

"THAT'S THE SPIRIT"

Recently about twenty different members of the congregation went to a series of "happenings" entitled "That's the Spirit". The idea behind this Festival of Worship was to present new ideas and new forms of worship to churches looking for something different but meaningful to use in their own situation.

There were four or five events each evening during the week, so it was quite difficult to choose which to attend. The Festival started on the Sunday night with a "Service" which included a children's dramatic presentation of "Genesis", orchestral music, dancing by a group of performers which the congregation were encouraged to join and many did! - and a piece by David Kossoff and Tony Britton.

The week continued with such varied evenings as a discussion headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury; a Roman Catholic Mass with readings from de Chardin's work interspersed throughout - this somewhat disturbed by a demonstration by some Right Wing Catholics who disapproved of de Chardin; and various musical evenings - one by Donald Swann and Sydney Carter, another by a group called "Parchment" with poetry readings.

The programme at each of the evenings was two or more hours in length and most well attended. Dancing was present in several of the programmes, mostly it made a point and was quite simply done.

During the final gathering in Trafalgar Square on Whitsunday morning at the outdoor Eucharist the dancing expressed great joy, and those who watched this event on television must have felt this too. Those who attended this service were greatly moved by it and felt the wonderful fellowship that such meetings engender.

But where, you may ask, does this affect us? It has long been felt by many that if we are to retain a Sunday Evening Service some new life must be breathed into it. Now we have plenty of ideas and given some goodwill and hard work - we have the talent I feel sure - perhaps this is the time to do something about it. The next few months may prove very interesting at 6.30 p.m. onwards!

H.T.

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THE NEXT CHANGE

The Series 2 Order for Communion was produced as an experimental rite, intended to lapse after it had been thoroughly tried out, its defects brought to light and better ways found. Though the period of its use has recently been extended, Series 3 is now rapidly coming to the fore. We ourselves have been using it regularly at weekday services for several months, and now the Church Council has agreed to jump in at the deep end and introduce it for regular Sunday use on July 22 - for a specified period, after which there will be further consideration given to the whole matter. The change from

Series 2 to 3 is much less than the change from 1662 to Series 2, and in most respects Series 3 is an enrichment of 2 - for example in the seasonal material, and the much greater stress on the notes of joy and victory. As with Series 2, there is much scope for variation in the manner of presentation, the degree of 'lay involvement', and the type and range of musical settings. For many months we shall be feeling our way in regard to these and other things, and then it may be that an agreed pattern will emerge for normal use, or an accepted cycle of variations.

In liturgical worship, it is not always easy to strike a balance between doing things 'decently and in order' and allowing - or encouraging! - people to feel free to 'do their own thing'. A too rigid pattern and framework can inhibit spontaneity: too much spontaneity and freedom can destroy order and produce chaos. In the past there has been too much stress on order and structure; now, as in 'That's the Spirit', we are moving in the direction of greater spontaneity and freedom. It has been said that members of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches come to corporate worship somewhat in the spirit of a regiment on parade: the priest is the sergeant-major, and everybody feels he must do the same thing as everybody else at the same time: a person finding himself standing when everybody else is kneeling feels as odd and awkward as a soldier out of step, or at attention when all the rest are standing at ease. But in the Orthodox Churches, for instance, the ethos is that of a family, not an army, and so long as they do not interfere with anyone else, people feel perfectly free to stand, kneel, sit or even prostrate themselves, just as the Spirit moves them, without the slightest degree of embarrassment. This is the kind of freedom I covet for the people of St. James's as we begin Series 3. For instance, the black rubrics in the service ask for much more standing than we have been accustomed to; some of us welcome this, and like to do it; others are much happier kneeling as they always have done: let us be bold to 'do our own thing' - perhaps not the same thing every time - the thing that best helps the joy and praise to come out!

THE TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club held its A.G.M. at Wayside on June 5. New Officers were elected and members were invited to suggest topics and visits for inclusion in next year's programme.

There was general agreement that the coach outing of May 15 had been an outstanding success. The driver-courier took the party on a tour of the East End and the City. He proved to be amazingly well-informed and full of interesting anecdotes. There was a brief stop for refreshments and an opportunity to admire the floodlighting at the Tower.

Members were so impressed by this tour that they asked the committee to arrange for the same driver to take a party on his West End tour. Many other suggestions were made and the Autumn programme should prove most varied.

There are three more meetings before the summer "break" and prospective members will be welcome as visitors. The Secretary, Mrs. Mackenzie (Tel. 979 7048) will be pleased to hear from any women who would like to have more information. The Club is non-political and non-sectarian and the subscription is a modest 30p. per annum.

