
THE PARISH QUIET DAY

This to me was a wonderful experience. That the setting was peaceful and beautiful was only a small facet of the whole. We were welcomed by Sister Mary Mildred and over coffee were told a little about the order to which the convent belongs and we were given a programme for the day — three addresses in the chapel interspersed by periods for prayer and meditation; complete silence would be kept during the hours between the end of the morning coffee and the beginning of afternoon tea which was to bring the experience to a close. We were invited to follow the call of the midmorning office bell and to join the Sisters in chapel for their worship. For our periods of meditation we could go where we pleased and each of us found our own private corner. In need of spiritual guidance we could consult Tom, Rupert or Sister Ann Mechtilde.

Tom Stanton's words and the quiet direct manner of their utterance made a great impression on all of us. He firstly spoke of the relationship with a personal God which all the great religions of the world have in common. God has a personality even as we, his children, have — a personality to meet that of each one of us and each one of us should strive for an ever deepening personal relationship with God. This relationship changes in degree as we progress. Jesus first has a master and servant relationship with His disciples, then, as fellowship deepened, the relationship changed into friendship and brotherhood. Jesus himself shared a deep personal relationship with His Father, a relationship maintained and sustained by prayer both in regular times set aside morning and evening, but also constantly through the days of the earthly experience; at all times and in all places He was in communion with God. For the first experience of meditation this particular day he advised us, as one method, to set down our real desires, our real hopes and thoughts; not those we felt we should have but those we knew were the real truth. Some desires and some prayers were not for things pleasing to God and we would learn by communion with God which were which. To discover God's purpose for one is usually beyond one's own resources. Prayer opens us to God's aid and opens the way for us to experience His thought and to live a whole life through His grace. Jesus did not leave his disciples instructions for the future but knew that each would discover these in themselves through the power of the Spirit.

The second address was about praying with Christ; to study to get into the mind and will of Christ rather than repeating by rote "in the name of Christ, Amen" after all our prayers. Prayers are not "magic" and just the evoking of some magical power to produce an effect. There are different ways of prayer; some 'converse' with God, others contemplate. Jesus, when asked how to pray, left His own great prayer as guidance on the subject. To pray "Our Father" deeply and thoughtfully, incorporating into it and under its blanket all our prayers, is to pray with Christ — in His mind, His will, born out of His communion with our universal Father and His will.

Tom's advice to us this time was to set down our contemplation on the words and phrases of the Lords Prayer that subsequently at every next repetition they should grow in depth and meaning to us. He asked us all to be present at the next morning's Parish Communion so that we could say this prayer together in the increased understanding granted us through our meditations.

In the third and last address Tom shared with us his own meditations and thoughts about this mighty prayer which covers all the aspects of mortal and spiritual life and I expect that we all gained deeper insight and reassurance as phrase by phrase some of our own meditations were shown to be shared by the one who had set us on this course of quiet thought and desire to enter realisingly the presence of God through the Son.

I found the hours spent this way an unforgettable experience. It is good to be still and know that God is present. I look forward to a further occasion when the experience may be repeated and deepened.

M.O.

THOUGHTS ON THE QUIET DAY

A Quiet Day – was this for me? or was I too restless, too inadequate? I thought a lot about it and decided I would never know unless I tried and so, with kind encouragement, I took myself to Ham Common and entered into the joyful tranquility of St. Michael's Convent.

Five hours of companionable silence and the Peace which passes all understanding, and the sincere quiet words of Father Tom Stanton leading me to prayer and contemplation, made a day for me which I will long remember and hope to repeat in the future.

If there are others like me who hesitate to take of this refreshment when next it is offered I wish to say to them "Yes, it's for you".

A.T.

QUIET DAY IMPRESSIONS

A Quiet Day –
A lovely day,
What a way to spend a Saturday!
No more cooking
No more cleaning,
Thinking only God of Thee.
In the stillness
And the silence
Listening for your voice.
Reading, walking,
Never speaking –
Friends are here but silent too.
In the quiet of the Chapel
Great awareness of Your words,
Prayers for home and friends and people
Let us come again and soon.

H.T.

One of the things I remember most clearly about the Quiet Day is the fact that I found it very difficult to be quiet. I don't mean that not talking to people was difficult. But it seemed very hard to achieve some inner composure that would allow concentrated thinking or praying. Too many thoughts kept fighting for attention.

