

SEYMOUR HARRIS'S ORDINATION

Michaelmas was a very happy time for the family of St. James's parish. On September 29 many of us attended the Ordination to Priesthood of one of our number, Seymour Harris, and the following evening he presided for the first time at a Parish Communion in our own church, and after that service we had a grand family party to celebrate the occasion. Many of our friends from neighbouring churches joined in our thanksgiving and were welcomed to our celebration afterwards.

A year ago, Seymour was made Deacon at St. Paul's Cathedral at a service which was impressive in its grandeur and solemnity and by its very scale. The recent Ordination was equally impressive, and gained in intimacy what was lost in scale. The church of All Saints, Fulham, was crowded to capacity, and indeed by the time the main contingent from St. James's arrived (after a delay resulting from a breakdown of the coach that had been promised and a sociable journey in which 51 parishioners were packed into a 45-seater), it was not easy for them to find seats. The Ordination - of two Deacons and three other Priests in addition to Seymour - was conducted by the Bishop of Kensington, and all present joined in prayer for those who were being admitted to the Ministry. Our own Vicar was one of the priests taking part in the laying on of hands. Later, we were delighted to see Seymour's wife, Dawn, and their children, to whom we owe so much for their constant support of Seymour, carry the bread and wine to the altar in preparation for the Holy Communion which followed the Ordination. When we returned to Hampton Hill, most of us were able to accept Dawn and Seymour's kind invitation to meet them informally at their home and take refreshments with them.

During the Ordination service, a fine sermon had been preached by the Vicar of St. Matthew, Ashford, the Rev. Ian Robson, who had pointed out that Ordination is both an end and a beginning. For each of the candidates, it was the culmination of many years of prayer and hard study, but it was also the start of a life of ministry and pastoral care. Throughout that life, each as a Minister, would give so much to the rest of us, but would also need our prayers and support.

Our Vicar, in developing this theme during the service on the following evening, also reminded us that Seymour had, of course, already served our parish in a variety of ways. After joining our church as a fifteen-year-old, he became a leader of the Y.P.F. and then, after much study, a Reader, before eventually embarking on the strenuous part-time Southwark Ordination Course. Seymour presided over this service with great dignity and feeling, and during its course, revived an old custom by presenting his mother and Dawn with flowers. It was a very joyous occasion. Despite the heavy rain-storms, the church and churchyard were very welcoming, and the rain eased off sufficiently for the more hardy ones of us to enjoy the barbecue outside (where it had been tended by the most hardy ones of all). Indeed all the refreshments were greatly enjoyed by everyone, and we are grateful to the many who helped to prepare them.

We know that Dawn and Seymour very much appreciated all that was done to make these occasions such memorable ones; but the parish was only trying to show in a simple way how much it appreciates them and the work they have been called to do amongst us. We give them our best wishes and join in the prayer from the Ordination service: "Almighty God, who hath given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same; that he may accomplish his work which he hath begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord".

R.E.B.

HARVEST SUPPER:

Some points by the Social Committee

The decision to hold our Harvest Supper on Sunday evening October 10 was a very difficult one to reach, with the advantages and problems, both practical and ethical, fairly evenly balanced. The Vicar, in last month's Spire, discussed the wider issues in detail and explained why it was decided to make the change from a week-day evening. It was very much an experimental decision, and much thought will clearly have to be given by the P:C:C. in mid-1977 as to whether to keep to the new timing. The Social Committee, as the willing agent of the P.C.C., will naturally do whatever is asked of it next year in this respect. To help in judging between the two types of celebration, we would like to make the following points as we have seen them from the point of view of catering and organisation.

Whether for a Sunday or a weekday, the Committee strongly favours the continuation of a self-service buffet instead of the previous table-set meal. For a Sunday it is essential, in order to give our ladies as little work as possible and enable them to attend Harvest Festival services. Even for a weekday, it was considered a definite advantage. Although very enjoyable, the former table-settings needed a large number of hostesses and a considerable time to arrange. There was also the almost insurmountable problem of where to seat people to everyone's wishes. One slight disadvantage of the buffet-meal is that there is much more clearing-up to cope with afterwards; but we hope to devise means of overcoming this with practice. One advantage of the Sunday celebration is that able-bodied males are available for the heavy work. The earlier hour at which the Sunday supper began allowed more families with children to attend, as well as making it a natural follow-up for regular worshippers who had gone to the service in the afternoon (not always the case in the mid-week type).

The Harvest Supper has always contained an element of light-hearted entertainment, as it should as part of an act of thanksgiving. We are particularly indebted to those loyal members of the Mothers' Union who give of their time and talent every year without fail. It is felt by many, however, that we cannot be quite as frivolous on a Sunday night as we can on a weekday. While there is a counter-argument which concludes the opposite, we would probably have to accept a slightly more subdued Harvest Supper on a Sunday than on a weekday.

