Just as we are putting together the magazine material for this edition of the Spire we have learnt of the sudden death of Len Rockliffe. It is right that we should begin this editorial with a tribute to him. For over forty years, he and Vera have been regular worshippers and workers at St. James. many things have been achieved during that time and it is quite apparent that they have been at the centre of most of them. In particular Len made major contributions to the Parish as Churchwarden during more than twenty years and also as Recorder of the Stewardship Campaign. We knew that all the details would be meticulously in order and that we should also have the maximum Tax Rebate from the Inland Revenue each year. It is very fitting that just a few days before his death he was able to receive the largest cheque ever from that source and he was telling people with a twinkle in his eye. In the community at large perhaps his greatest interest was the Maddison Clinic at Teddington. He supported it and championed its cause on every possible occasion and was rewarded this year with the news that it was not going to have to close through lack of funding from the Area Health Authority. Many received great inspiration from him as to how to live life to the full despite a physical disability. And how he loved his vintage car! I hope that next month we shall be able to have a fuller appreciation of his contribution to life. Undoubtedly the linchpin of all that he was and did was his christian faith. He was seldom not at St. James's twice on Sunday. As an engineer 'linchpin' is perhaps a true description of what his faith meant to him for it is explained in the dictionary as 'a pin passed through the end of an axle to keep the wheel in position'. He would I think agree that that was what inspired and controlled his life. We offer our love to Vera and the family in their loss and assure them of our prayers. We shall all be the poorer for having him no longer among us. May he rest in peace.

August is the month when many take their holidays and recharge their batteries before the Autumn activities begin in earnest. It is the month also which includes one of the church's finest festivals, The Transfiguration of Jesus. It enables us to rekindle our vision of the glory of God as it certainly did for Peter and James and John who experienced it. We also remember that on 6th August, the date we keep the Transfiguration each year, the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. This should rekindle in us the vision of how *not* to behave to our fellow inhabitants of this precious earth. How much better to behave as those who have supported worldwide the Band Aid and Live Aid concerts providing help for the unfortunates of the world. Let our vision be renewed to give life not death in all that we do, to cooperate rather than to confront and only to fight against real evil and not against those with whom we disagree. There's a real difference.

Nicholas Chubb

EASTER IN HYDERABAD

"Make sure you get there early!" our host had said and as we walked up the dusty path to St. George's Church, a Victorian edifice adapted for colonial climes, we could see why. This was Easter morning and anyone who was anyone in the small but thriving Anglican community of this steamy southern Indian town was heading for the 8am service. Our host waved at us frantically to hurry up. Fortunately his wife had secured seats for us — "his honoured guests, educators from England" — and we were swiftly ushered through the

porch into the main body of the church. At first glance it could have been an Anglican church of the period anywhere in England. But gradually one noted subtle differences appropriate to the relentless heat of the sub-continent. Along the north and south walls doors opened at regular intervals onto the dirt courtyard surrounding the church. Above the wooden pews with their rattan backs were two rows of punkas, whirring alarmingly above the sound of the organ in an attempt to reduce the temperature in the building from something over 100°F to something nearer 90°F. Looking up at them from a kneeling position it was easy to believe that one might at any minute take off.

It was reassuring to see that we had been issued with Hymns Ancient and Modern, Standard Edition 1916. There too was the Book of Common Prayer and a service book of the United Church of South India. The latter was to be employed for the Confirmation service which was inserted into the Eucharist, thereby extending the whole to approximately two-and-a-half hours — a tropical feat of endurance designed to test even the sturdiest Christian constitution. Indeed, by the end of the service my companion was swaying alarmingly. It was only when she explained that she attended a charismatic church in Chalfont St. Giles and was accustomed to "express herself in the Spirit" on Sunday mornings that I discounted the possibility of heat exhaustion. There were one or two other white people in the congregation, visitors from the Antipodes contracted to work in Hyderabad, and a former missionary, strikingly tall and equine-featured, sporting a red sari.

The service began with the entry of a fully-robed choir followed by the incumbent and the local bishop. We launched ourselves into "Christ the Lord is risen today" and realised to our horror that we were to be accompanied by the police brass band situated in the balcony at the back of the church. They may have started reasonably in tune, but as the soaring temperature attacked their instruments they wavered precariously over differing octaves and divided the congregation. By the time we reached the recessional "Thine be the glory" they had abandoned any pretence of playing either in tune or together and, in fact, gave up entirely at the end of the penultimate verse. It remained for the vicar to lead us in an acapella version of the final lines.