It was therefore very interesting to hear our hosts explain, when talking about life in their community, that the Sisters did not now keep strict rules of silence for most of the day, but tried to do something much more difficult, namely to achieve inner quietness despite the odd conversation here or there. "Noisy people can be quite noisy without actually talking" she said.

And in a booklet of meditations that I happened to see I read "Catch my mind, Lord, it darts about like a restless bird."

H.B.

THE CONVENT ON HAM COMMON

St. Michael's Convent, Ham Common, where our Quiet Day was held is the Mother House of the Community of the Sisters of the Church. Many women's religious orders were founded by men, but this one was founded by a woman: Emily Ayckbowm, who was the daughter of a Vicar in Chester. In 1870, when she was 34 years old she realised her life-long dream and consecrated herself to God and founded a sisterhood. Originally Mother Emily and the Sisters worked among destitute women and children; many of the children lived in the Community and were educated and trained for work there. Later girls' schools were started in different parts of the country — one of them the Old Palace School at Croydon. These schools, though still belonging to the Anglican Church, are now run in the state system.

Over the years the work of the Community has varied according to the needs of the time and always active work in the area in which they live is supported and goes alongside the Sisters' life of worship and prayer. Wherever they are the Sisters' daily routine consists of prayer, worship, study, shared household chores and a period of relaxation and recreation as well as the outside job they may be involved in.

At St. Michael's Convent Sisters are trained, some go out to work in local parishes and some in the local Remand home. Sisters come here from other houses for retreats and refreshment, and there is an Infirmary for some of the old or sick sisters.

There are two houses at Broadstairs, Kent; one, St. Raphael's, from which work is done for housebound people and at a local Day Centre for Senior Citizens. This is a house of prayer and some of the older Sisters live there. The other is St. Mary's which has groups of children living in 'families' of ten or twelve, and there is also a Day-Care unit run in conjunction with local social services. The St. Mary's children attend the church in Broadstairs to which Mr. and Mrs. Rockliffe's daughter, Pauline, and her family belong. Rupert and I remember when we were children on holiday at Broadstairs seeing the Sisters bringing large groups of severely handicapped children on to the beach; it is good to know that at least that need is no longer so great.

In Liverpool the sisters work in a psycho-geriatric hospital and at a girls' Remand centre. The Community also has Houses in Canada, Australia and the Solomon Islands.

It is written of Mother Emily that ". . . her whole life was to be a protest against injustices and a continual fight to ameliorate poverty, ignorance, unemployment, the inequalities of rich and poor; all these weighed upon her spirit and demanded her continuing and increasing effort." Incorporated in the rules of her Community are:

'The Community

is a special family

living together in the Lord's name and in His love.

This love is shown in our relationships with one another.'

"He who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen."

1 John 4.20

'A life of love is not one without tension and conflict.

The upbuilding of the body in love

Will sometimes bring us the bread of sorrow, the water of tears.'

Surely this costing love is a valuable part of reconciliation in today's world.

C.H.B.

ST. JAMES'S TAKES TO THE THAMES

To a newcomer to Hampton Hill it was welcoming to be offered the opportunity to join the riverboat trip held during April. We embarked from Turks Boat Yard, Kingston, at 7.30 p.m. and remembering the inclement conditions experienced this spring, we were indeed lucky that the evening was blessed with good weather. Standing on the foredeck viewing such places as Hampton Court, Garrick's Temple and the home of our local M.P., I felt both relaxed and appreciative of the area in which I live. After the boat had negotiated East Molesey and Sunbury locks (and I, less successfully, several sets of stairs whilst clutching my drink) we reached as far as Weybridge before turning back.

During the trip everyone appeared to enjoy themselves, initially by viewing the tranquil scenery, discussing the trip and subsequently after supper by remaining on the upper deck and dancing to the music, which I am sure met with everyone's approval, judging by the harmonious accompaniment given to Messrs. Lennon, MacCarthy, Starr and Harrison as we docked back at Turks around 11.30 p.m.

The entire, well-run and very enjoyable evening was a credit to the organisers.

Finally, may I add food for thought — an idea suggested by another newcomer on the trip that a summer barbecue be held.