It is best not to try to summarise the above points in case it should be looked on as indicating any particular preference on the part of the Social Committee. We hope they are helpful for the P.C.C. in deciding next year what form the Harvest Supper should take.

R.L.B.

HARVEST FESTIVAL News from abroad

My mother sent me a cutting from their local newspaper describing the harvest thanksgiving celebrations at her church in Pinneberg, Northern Germany. It also showed a photograph of the decorations in church which included some gardening tools, sheaves of corn and a beautiful harvest crown, a sort of huge corn-dolly. The article read as follows:-

The Luther Church in Pinneberg was packed for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday. From the altar, which was richly decorated with harvest produce, the three local ministers reminded the congregation of the meaning of this festival and they thanked the tireless local farmers who

had been hard hit by floods in January and the drought in the summer. A motet by Scheidt which was performed by the church choir and a brass ensemble rounded the service off musically.

After the service a harvest lunch was served in the church hall. Soldiers from the local army-barracks provided more than 200 helpings of wholesome stew. Afterwards a popular comedian from a nearby village entertained the company. Further items of the varied programme were dancing demonstrations by two groups from the local sports club, and performances by the church choir and the recorder group. Great quantities of cake donated by the guests were served with coffee afterwards.

In his closing remarks a visiting minister, who spoke in the local dialect, recalled once again the disastrous floods and drought and called it a miracle that it had nevertheless been possible to reap a rich harvest.

H.B.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL DISTRIBUTION

The local schools now all have harvest thanksgiving services and collect a good deal of produce, fruit, vegetables and groceries for distribution.

The Headmistress of Hampton Hill Junior School asks the Community Care Group for lists of elderly and housebound people; the children make up parcels and deliver these with a personal note of greeting and good wishes.

While visiting in Hampton Hill, I have realised what a tremendous amount of pleasure these children's notes give. Some people have replied to them individually with much interest, and friendships have been made. These contacts have been, or are going to be, followed by visits to the school. Old and young meet, and this is how it should be in a community.

Other schools have also given liberally from what the schoolchildren have brought.

The Church these days has less to give, so its gifts need not be given to those who already receive from the schools; it is important to go round before the Harvest Festival Sunday and find out who have already been amply provided for. One block of flats had this year received gifts from two schools, enough for two parcels to be given to each resident. The Warden therefore was ready to say to the church visitor "No, don't worry about us, we have plenty; thank you for enquiring".

Another block of old people's flats had had no gifts from schools so the church was able to give a parcel to each of the inhabitants. These were received with much pleasure.

Otherwise the church-gifts of fruit and produce were given to individuals with links with St. James's, who possibly now are housebound and are unable to worship with the congregation. Flowers were taken to some as a token of love and remembrance. Some One-Parent families in real need were remembered. It is hoped that the gaps were filled.

Some people feel that there should be more emphasis at Harvest-time on Christian Aid, and the world's starving millions. They point out that there is no real hunger in this country and that it is unnecessary to give to people who already have enough. How proud we are that this can be said of Great Britain, and let us thank God for it. But we try to think in generous terms about World Hunger at Christmas time and during Christian Aid Week each May. The distribution of Harvest gifts is I am sure a very necessary token and symbol of community awareness, of love for our neighbours who often, although there may be no financial need, are in real need of being thought about, remembered and visited.

Hannah Stanton

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

The inaugural service on Saturday, October 16 at the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church was a real inter-Faith gathering. Contributions were made by Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian readers. There was a real sense of shared worship.

Our own observance of the Week included a service at St. Francis de Sales on the evening of Tuesday, October 19, the day of the Vigil for Racial Justice and Peace. Mr. Clarence McKenzie from Guyana gave an extremely illuminating talk on prejudice, giving the congregation much to think about. The talk was followed by lovely singing by Crista Goddard from the Cameroons. Would that we had had time for more! A valuable question-session followed in the crypt, while we all had coffee; this, in its turn, was followed by a vigil of prayer round the altar.

The United Service of the Hampton Council of Churches took place on Sunday, October 24, at the Methodist Church in Hampton. It was the last day of the Week of Prayer for World Peace, and was also United Nations Day.

The preacher was a Methodist Minister, The Rev. David Mason. He spoke of how desperately important it is to make a reality of world peace these days. Christians should be in politics, making themselves both heard and felt on this issue. He spoke of race as all-important in world tensions. This must be attended to, understood and overcome in all spheres if there is going to be any chance of constructive peace in the world.

This service was an excellent ending to the Week of Prayer for World Peace. Let us go on remembering world peace in our prayers as one of the most important questions of our day.

Hannah Stanton

NEWCOMERS' PARTY

The most recent Newcomers' Party was held on Wednesday October 20, in the Hall. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. The talk on Hampton Hill and its history was given on this occasion by Mr. Bridges as Mrs. Orton, our usual raconteur, was unwell.