The Easter Eucharist was as moving as it is anywhere. Enveloped by the glorious scent of jasmine emanating from the garlands which Indian women wreathe in their hair, stranded in a sea of rich glistening sari-silk, privileged to watch six young Indians being confirmed — these were the added extras which made it unforgetable. As was the stampede which ensued at the Words of Invitation. The congregation rose to a man and made a dash for the altar rail! They had clearly taken to heart the vicar's injunction that Easter people should be filled with 'dunamis' — the Greek word for power from which, of course, we get dynamite.

It was only after the service, after we had shaken a hundred hands and had been vaunted far above our due, that the reality of India was brought home to us. As we walked out of the church compound onto the street a dozen assorted beggars — crippled and impoverished — held out their hands and bowls towards the dispersing congregation. How many gave a rupee or two? I wondered what St. George's did for those squatting outside its hallowed gates, for the children who could not afford to go to its public school, for the vast majority who cannot speak English — the language of its worship? Not even Sunday brunch at that relic of the Raj, the Secunderabad Club, could eradicate the memory of those twisted, pleading faces.

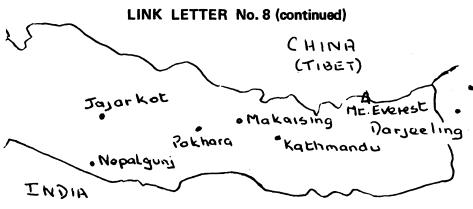
On 19th June the P.C.C. began by appointing a Trustee to the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity. After an explanation of the Terms of the Charity and the duties of a Trustee Bill Robinson was again appointed, unanimously. The Council intends to take a much closer interest in the Charity's work than before. We then moved on to consider questions we would ask the Archdeacon of Middlesex on 16th July. Amongst the correspondence was a letter explaining that part of the Vicarage Garden would become Diocesan Glebe and therefore able to be let leasehold. There was also a letter from the Unification Church 'The Moonies' inviting us to find out more about them. It was pointed out that they had caused a great deal of suffering to a large number of people and were to be avoided at all costs. (N.B. Warn local teeenagers especially not to respond to their advertising and/or personal invitations). The Council agreed to answer an appeal to support an 'Ag-Pack' for Ethiopia. This would enable a family to set up in farming business again after having recovered from immediate disaster. (The Target of £150 was passed in three weeks — £169 was raised).

On 16th July the Archdeacon duly came to answer our questons. pointed out that over recent years a determination to increase clergy salaries to something worthwhile during a time of inflation had meant that the Church Commissioners could no longer find the Clergy Stipends in full. had to be found from 'local sources' as the Roman Catholics and Methodists had Including the cost of housing and pensions and other central commitments no parish could be considered to be 'paying its way' until it raised £15,209 in 1984. (St. James had raised £12,009 as asked). We were assured that the last really steep annual rise had occurred and that from now on there would be only a comparatively slight rise each year. He explained how a parish's 'Potential' Income was arrived at - a mixture of fact (e.g. how many were on the electoral roll) and judgement on the ability of the neighbourhood to In this connection he said that many people found it useful to use as a guide that they should contribute £1 each week for every £1,000 of income earned per year. Many expressed their gratitude for the Archdeacon's visit and said it had clarified many points.

BOX OPENING EVENING

This year's Box Opening Evening for the Children's Society seemed to be upon us quicker than ever before. Quite a few people came and enjoyed some refreshment while their box was opened and the contents counted. The result was slightly down on last year's total £224 — compared to £234. But this was chiefly due to the fact that the Post Office Box was virtually empty because it had been hidden by another collecting box! Thank you to all who came, thank you to all our box holders for such an excellent result, keep up the good work.

If anyone would like a box please ask me. If you have children of your own and feel grateful for such, remember all the other children who are less fortunate than yours and give your odd pennies to the 'Waifs and Strays'.