G. Lyall

MY FIRST EASTER AT ST. JAMES'S

What a wonderful Holy Week I experienced for the first time in my life. I was really pleased to be allowed to sing in The Leaves of Life and felt it an honour to make a joyful noise unto the Lord in His house where I have found so much love. You see I was very joyful. I was born blind in my left eye and just before I had the operation (which was merely for cosmetic reasons) the Vicar laid hands on me and five days after the operation I received my sight in that eye. It was wonderful.

The children's Easter Service was especially good I thought. Every day that I look around there is so much to see, people, places, things to do. Thank God that I can see.

Then came my first hot-cross bun and the Easter Eve. Although I felt love and joy all around me, it came home to me — the abuse and false accusations, persecutions and the pain Jesus Christ endured for us that we might have salvation.

My mind went back to Palm Sunday when Connie Brunt as Mary, Christ's sorrowing mother, came to seek her son Jesus on the cross. It made it all so real to me; what love and sadness when we reject His love.

Easter Day was specially wonderful to me as the receiving of my sight round about that time was a kind of resurrection for me. Unfortunately, since then I have been struck with a slight stroke, but I believe that now I am home again the Lord may be going to use me to show to different people that although at the moment I am handicapped I can still shine for Jesus and show that the Holy Spirit really is at work in St. James's.

My special thanks go to Connie Brunt who was with me at the time of the illness and promptly got the doctor. Thank you all for your love and prayers for me.

V.C.

AN IRISH WEDDING

At first I thought that I could not go but a kind friend offered me a lift from door to door and I recovered sufficiently from a bad bout of 'flu to pack and be ready.

We got off to a good start with a comfortable drive to Swansea and so on to the Car Ferry but then — Oh dear! — straightaway ran into a force 10 storm — head on — and from 10 p.m. we noisily battered our way towards Ireland arriving at 2 p.m. instead of 8 a.m. — 16 hours instead of 10!

We were expected for lunch but arrived at 6.10 p.m. after our long drive to the far south-west of County Cork. Almost immediately we were whisked off to the dear little country church for a rehearsal. The heating-system had broken down and the church was icy and the three little bridesmaids were caught in a traffic jam in Cork and were half hour late.

The Great Day dawned wet and grey and it rained continuously all day. The white Rover detailed to take my brother and niece to the church wouldn't start after standing out in the driving rain all night and the message came to us as we waited. Someone told the bridegroom to relax and that the bride (my niece) hadn't changed her mind! The church was still cold but bright with daffodils and eventually the bride arrived, twenty minutes late, to the strains of "Lead us, Heavenly Father." The present Rector and the recently retired Reverend Pat shared the service and I don't remember any mishaps there.

Outside the rain still fell and the wind blew but the smiling couple were whisked away for the Irish custom of driving through the villages with car horns blaring. Since they made a detour to take in the two villages most guests arrived at the reception ahead of them - most of the Irish men making straight for the bar!

A good meal and champagne and only one speech helped to shut out the weather. During the taking of the photographs it was discovered that one bridesmaid had changed her dainty slippers for brogues — because her feet hurt.

Suddenly the bride and groom were missing. They had taken a trot down the street to see old acquaintances. I think one must have been "Auntie" of the Shop-cum-Bar, a friendly Irish lady known to my niece since she first came on holidays as a little girl and "now she is one of us" said a local lass.

The radiant couple drove away down the main street of this quaint fishing-village where all the folks turned out of their shops and cottages to wave goodbye.

I've been to many smoothly-run weddings in England but none more happy and relaxed. The Irish have a knack of enjoying a party and we foreigners were in the minority.

(N.B. The wedding was at the beginning of March but the weather was worse than usual even for this month).

A.T.

WELCARE

As was mentioned in an earlier magazine, Welcare is undergoing some changes at present in its structuring and in the extent and type of work that it undertakes. Where the work previously has mostly been with unmarried mothers and their children, Welcare is now increasingly dealing with one-parent families of all sorts and has a full-time worker and three part-timers to help the work carry on in a Christian context. In order for the Clergy, Welcare workers and Parish Representatives to meet and get to know each other at least a little, the Vicar has very kindly loaned his garden for a Garden Party to be held on July 7.