The majority of the newcomers at this particular party were from the new council houses which have recently been built off Dean Road and include Bishop's Grove and Deacon's Walk.

It is very difficult for St. James's Church to make any kind of impact in this area as it is so remote from the church-building itself, the Hall and from most of the committed members of the parish. The area lacks any amenity of any sort, no shops to speak of, no communal building and very little in the way of public transport. There is no place on which to centre a community, nowhere to have a play-group — badly needed — a jumble sale or hold a church-meeting or coffee-morning. The people feel lonely and isolated and certainly not a part of Hampton Hill. It would be nice if a site could be found to have such a building but with inflation the cost would probably be prohibitive. Could the Council, the Church and any other interested parties combine together in some way to provide this desperately needed amenity?

Several people when called upon said they would come but had no baby-sitter yet many of them were in the same boat - a baby-sitting group is obviously necessary, but in the meantime could we have helped in this way? Similarly could we have laid on a few cars to transport people to the Hall on the night on an ad hoc basis - people dislike committing themselves in advance especially to something of which they are obviously suspicious?

I would like to make a plea here for the Parish Carol Singing to tour this area and the Chambery Estate this year as I feel they are so neglected in every way - how about it?

H.T.

AU REVOIR AND THANKS

It is always sad when a long-time resident leaves us. When it is someone who has made nearly a life's time contribution to our community it hurts even more. After many years in St. James's Avenue, Mrs. Milns is leaving us to live nearer her daughter at Hartfield.

Various sections of our parish - the Old People's Welfare Committee, the Hampton Hill Association, the Tuesday Club - have already made known their appreciation of Mrs. Milns. Here at St. James's, we must sometimes have wondered how she had time for anything outside her church work: she has at some time been on the P.C.C., the Liturgical Committee, the Hampton Council of Churches, a member of the M.U.; she did the flowers and for a long time was the main stay of church cleaning, but I suppose the memory of her that will live on longest will be that stitched into her church needlework and especially in the crimson altar frontals and book markers she made and gave to us. Those who attend early services can see these close to and I would suggest that those who attend other services should make the opportunity of going up into the chancel when next the crimson frontals are in use and take a look at close quarters. Mrs. Milns has high standards and high principles about everything she does and in this largely careless and "throw away" age it is good to look at the value of fully using one's talents and with hard work producing something of lasting value and beauty that will give pleasure for many years to come.

Our successors will be able to look at Mrs. Milns' work and say "That was achieved by an amateur (i.e. a lover of the art)" and may wonder who she was; we who know her are grateful and we all wish her joy and blessedness at Primrose Cottage.

C.H.B.

BIB AND SUCKER - St. James's Baby Mornings - at Wayside:

1st and 3rd (and 5th) Thursdays - 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon.

NOVEMBER 4 "STUCK AT HOME"

18 Parts 2 and 3 (TAPE)

Problems and pleasures of being at home with young children; concentrating mainly on changes in family relationships and becoming a person in one's own right again

DECEMBER 2 Festive Menu on a minimum of time and money
Cooking demonstration

16 Christmas Kaleidoscope

Stories, Christmas customs, music, useful tips etc.

In the New Year we hope to continue with a varied programme of talks, discussions, practical demonstrations and some light relief - all designed to help us cope better with our job of being mother.

We are hoping to provide a creche for every meeting and would very much welcome offers by volunteers. It means looking after babies and young toddlers for one hour, from 11 till 12. We would need more than one person for every morning. Even offers of help once a month (or just for special occasions) would be much appreciated. Please contact Hilde Bucknell 979-3529.

THE TUESDAY CLUB

We are still a flourishing little club with a membership of about 40 and are still open to anyone who is interested. We try to make our programmes as attractive to members as possible, and our last venture - "A Bon Apetit" meeting - was enjoyed greatly, and with the recipes and cakes, etc., sold afterwards, we were able to make a reasonable contribution to our funds.

Our meeting on October 19 proved of local interest as our speaker was the Park Superintendent of Hampton Court and was followed two weeks later by a glimpse of life in the Seychelles; after that a first-hand knowledge of a Police Woman's work.

CUB SCOUT NEWS

The Cub Scouts are short of helpers and are desperately seeking somebody who would be willing to help out on Wednesday evenings from 6 till 8 p.m. It is very rewarding working with enthusiastic youngsters of this age. Please, can you help, or do you know of anybody who may be willing to do so?

SEWING CLUB

The M.U. has started a Sewing Club in Wayside. The main purpose is to help each other with our dressmaking problems. This is open to any lady in the parish who enjoys sewing and would like to join us any Wednesday - 1.30 to 4 p.m. (except the first Wednesday in the month, which is Mothers' Union afternoon).

AROUND THE SPIRE

We are pleased with the reaction to this "chat" column and some more news has reached us this month.

