, after all, is often the case.

In the past letters of invitation have been sent out and all the recipients have been visited but this time we are issuing a general invitation in this magazine to all who are interested. We feel sure that all who come will enjoy the evening. For details of the next party see invitation and reply slip.

WHY ANOTHER STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN?

When some of us first knew this church it was supported spiritually, physically and financially by a small band of people. They worshipped regularly and worked hard, struggling bravely with needs and costs, trying to make ends meet. In the early fifties it became apparent that many things were wrong with the church building, and speedy action was called for to save it from partial collapse. To raise the money necessary if the church were to be saved the great Renovation Drive was launched, and many special events arranged, such as barrel-organ tours of the parish, a mile of pennies, firework-displays, and so on. In two years, over £2000 was raised, and the building patched up and preserved for the time being. But in the sixties it was almost entirely devastated by dry-rot, and also had to be completely reroofed.

In the meantime, after the exertions of the Renovation Drive, things went on much as before. But an increasing number of us were becoming dissatisfied with this hand-to-mouth existence, with so much depending on the annual summer fete - an event always at the mercy of the vagaries of the weather, and even on the most favourable occasions producing an amount utterly disproportionate to the hours of hard work involved in its preparation. Throughout the Church of England there was now beginning to be talk about Planned Giving, Christian Stewardship, and the like. 'Is yours a great church?' we were asked. If we wanted to know what was considered 'a great church' we were told: 'A great church is a giving church . . . giving away ultimately more than it uses for its own purposes . . . planning and budgeting in advance to give away creatively and generously for the good of others.' Then the challenge 'Is your church planning to become such a church . . . or is it merely content just to try to meet immediate domestic needs?'

In 1957 four of us who felt strongly about this were allowed by the Church Council to pioneer what we called our Christian Giving Scheme. We explained our principles, and said that we aimed at becoming a great church according to this definition by the time of our centenary in 1963. There was slow but steady advance for three years, but it became obvious that if we were to achieve our objectives, dynamic and expert help from outside was needed. The Wells Organization was now providing this with great success in many parts of England, as previously in the USA and Canada. They believed in themselves and their message, with its stress on the need of the giver to give: but they charged a great deal for their services. . . . At last in 1961 we swept all misgivings aside, took the plunge and called them in. The initial campaign that inaugurated their three-year programme was an exhausting but exhilarating affair: the challenge was forthright and demanding, but over two hundred individuals and families responded. The whole church was renewed and revitalised, and many people were drawn more deeply into its life of fellowship and worship, and have remained keen and active workers ever since.

By the end of these first three invigorating years, our Diocese had its own able and experienced staff in this field, so that parishes no longer needed to depend upon commercial companies. So it was from the Diocesan Council for Christian Stewardship that we received help and guidance for our development campaigns and programmes in 1965 and 1971. We have now achieved the goal of becoming 'a great church' according to the limited but at

the time inspiring definition of twenty-one years ago. But we cannot stop where we are, or we shall slip back. The old ideal is too small for us now. We want to grow, and to expand our work and witness as a serving, caring, welcoming, innovating body within our own local community, and as a giver to Christian and other good causes in our own country and throughout the world. We are therefore, again with the help of the Diocese, launching another campaign in the autumn of this year, and no doubt some of you who read this will want to have the joy of being involved in it.

THE CATECHUMENATE

This account, as well as giving some idea of what has happened, contains an INVITATION.

We know that among those who read it there will be many people who have problems and difficulties that they cannot share; who have never been able to see the relevance of the Church and conventional Christianity (whatever that might be) to the lives that they live or would like to live; who feel somehow that life has let them down; who are affected by strained relationships and past unhappiness. We believe that there is an answer to all these and other situations, and that

the GOOD NEWS of JESUS CHRIST is the key.

If you have never heard, or if you have but could not see the point, come to an ANNOUNCEMENT of the GOOD NEWS beginning in September. What you hear will be presented in a new and fresh way, and could be just what you have wanted or needed to hear for a long time. Come and listen, whether you think of yourself as old or young. Come - that commits you to nothing.