Anyone interested in Welcare who would like to come to the Garden Party will be very welcome. Meanwhile, if there is anyone you know who is in difficulties and would benefit from Welcare's services, the telephone number is 570 3594 or get in touch with me, Helen Taylor, 979 7042. Baby and children's clothes and equipment, books and toys are all still most acceptable and so occasionally are pieces of furniture, household articles, etc. for someone setting up a home on very little money. Remember the work of Welcare in your prayers and for the workers — Liz Rawson, Robin Daniels, Shirley McGleish and Mrs. Ruyski.

H.T.

VISIT TO SANTIAGO DI COMPOSTELLA

During medieval times, Santiago di Compostella was next in line after Rome and the Holy Land as a place of pilgrimage. The sacred bones of St. James were said to rest here and pilgrims came to his shrine in northern Spain from all over Europe and for many hundreds of years. On their return they would bring a cockle shell found in the locality to show that they had visited Santiago, and so a shell became a symbol of St. James himself.

In her excellent talk and slide show, Lesley Mortimer, with help from husband, Jamie, as projectionist, we saw the figure of the medieval pilgrim in many guises; carved in wood or stone, painted with his long cloak, carrying a staff in his hand with the brim of his hat folded back and held in place by a cockle shell badge.

Most of the old pilgrim way is deserted now but the old fortresses built to protect the pilgrims from marauders and hospices built to accommodate them on their travels remain, solitary and crumbling.

Lesley and Jamie began their journey from Burgos with its wonderful cathedral and city famous for its connections with El Cid and travelled by car in stages to Santiago about two hundred and fifty miles away over what appeared to be, even now, rather primitive roads; how much more hazardous a journey it must have been for the pilgrims centuries ago, and how great must have been their faith and courage to sustain them along the way. This talk given after excellent refreshments and before the business part of the church A.C.M. provided an interesting and stimulating interlude.

H.T.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By the time you read this our Barn Dance will, we hope, have been successfully held and the next date for your diaries will be Saturday 30 June, when we are organising an afternoon motor car outing and picnic tea for which a small charge will be made. A simple route will be issued to all drivers (with no possibility of getting lost!) coupled with a small (voluntary) quiz to be completed on the journey. At the destination (which will be known in advance) we will be organising a picnic and games. All ages are welcome. Look out for further announcements.

Friday 13 July (not for the superstitious!) we are organising our annual mini-Wimbledon, – in other words a tennis evening on the courts at Lady Eleanor Holles School which have kindly been made available again. Book the date and further information will appear next month.

Looking further ahead there will be a number of other events to look forward to, such as the Harvest Tea, and Fireworks Party, so keep reading our notices.

A NOTE TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

We ask contributors to the Spire who manage to type their articles please to be kind enough to make a carbon copy – this will save the poor magazine typist having to do a copy of the original. Many thanks. Also, if you are approached to write a report on any event in our religious or social calendar, please do not be overawed! Short, to the point impressions are most acceptable and very often the most valuable to the reader.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY – BOX OPENING EVENING

There will be a chance for all holders of Children's Society Collecting Boxes to meet each other over a cup of coffee while having their boxes opened and the money counted, on Thursday 12 July, from 7.00 to 10.00 pm at 68 Park Road. The amount collected from the boxes last year was just about £50. and with new box-holders this year's amount should be substantially more than this. On the same evening there will be a chance to purchase goods sold by the Society, chiefly greetings cards, notelets, etc. Please come, bring your box and your friends and family too.

H.T.

AROUND THE SPIRE

On May 29, Helen Lawrance is leaving Hampton Hill for the Third World. She is off to Lesotho in Southern Africa to spend almost three months at the Anglican Community, the Convent of the Holy Name, in Leribe. The Sisters run a school as well as doing pastoral work and several jobs are lined up ready for Helen's arrival including driving the supply truck to Durban for the school's holiday at the seaside, teaching English to the novices as well as secretarial duties. We hope she will be sending us the odd report for The Spire. Bon Voyage Helen.

Sincere congratulations to Connie and Rupert Brunt who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary at the beginning of May.

We regret to record that Percy Rockliffe, brother of our respected Churchwarden, died suddenly at his home in the Kent countryside recently. For many years a bank manager in Chislehurst, he remained very active in his retirement, and as chairman of the Kent Association for the Blind he did much valuable work for their welfare, and a garden attached to a home for the blind in Cliftonville bears his name. When visiting his brother in Teddington he would come with him to our Parish Communion, so he was no stranger to many of us.