Sarah Cottle (nee Long), who was for some time a member of the Y.P.F. and a Sunday School teacher, has lived in many parts of the world since her marriage and is now in Hongkong with her husband, Mark, and two small daughters, Justine and Paula. By the time this is published they will be home on a three-months holiday and we look forward to seeing them around the parish.

We are pleased to see Doris Warwick back from Australia, where she has been visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Jeannie and Glyn.

Another visiter to Australia has been Mrs. Bessie Smith who has been visiting her daughter in Sydney and she will be back home with the Lawrances early in November.

Many in the parish will remember the Allport family; Pamela the youngest of the four daughters has recently moved from Hampton to Claygate with her husband and daughters, one aged 2 years and the other 2 months.

We would like to offer our belated congratulations to David and Janet Nunn on their marriage in July and wish them every happiness.

We have heard that Cyril Edmonds has recently retired - we wish both him and Dorothy a long and happy retirement.

We shall be pleased to have any further information so please let the Vicar know or any member of the Editorial Committee who are:-

Hilde Bucknell	979 3529
Ruth Gostling	979 3748
Coryn Robinson	979 6786
Eila Severn	979 1954
Hannah Stanton	979 5821

HARVEST SUPPER - ANOTHER COMMENT

I should like to congratulate the Social Committee on the new-style harvest supper, and say how very much we all enjoyed this important event on the social calendar. This year, instead of the more formal set-table dinner which we have previously had (very enjoyable, but a great deal of trouble to prepare) there was a buffet, self-service supper, with a sit-where-you-like seating policy; this allowed more freedom and I should imagine that this method of serving was less wasteful than the other, since small appetites were not overfed, and greedy ones (my own family being far from guiltless!) had scope to indulge themselves!

The Mothers' Union treated us to a more than usually hilarious dramatic gem, enormously enjoyed by an audience who were better able to see the stage this year, being free to draw up their seats and not stuck behind tables.

Finally, I should like to say how much I appreciated the Harvest Supper following directly after the afternoon Harvest Festival service - I believe this used to be the custom before my time at St. James's, but in recent years it has, of course been held mid-week; the Sunday celebration makes it feel much more of the total Harvest Thanksgiving, and I welcome the return of this custom, which I hope will now be an annual occasion.

A.P.

DEANERY INTERCESSIONS

November 14	St. Alban with St. Mary, Teddington
21	St. Mark, Teddington
28	St. Peter & St. Paul, Teddington
December 5	All Hallows, Twickenham
12	All Saints', Twickenham

SOME DATES TO NOTE

November

- 14 REMEMBRANCE DAY
- 15 10.30 Editorial Board (21 St. James's Road)
- 16 20.00 Tuesday Club: Talk by a Policewoman (W)
- 17 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Confirmation at St. Mary's, Hampton
- 18 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue); Study Group (68 Park Road)
- 20 14.30 Scout Group Bazaar (Hall); 14.30-19.30 Conference on Mission (Teddington Methodist Church).
- 21 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
- 23 20.00 Parochial Church Council (W); Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 24 07.30 Holy Communion
- 25 Wayside Monday Centre Management Group (19 St. James's Road)
- 30 ST. ANDREW'S DAY: 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Tuesday Club: General Knowledge Quiz (W)

December

- 1 14.30 Mothers' Union: Branch Meeting (W)
- 2 19.30 Deanery Synod Eucharist (St. Mary's, Hampton), followed by Meeting in the Parish Hall; 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue); Study Group (68 Park Road)
- 6 10.30 Editorial Board (21 St. James's Road)
- 7 19.45 Wayside Project Training Session (41 Wellington Road); 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road)
- 8 07.30 Holy Communion; 08.45 Holy Communion (St. Anne's Chapel, LEHS)
- 11 08.30-10.30 Wastepaper Collection (W)

BAPTISMS

October 24 Georgina Jane Hopkins, 32 Coleshill Road
Mark Andrew Jackson, 37 Holly Road
Ashley Augustus Smith, 16 High Street.

MARRIAGES

October 2 Peter Charles Carroll to Jane Elizabeth Firman
Christopher Leslie Palmer to Catherine Jane Keirby

CREMATION

September John James Cox, 12 Uxbridge Road, aged 64 years (at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)

CHRISTMAS CARDS

A Christmas greeting card with details of the Christmas services is being prepared and will be delivered to every house in the parish. We shall need help in this distribution, and the members of the Liturgical Committee will be glad to receive offers of help from those prepared to deliver these cards during the week before December 19.

H.M.S.

EDITORIAL FOOTNOTE: Owing to unusually heavy pressure on space this month - which of course we welcome as a sign of growing interest and willingness to contribute - several items have had to be held over. These include the final instalment in the series 'The Pattern of Sunday Worship' and an article on Religious Education.