THE PARISH OUTING

Fifty three young parishioners set off on the second of June to celebrate the Queen's Official Birthday by visiting Windsor Castle, having a picnic in Windsor Great Park, going on Safari and then having a grand mystery tour home.

The weather was very kind and we arrived at the Castle just in time for the changing of the guard. After a quiet stroll we rejoined the coach at twelve-thirty and were transported to the picnic spot in the Great Park.

The snack consisted of sandwiches of cheese, cucumber, lettuce, tomato and ham; the second course was sausages, eggs, crisps and lemonade; this was topped off with peaches and cream, coffee and a short game of rounders.

The "youthfulness" of the parishioners was put to the test when we had to get into the coach by the safe route - through the emergency exit. Still with a shove from below and a pull from above we all managed it.

Arriving at the Safari Park we meandered in the coach through the open cages and saw interesting and intimate views of baboons, lions, tigers and cheethas. Most of us began to get very hot under the collar for this part of the trip.

After the open cage tour we went walking from the car part to visit a Wild West Fort, dolphins, seals, elephants and a host of other animals. Footsore and weary but thoroughly happy, we arrived back at the coach for the return journey and "Dr. Who".

Not a bit of it, the coach decided it wanted to investigate alternative scenic routes home and it gave us and the driver a grand mystery tour. Well done driver, well done social committee, our thanks to you all. Psst, when are you taking advance bookings for next year's do?

R.B.

THE DARBY & JOAN CLUB

On Monday afternoons in the Parish Hall the Darby & Joan Club holds its meetings. This is organised by the W.R.V.S. and is much appreciated by the local senior citizens.

A very enjoyable concert was given on May 21 by the ladies of St. James's conducted by Mrs. Prentice and accompanied by Mrs. Wiggington. The varied programme included choral and solo items, which the audience applauded vigourously.

At the conclusion of the concert Mrs. Wiseman thanked the ladies for the enjoyable entertainment.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Over 30 members and friends were present at our garden meeting on Friday June 8.

Once again we must thank Mr. and Mr. Rockliffe for the use of their garden, and for their influence on the weather - the sunshine was brilliant and the excellent tea provided by Mrs. Rockliffe and her committee members was enjoyed by all.

A good number of our members were able to attend the Deanery Festival, held this year at St. Mark's Church, Teddington, when it was our privilege to hear the address by the Rev. J. Cotgrove, the first time he has been with us in his capacity of Rural Dean.

St. Mark's members generously entertained us to tea in their parish hall after the service, and it was most pleasant to have the Mayoress, Mrs. Newstead, with us.

There will be no meetings during August and we hope to see all members at the opening service at 2.30 p.m. Wednesday September 5.

THE CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE WEEK

Well, we made it - just! Late in the afternoon of the second Saturday the graves beside the north aisle were trimmed, thus completing the entire churchyard, and ending the most successful clearance for many years.

A notable achievement, made possible by the magnificent response on the part of so many helpers to last month's appeal: all brought about, as one wag put it, by "shear" application and effort!

And so, heartfelt thanks:

for glorious sunshine throughout; to so many willing helpers of all ages, especially to those from outside our own congregation; and to the ladies who restored our flagging strength with timely supplies of coffee, tea, sandwiches, cakes, etc. And lastly, thanks for the promises of help to deal with moving the compost heaps; further offers will be gratefully received!

J.W.G.

THE PARISH HALL

A very welcome improvement to the smaller hall has been made by the installation of "Vista" venetian sunblinds to the windows.

We are very grateful indeed to Mr. Carter, the proprietor of Venyflex Ltd., Holly Road, for his generosity in donating and personally fitting these blinds; a gift which will be particularly appreciated by the whist-players who previously found the sun's rays a sore trial.

A TRIBUTE

It is always difficult to try and express in mere words one's innermost feelings, nevertheless, I wish to say a heartfelt "Thank you" to our Vicar, friends and the members of St. James's Church, for all the kindly concern shown over my accident in the High Street on May 11, and with the resultant operation in West Middlesex Hospital, where by God's grace and "Wave of Prayer" sent upon my behalf, the surgeon's skill and expert nursing, I have been restored to an almost normal life again, and am now home, convalescing under the watchful eye of my doctor and district nurse. A special "thank you" too, to the "band of friends", who rallied round my two dear sisters and who took them by car up and down to hospital daily, thus enabling them to visit me in comfort - standing and waiting for a bus can prove to be a nightmare! It was a joy when each friend, in turn, came in to see me, with a cheery smile and a kiss - all cards, gifts and flowers were greatly appreciated by me - many thanks again.

C.C.M.

THE Y.P.F. EASTER HOLIDAY

Five o'clock on Good Friday morning saw sixteen shady characters assembling outside the church. Their mission to travel to Scotland in their two vans Nudo Gibbins and Arthur Guinness. So much for the introduction - now for the good bit.