We arrived at 9am. The lady of the family with whom we would stay immediately began to cook us a huge rice meal. Then we went to the village 'tap', an icy-cold melted snow spring, where I washed my hair, my clothes and myself hoping to remove at least one layer of dirt. Then we returned to the house for a well-earned rest. We stayed in the village five days. time we were well fed on an interesting variety of village foods including red rice, spicy hot pickled spinach type weeds, cold boiled turnip type root vegetables, sugar, rice pudding, flat, dry roasted maize bread, small fish (head, tails, eyes and all) chicken (Jean got a foot complete with claws), melted fat and We planned to do the return walk to Jaiarkot in two more equal length days - however, this was not to be! We left at 7am after an early rice meal, with a member of the family we had been staying with, as our guide. 10% hours later and utterly exhausted we were crawling up the last hill to Jajarkot We'd reached the last stopping place at 2pm which was too early for a nights stop and so had pressed on with no more than short 5-10 minute stops all day. We had covered serveral thousand vertical feet going from 6,000 to 4,000 to 8,000 to 3,000 to 4,000 ft. It was the hardest days walking I had ever done and I don't intend to repeat it too often.

The 3½ hour walk down to the airstrip two days later was easy by comparison and we stopped on the way at the Bheri river for a swim and a clean-up. From Chaurjahari we flew direct to Kathmandu ending our trip at the new pizza and ice-cream parlour there.

Jean and I had two main reasons for making this trip. Firstly, UMN are considering placing teachers out in that area in the future and we wanted to 'spy out the land'. Secondly, Jean has Nepali friends in Kathmandu whose family live out there. These were the people we stayed with. They are Christians with very little opportunity for fellowship with other believers. The older members of the family are illiterate, dependent on their sons and grandson to read the bible to them. The opportunity to travel out west came when a national teachers' strike closed our school for two weeks. My final comment on our trip is this:- Life is hard in these remote villages but there is an amazing beauty in the hills, mountains, valleys, rivers, streams, forests, flowers and birds. All the people we met were very friendly helpful and welcoming.

There is so much more I could say, but that will have to wait until I come home at the beginning of July.

With much love

THE WAY

I was interested to read in the Bible Reading Fellowship daily notes DAYLIGHT, that early Christians were known as "Followers of the The Way". I was using The New English Bible and I looked up the references given. I found the first one (Acts 19:9) "Where some were speaking evil of the new way" but the second reference (19:23) the N.E.B. interprets the way as "the Christian movement" while the Revised Version says ". . . there was no small stir concerning the Way". Moving on to Acts 22:4 Paul says in the R.V. "I persecuted this Way" (in the N.E.B. "I persecuted this movement"). Later on (24:14) both versions agree that Paul was a follower of "the new Way" but in 24:22 the N.E.B. says that Felix, procurator of Judaea "happened to be well informed about "The Christian Movement" while R.V. says "Felix had exact knowledge concerning the Way".

Perhaps this is just quibbling but I don't think so. Christ said "I am the Way, the truth and the life and no-one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). I would much prefer to be known as a follower of the Way than as a member of the Christian movement. The implication is that followers of the Way of Jesus have a much more personal relationship with the leader and knowledge of what His Way is than those who just tag on to a general movement until it hardly moves at all. I think this is being clarified in our more recent times. When I was a child we assumed England was 'a Christian Country' and we were all 'Christians'; now it is different. One hears "I have a christian doctor", "My lawyer belongs to a firm of practising christians", "Are you a Christian?", "My parents are not Christians".

Once again certain people are choosing to become active "Followers of the Way of Jesus", believing in the Good News and in the signs and wonders, being baptised in the Spirit and walking closely in the Way of their Lord.

It is just as well to have several versions of the Bible at hand — some of

It is just as well to have several versions of the Bible at hand — some of the modern versions are more easy to understand, i.e. the *language* is easier but sometimes the *message* behind the words is lost.

However, all the versions I checked agreed that Jesus said "I am the Way" and as long as enough follow Him "The Christan Movement" will not be bogged down into a sluggish pool but will become once more a fast flowing stream of living water, each drop adding to its power and witness and spread.