THIS WAY began about fourteen years ago when a young art student, Kiko, with Bible and guitar moved into a poor area near Madrid called Palomares. He came from a fairly well-off family and had been brought up as a Catholic, but had ceased to practise his religion. Sensing that there was more to life than was to be found in conventional religion, he felt a call to seek the truth of the Gospel among the poor. Now he found himself among social conditions worse than he could have imagined. Somehow out of the interaction between this environment, the people who lived in it, and the power of the Gospel that he read and sang a community of men and women gathered. What they had they shared, they spent time listening to the Word of God through the Bible, and on Saturday night they began to join in the liturgy of the Breaking of Bread (c.f. Acts 2; 42-47). This was no contrived organisation. It happened, and the church that came into being became the sign to the wider community that it should be, and others were drawn into the fellowship. As word spread, some of them were invited to other areas to announce their experience of the Good News, and in many of these places communities were formed too. At this time the Second Vatican Council was still in session and the local bishops took word of these events to Rome. As a result, Kiko and some of the others were invited to go and announce the Good News there too. Strangely, they made little headway in the poorer areas, but the first Roman communities were formed in middle class areas. Today there are over 2000 in Italy and several thousand around the world.

It was from three of the Italian communities that Giuseppe, Claudia, and Fr. Antonio came in January 1977 to Hampton Hill. The Announcement took place over an eight week period and then during a weekend away at Worthing a small community was formed. We now look forward to the return of our three friends in September, when another announcement will take place, and we

hope that the present community will be strengthened and grow. We feel that this is an important development not only in our own parish, but maybe also for others. So far we are the only Anglican community among nearly 20 groups in England - but the future is wide open. If you would like to know more about the announcement in September please make use of the reply slip at the back of the magazine.

AROUND THE SPIRE

At the time of going to press, our Mass Attack was in full swing, well, we had managed one Saturday! Hopefully we will have achieved a tidy church yard without too many aching limbs by the end of the week. There will be another mass attack in the Autumn, it would be nice to see some new faces. Maybe next time more people will feel they would like to help.

We are always very grateful to our retired ladies and gentlemen who work so hard for the Church, without them there would certainly be a great deal of work not completed. Recently joining this happy band is Roy Brooks who gave freely of his time prior to retirement, but since, he has been invaluable and I am sure he has had very little time at home! Thank you Roy and we all wish you a happy retirement.

It was a sad moment for us all when we heard that Joyce, Peter and Gillian Brown were to leave us. Happily their move is to the beautiful area of Abingdon not too far away, They will be very much missed as they were involved in so many ways in the parish. Fortunately we are keeping Sue Brown, one of our Sunday School teachers, who I am sure like the rest of us will look forward to not infrequent visits from her parents and sister.

All this excitement has come at perhaps a difficult time for Joyce as she has very recently had a fairly major operation but we are very glad to know that she is doing so well.

Paul Brown who when living at home was also an enthusiastic member of our Church, became engaged very recently. Congratulations Paul. It's all happening to the Browns! God be with you all.

We have just heard that Vernon Bridges is about to serve his first ship as Second Mate on his voyage from Cape Town to Mozambique. Well done Vernon - you certainly see the world!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The 1978 total for St. James's area amounted to £303.00 as against last year's total of £251.25 - a rise of about 20%. Many thanks to all who collected and to all who gave.

M.Orton.

INFORMATION

The Open Day showed all the various organisations that are supported, sponsored and run by the church, they are many and varied and are open to any who may be interested. Some of these are listed elsewhere in this magazine or have articles, but many others have no mention. For your information we will list in detail all those not mentioned and the others briefly.

QUESTERS for boys and girls between 10 and 14 years old

meet on Wednesday at 18.45 hours in Wayside

A. Taylor 979:7042

Mrs. D. Harris 979:3163

Y.P.F..for young people between 14 and 21 years old.

At the moment 'resting' awaiting a leader

R. Severn 979:1954

VENTURE SCOUTS for boys and girls

Meet on Fridays in the parish hall at 21.00 hrs and at the Triangle, at rear of Holly Road Recreation Ground at 20.00 hrs.

SCOUTS Meet on Fridays in the parish hall at 19.00 hrs

CUB SCOUTS Meet on Wednesdays in the parish hall at 18.00 hrs

Group Scout leader M. Childs 977:5041

GUIDES Meet in the United Reformed Church hall on Mondays at 18.45 hrs

Captain Jill Evans 979:2350

BROWNIES Meet in the parish hall on Thursdays at 17.45 hrs

Brown Owl Mrs. B. Oliver 977:3082

also

BROWNIES Meet on Wednesdays in Hampton Hill Junior School at 18.00 hrs

Brown Owl Pat Humphrey 979:0410

MOTHERS' UNION Meet on 1st Wednesday of the month at 14.30 hrs usually in Wayside.