We arrived at Stronour outdoor centre (near Stranraer) towards evening. This was to be our base for the next week's devious happenings. Our days were spent out on the hills, such as Cairnsmore Fleet and the Rhins of Kells, where some felt the need to fall into rivers, off walls and down hills. Other days were occupied by the filming, entirely on location, of our dramatic epic and slightly silly film, due to be released soon. Our evenings were spent playing volleyball and discussing the subject of outreach, and putting ourselves in the shoes of the vicar of St. James (no relation - an entirely imaginary church dreamt up by Martin Edmonds and Andy Wood). We also had two guest speakers, ministers from local churches, who gave us their views on outreach and how they tackle the problem in their parishes.

Eventually our week of mis-doings was over and we returned home complete with the Phantom(?) in the vast shape of Godfrey Evans, tea drinker extraordinaire.

Lastly I would like to thank the holiday sub-committee and the drivers, Martin Edmonds and Roland Bridges, for working so hard to make the holiday a success and achieving the fellowship that was intended.

R.S.

KEEP FIT

To all those supple, fit, slim ladies who regularly attend the Tuesday afternoon session of agony, we wish to announce a complete rest during August. We will resume again on Tuesday 4 September at 2.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, if you are interested do come along. You may only wish to watch the first time, then join in, it is only 10 pence per session.

E.S.

MIDSUMMER MEETING WITH METHODISTS

It was a dream!

The management of the weather department regarded us kindly, and to the great relief of our organisers, the torrential rain of the past two days left the vicarage garden of St. James's Church beautifully fresh and fragrant to welcome the visitors from the Methodist Church in Percy Road, Hampton. St. James's had invited the members of the Methodist Church in response to their hospitality to us in February, and on this mild Midsummer's Day about seventy members of both congregations - guests and hosts in approximately equal numbers - met for an extremely pleasant garden party. The sound of laughter and lively conversation drifted across the newly-shaved churchyard and grey smoke rose from the barbecue as we were regaled by hot dogs - beautifully cooked by expert chefs, prettily garnished, too - and a choice of refreshing drinks. Everything went down very well indeed; there had never been anything quite like it before. There were also a few entertaining side-games, with generous applause for the respective winners.

As dusk fell we moved into the church, where the Vicar and other experts recalled some memorable events from the history of Hampton Hill and our church for a very interested audience. For most of us this successful evening drew to a close over a leisurely cup of coffee. While most of us went home in the pleasant knowledge that we had given our Methodist friends a most enjoyable evening, a few of the more enterprising ones took a conducted tour by torchlight up into the clock-tower and belfry. The local inhabitants must have wondered at the odd peep of the bells as we were given a short demonstration. A few courageous people even ventured right up into the spire, picking their way through dust, bird-droppings and feathers, to enjoy a splendid view far across the country - particularly enchanting at this hour, when lighted windows and street lamps sparkled in the light of the midsummer sky.

It was a dream!

H.B.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

July

- 15 5.15 p.m. Members of Y.P.F. lead the service at Laurel Dene.
- 16 10.30 a.m. Editorial Board (63 Park Road)
- 17 8.00 p.m. Tuesday Club: Social Evening (W); Committee of the Hampton & Sunbury Council of Churches (St. Mary's Hall, Hampton).
- 18 7.30 a.m. Hdy Communion; 8.00 p.m. Parochial Church Council (W).
- 22 PATRONAL FESTIVAL (by anticipation!): 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion; 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion and monthly Parade Service, followed by Parish Breakfast. (N.B. Series 3 Order for Holy Communion begins its period of regular Sunday use today); 4.30 p.m. Special Form of Family Service, followed by Family Afternoon Tea on the Vicarage lawn, (inside the church if wet). N.B. NO service at 6.30 p.m. this Sunday.

Some Dates to Note cont/....

July

- 25 SAINT JAMES'S DAY: Holy Communion at 7.30 and 10.00 a.m.
29 4.00 p.m. Infant Baptism (instead of July 22); 5.15 p.m. Senior members of St. James's lead service at Laurel Dene (changed from July 22).

August

- 1 7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
6 THE TRANSFIGURATION: Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m.

MARRIAGES

June

- 2 Robert John Mace to Patricia Jean Allen
30 Robert Henry Arthur Harvey to Sandra Elaine Breakwell
David Graham Barnett to Patricia Ann Dukes
Stuart Alistair Kirk to Vivienne Pooley

BURIAL

June

- 19 George Ernest Leary, 27, Bishop's Grove, aged 49 years
(at Teddington Cemetery)

STOP PRESS: Could anyone please give hospitality to a 16 year old German girl as a paying-guest for a week or two from July 20? If you can, please telephone 979 3529.