M.O.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Most of our members together with visitors from the Hampton Methodist and United Reform Churches joined in a service on Wednesday, 3rd July which was conducted by the Vicar. A presentation of an illuminated card to commemorate 50 years of Mothers' Union membership was given to Mrs. White of Myrtle Road who will be celebrating her 90th birthday in two weeks time. We were blessed with a glorious sunny afternoon so we were able to partake of tea on the church lawn where a cake made by one of our members Miss Laura Collins decorated with the M.U monogram was duly cut by Mrs. White. Altogether an enjoyable and joyous occasion, was the popular verdict.

JOY IN CHRIST

Ali and Sherry's letter moved me deeply in the outspoken unashamed joy they had found in our Lord and in joining the full Christian fellowship.

How refreshing it is to find people who can speak naturally and without embarrassment about their feelings for their God and be able to convey their sense of real fellowship with others in Christ. This openness to God and man was implicit in Ali and Sherry's letter of praise and thanks for the sharing of a great Christian experience with us.

The same fellowship in Christ was expressed in the letters from the Milo mission "Greetings in the name of our Lord", "Love and prayers from us all".

Some of you will remember Hideko Enami the little Japanese lady who worshipped with us when she visited her daughter Eri in Hampton. She had very little English and we no Japanese at all but it didn't matter. We shared the Christ experience and for her this was enough. Her letters to me start 'Dear Sister in Christ". Not for her a pious expression but a simple loving statement of her natural feeling for another Christian and the trust that it was reciprocated.

I look at many of my friends and even chance 'neighbours' I meet along my way and feel sincerely that they are indeed my dear sisters (or brothers in Christ) but there are few indeed to whom I feel I could say this out loud. sadly many an opportunity is lost for "beholding how these Christians love one another".

But when one meets this love and trust and joy in Christ how grateful one feels that others are not as inhibited as we are. God is indeed Love but how difficult it is for us to express this unashamedly to our fellows and what a pity I'm sure we are missing out on something very important and are this is. spiritually the poorer for it.

M.O.

THE PARISH OUTING TO BLENHEIM PALACE Saturday, 13th July

Our jolly party left the Church in perfect weather, for a day's trip to Blenheim Palace.

A delightful picnic was had by all whilst admiring the panoramic view of glorious beauty of Lancelot 'capability' Brown's park and lake, with a dash of the romantic supplied by Vanbrugh's semi-sunken bridge. During our feasting, we were fortunate enough to see the helicopter and crew, with Anika Rice, of Channel 4's TV programe "Treasure Hunt", manoeuvring into position. our leisurely lunch, the majority of the party went on to explore the magnificent charms of Blenheim, while a few preferred the quaintly whimsical qualities of nearby Woodstock village.

One can hardy find the right adjectives to describe this majestic building, less than a house more of a national monument to the military triumphs of John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough.

Externally as well as internally the scale is gigantic. Being co-designed Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor, it has come to represent what is now termed as "the English Baroque". The architecture has an almost "masculine" appeal with it's virile massiveness, but also a picturesque quality, especially in the delicate character of many of the rooms. The Baroque Spirit is perfectly represented at Blenheim, with it's giant columns and pilasters, grandiose curves of scrolls and broken pediments, achieving the arresting effects of richness, graduer and complexity. Being also an emotional form of building construction, it captures the gratitude of a country in victory that is once monumental but also conscious of space and proportion. It is also ironic that another figure associated with victory, Sir Winston Churchill, was born here and proposed to his wife in the "Temple of Diana", one of the many classical-originated structures that were built for the 4th Duke by Sir William Chambers.

I am sure everyone on the Parish Outing to Blenheim Palace would join

with me in a very big THANK YOU for such a lovely day.

Richard Anthony Harries

NEWS FROM THE HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

There are two news items to report from the last meeting of the Hampton Council of Churches. First, the Committee of the Council hopes to arrange meetings in the Autumn to discuss the ARCIC Report on relations between Roman Catholics and Anglicans. The meetings will be organised on a house group basis and will be as conveniently located as possible in Hampton and Hampton Hill. The ecumenical character of the meetings will broaden the discussion in each group beyond relations between Roman Catholics and Anglicans and embrace all the churches which are members of the Council. Yet the hope is to include at least one Roman Catholic in each group.

More details of these house groups, their location and meeting times, will

be announced as soon as possible.

The second item of news relates to the Committee's plans to organise visits to a synagogue, the main mosque in London at Regents Park and the Hindu Temple in Wimbledon. These visits will be of very considerable interest and provide a rare opportunity in England to gain further understanding and knowledge of the beliefs and practices of other major religions in the premises of these faiths.