Enrolling member Mrs. C.H. Brunt 979:2069

YOUNG FAMILIES for mothers with toddlers and babies.

Meet on Thursdays in Wayside at 10.30 hrs

Mrs. H. Bucknell 979:3529

Mrs. C. Robinson 979:6786

LADIES' CHOIR 'sing for fun'

Meet on alternative Mondays in the vestry at 14.30hrs - 16.00 hrs

Mrs. E. Severn 979:1954

TUESDAY CLUB for women

Meet on alternate Tuesdays in Wayside at 20.00 hrs

Miss Wills 979:0826

KEEP FIT For women of all ages

Meet on Tuesday and Friday afternoons in the parish hall

Mrs. P. Young 979:5629

Mrs. E. Severn 979:1954

DRAMA GROUP Meet occasionally

Mrs. V. Rockliffe 977:4909

PAPER COLLECTION about every six weeks outside Wayside before 10.00hrs

Mr & Mrs D. Nunn. 979:6325

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Church Choir Organist & Choir Master

R.J.C. Daffurne 977:3439

Sunday Schools

Miss B. Stewart 979:6047

Catechumenate (pronounced cat-e-q-minute)

Rev. S. Harris 979:3636

WAYSIDE MONDAY CENTRE

Mr. & Mrs. R. Bridges 979:6865

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Committees under the P.C.C.

Magazine

Editor

The Vicar 979:2069

Liturgical

Chairman

Mrs. L. Mortimer 941:2345

Stewardship

Chairman

A. Taylor 979:7042

Properties

Chairman

G.I. Robinson 979:2426

Flowers

Organiser

Mrs. R. Bridges 979:6865

Hall

Chairman

J. Gostling 979:3748

Social

Chairman

R. Bridges 979:6865

The chair men and leaders of all these groups will be pleased to give you any further information you may require.

CHEMISTS' ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

July

- 9 D.C. Manley, 122, High Street, Teddington
- 16 F.G. Martin, 3, Station Approach, Hampton
- 23 E. & R. Kirby, 53, High Street, Teddington
- 30 Boots, 66, Broad Street, Teddington

August

- 6 D.R. Thomas, 113, Stanley Road, Teddington
- 13 H. Hall, 62, High Street, Hampton Hill

SOME DATES TO NOTE

July

- 9 16.30 Sea Sunday Welcome Service, followed by the usual light refreshments
- 11 20.00 Liturgical Committee (63, Park Road); Properties Committee (21, St. James's Road); Tuesday Club : Mr. Dennis Wells J.P. (W)
- 12 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Lecture : 'A Christian Look at Industrial Conflict' - John Boyd, General Secretary of AUEW (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton)
- 15 Parish Ramble (Leith Hill)
- 18 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75, Burton's Road)
- 19 (observed as ST. MARY MAGDALEEN'S DAY - 1915 Holy Communion
- 20 10.30 Young Families' Group: 'Art is Fun' (W); 19.45 Newcomers' Party (Hall)
- 23 (observed as ST. JAMES'S DAY, our PATRONAL FESTIVAL) Sunday services as usual, but instead of Evensong, a Family Service of Praise at 16.30, followed at 17.20 by Afternoon Tea on the Churchyard Lawn.
- 26 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Lecture: 'A Christian Look at Growing Old Today' - Ann Webber, of Age Concern (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton)
- 30 19.40 Stewardship Committee (in church after Evensong)

August

- 1 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75, Burton's Road); Tuesday Club : Summer Supper (W)
 - 2 07.30 Holy Communion
 - 6 17.15 Members of the congregation lead the service at Laurel Dene
 - 8 THE TRANSFIGURATION ; 19.15 Holy Communion
- N.B. Sunday Schools are now closed for the summer recess, and will reopen at 09.20 on September 10

BAPTISMS

May

- 28 Stuart James Graham and Gemma Marian Birch, 67, Longford Close
Elizabeth Mary Ann Mills, 81, Rectory Grove

June

- 11 Clifford Limonard, 89, Uxbridge Road
Emily Jane Lloyd, 19, Oxford Road, Teddington

MARRIAGE

June

- 10 Ian Gilbert Goss to Rebecca Anne Laude Shard