The visit to the mosque will be on Saturday 21st September in the afternoon, and the visit to the Hindu Temple to their 'Festival of Lights' celebration will be on Monday 11th November, this will be in the evening. We hope to arrange a coach to take people to both of these events. Make a note in your diary now, the synagogue visit details have yet to be confirmed.

David Dore

NEWS FROM THE HAMPTON DEANERY LAY TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Lay Training Committee of the Deanery Synod is initiating a series of youth events with the title of Christian Youth in Action. The first of these events will be on Saturday, September 28, at the Church of St. Augustine at Whitton. The theme of this event is entitled "Live for All You're Worth" and a programme has been organised which will include dicussion groups as well as workshops of dance, music and drama. Terry Clutterham will lead this event which will be from 2.30 until 8.00. Boys and girls of the age range of fourteen to the top teens are invited. The admission charge is fifty pence for each person who is asked to bring their own food which will be shared. Drinks will be provided on the premises.

The Vicar will be pleased to receive the names of those who are interested in this event.

David Dore

THE LITURGICAL DANCERS

The Liturgical Dance Group will be re-starting in September on Wednesday evenings in church at 8.15pm. We always start with prayers and a few moments of quiet and this is followed by a warm-up session — nothing strenuous and some dance exercises. After this we do a variety of activities, trying to portray a particular emotion perhaps or working on a dance that we are hoping to present. If you feel you might like to join us but are not too sure whether liturgical dance is for you then come along and watch, we would be very pleased to see you.

Helen Taylor

3rd HAMPTON HILL SCOUT SCOUT GROUP NEWS

On June 15th a very special day for our Cubs when 17 boys with 3 Leaders attended the Ceremony of the Trooping the Colours. We had a splendid view of the arrival and departure of the Queen and the Guards being in a reserved enclosure set aside for children and disabled, a special request by the Queen. Afterwards we had our picnic lunch in St. James's Park, a very exciting happy day. June 22nd - 23rd Twickerree came to Marble Hill Park for the 18th time. Altogether we had 16 Cubs, 16 Scouts, 6 Venture Scouts and 5 Leaders camping. At the opening Ceremony the Group was presented with a Pennant by the County Commissioner for the best Gateway, also Barry Walker, along with other members of the District received his Chief Scout Award Certificate. Although the weather curtailed the pogramme on Saturday, the Beaver Pageant and a shortened Camp Fire took place. Sunday started with a "Scouts Own" service, followed by the Cub Scouts Pageant, Scout Troop Display and Go-cart racing when we gained 1st place in the Cub section. By 6.30 everything had been cleared away and the Park back to normal.

July 20th District Cub Sports at Collis School. 20 packs took part and the result was Brown Pack 7th and Gold Pack 10th.

27th July - 31st July We are again holding our Cub Camp at Perry Wood near

East Grinstead – about 14 boys taking part.

17th August CAR BOOT SALE at Four Winds Press Car Park, Hampton Hill High Street. Selling 10.30am to 3.30pm. Price per Car £3 if paid before 17th August — £5 on day. Entrance to buy 10p. Light Refreshments available. Phone reservations to 979-3539: 941-1049: 979-0386: 941-0910.

Serendipity Rules O.K.?

Michael J. Childs (G.S.L.)

HAZEL GUBBINS

Those parishioners who remember my niece, Hazel Gubbins, will be interested to hear that she and her husband, the Rev. John Reese have returned from their mission in Malaysia and, on the 13th June, John was inducted as Vicar of St. John the Baptist Church, Bishops Castle which is a quaint old country town in beautiful Shropshire. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Ludlow and the large church was packed, including a large party of John's former parishioners from Kidderminster. After the service we adjoined to a nearby barn where the ladies of the parish had provided a sumptuous spread. John and Hazel have two very lively daughters, Hannah and Julia, who are 4 years and 18 months respectively.

E. Grubbins

3rd HAMPTON HILL BROWNIES

We have had a very eventful 6 months with the Pack. Celebrating 75 years of Guiding beginning with a visit to Pontins for a 5 day holiday. Brown Owl and 11 Brownies joined with hundreds from the County, then came Crystal Palace with plenty to do and take part in but as we all know the freak weather A Pack holiday long weekend in June held at Heyswood marred the day. Camp Site, the Activity Centre, is a lovely purpose built house with swimming 18 Brownies and Brown Owl and Tawny, Squirrel, and Swallow (the cook) enjoyed a lovely sunny spell and on the Sunday 2 Brownies made their Promise. We were lucky to have the use of the Scout Mini Bus and Tawny's car. Thank you drivers. A Division Service was held at St. Mary's College Chapel. Again the weather was very kind and all Brownies were very smart, Jade carried our Pack flag. Then on to the District Boat Trip - 150 Brownies and Guides, 20 Guiders and County and Division and District Commissioners. The evening was enjoyed by all and also the meal. Fun Day was held on the Rugby Ground, Twickenham - 75 activities to take part in and ending with a camp fire The Pack has a long waiting list and as I shall soon be leaving the District we do need someone else to help Tawny if the Pack is to carry on. So any one 16 years or over who feels they could give a little time we would be pleased to hear from also we do need more Guiders and Unit helpers in our District — any offers phone 977-3082.

Brenda Oliver (Brown Owl), Lesley Hayter (Tawny)

AROUND THE SPIRE

We welcome two new arrivals to the wider family of St. James. Michael David Severn was born on Friday May 17th, a little earlier than expected and so causing some flurries in the Severn households, and Margaret Joann Dobson, a very punctual arriver. All are doing well and we wish both families much joy and happiness with their new offspring.

We also have better news of Coral McCarthy now home from hospital.

Two families also this month celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversaries and to them we send our congratualtions. Doris and Stan Gloyns, and Doris and Stan Childs, all of whom have life-long connections with St. James.

Another member of our church, whose memories go back even further, has recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday, Mrs. Dorothy White of Myrtle Road. Mrs. White has been a member of the Mothers' Union for fifty years and for that reason a party was held by the other members for her. As well as her M.U. connection, Mrs. White in years gone by has been a great worker for the British Legion and the WRVS. We wish her a belated Happy Birthday for 16th July and many more of them.

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

Date	Comi	municants	Attendance	Pledged Giving	Other Giving
June 23	Brd	99	134	76	25
30)th	98	138	132	8
July 7	th	43	166	102	15
14	lth	96	140	86	28
		Bar	kers Orders for J	une – £369	

Special Appeal for 'Ag-Pack' (Ethiopian drought) £169

Income Tax Rebate for Deeds of Covenant for year ended 5/4/85 £4,261.76

FROM THE REGISTERS **Baptism** 177 Burton's Road July 14th Shirley-Anne Jackson **Weddings** July 6th David Martin Brookes and Denise Anne McCullagh 20th John MacCoughlan and Kay Skelton **Funerals** July 23rd Leonard Rockliffe 40 Gloucester Road, Teddington aged 81 Christine Margaret Powell 285 Uxbridge Road aged 67 DATES TO NOTE 3rd 10.00 Churchyard Working Party August 4th PENTECOST 10 NO 08.00 Service 09.30 Informal Service 18.30 Parish Communion 6th TRANSFIGURATION - 09.30 Holy Communion 11th PENTECOST 11 NO 08.00 Service 09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Evensong 18th PENTECOST 12 Services as usual 25th PENTECOST 13 Services as usual 1st PENTECOST 14 September 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Informal Service 18.30 Parish Communion 4th 14.30 Mothers' Union at Wayside 7th 10.00 Churchyard Working Party 8th PENTECOST 15 Services as usual 11th 20.00 Liturgical Communion 20.00 Good News Group Restarts 15th PENTECOST 16 Services as usual 17th 20.00 P.C.C. 18th 20.00 Deanery Synod 21st Afternoon visit to a London Mosque 22nd PENTECOST 17 Services as usual 25th 20.00 Good News Group 28th 14.30 Christian Youth in Action — St. Augustine's Whitton 29th PENTECOST 18 -HARVEST FESTIVAL Services as usual 2nd 20.00 Hampton Council of Churches October 3rd 19.30 Harvest Supper 5th 10.00 Churchyard Working Party

Margaret Cranston spends the weekend with us talking

6th PENTECOST 19

08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Informal Service 18.30 Parish Communion [about Nepal