The Parochial Church Council for 1979/80 is made up as follows:-

The Vicar, Churchwardens and Readers (ex officio). Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Ruth Mills and Hannah Stanton (we need one more); Parochial Representatives: Roma Bridges, Hilde Bucknell, Eileen Elia, Anne Kibble, Margaret Leatherdale, Lesley Mortimer, Margery Orton, Ursula Pearce, Eila Severn, Priscilla Smith, Margaret Taylor; Trevor Atkinson, Terence Baldwin, Ronald Bridges, Michael Bunce, Michael Childs, Anthony Hennessy, David Parry, Halford Severn.

VIEW FROM THE PEW

In last month's answers to the APCM Questionnaire someone asked why there were not more young people in church.

Is part of the answer that a lot of people think religion is to do with dying? As you get older it is wise to try and get on good terms with God. Those people that talk about a Final Judgement just might be right?

It does not occur to many outsiders that getting to know Christ teaches you to live. Christianity certainly is about living. One must conclude that our example is not convincing.

ALL HALLOWS CHURCH, CHERTSEY ROAD, TWICKENHAM FLOWERS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE 30 – JULY 2

We extend a warm invitation to your members to spend a peaceful hour or so with us on this special occasion.

All Hallows Church, Twickenham, continues the life and work of All Hallows, Lombard Street, in the City of London. The original church was built by Sir Christopher Wren in the City following the Great Fire of 1666, which destroyed the earlier church on the site.

You may know the famous square Tower – a well known landmark on the Chertsey Road. This Tower, containing eight of the original magnificent bells, was erected stone by stone on the present site in 1939/40. In it are all the treasures worth preserving from the Lombard Street site. It is truly an admixture of old and new.

Why not pay us a visit during the Festival? The leaflet gives all the necessary details. Should you wish to bring a party of say more than 12, please let the Festival Treasurer know in advance.

Programmes are available in advance at 50p each, also from the Treasurer. We hope to see you and some of your members in June.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Talbot (Vicar)

Peter Todd and George Roper (Churchwardens)

Peter Coles (Festival Treasurer)

N.B. Leaflets and Programmes and other information from: Peter Coles, 114, Whitton Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BS. Telephone No. 01-892 4877.

THE BISHOP WAND SCHOOL

On Saturday, 16 June, 1979, commencing at 2.00 pm The Bishop Wand Church of England Secondary School will be holding its Summer Fete in the school grounds at Layton's Lane, Sunbury-on-Thames. As many readers will know, the school draws its pupils from a wide area, covering some 30 parishes, including our own, and since its founding in 1969 the school has rapidly achieved a name for educational 'forward thinking' in the widest sense, based on high academic standards and Christian principles. As in previous years the proceeds will go towards the provision of facilities outside the scope of the finance provided by the Church, State or Local Authority. The main target will be a donation towards the purchase of a mini bus, two of which are to be purchased to replace the bus which the school once owned.

Please come and enjoy yourselves on this occasion and at the same time contribute to a very worthwhile cause. Admission is by programme price 10p which can be obtained from members of the school or at the gate on the June 16. Car parking will be available in the grounds.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERING (Formerly Newcomers' Party)

Once or twice a year, we of St. James's have been visiting and inviting to a party as many newcomers to Hampton Hill as we could find. The sole purpose of the parties was to arrange pleasant and friendly evenings where one could learn about our local history and meet other new Hampton Hill residents.

These evenings have proved very popular and we now feel they would appeal to a wider section of our community, so the invitation is to be extended to include everyone who would be interested — newcomers, old stagers and newer residents who might have missed previous parties.

At these parties you will be greeted with a cup of coffee, followed at 8.15 pm by a talk on the history of Hampton Hill with some very interesting slides produced by our local history group showing the last 100 years of life in our village and what remains of the original village today. After the talk there will be time for general chat and refreshments.

We have divided the parish into four sections and an invitation to a party to be held on 28 June at 7.45 pm in the Hall, School Road, will be sent to all the residents in the area bounded by Burton's Road to the railway, the railway, Hanworth Road and St. James's Road. Over the next twelve months there will be parties to cover the other areas in the parish, but if you or any of your neighbours would like to attend the June party, please do not hesitate to come. You will be most welcome.

CHEMISTS' ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

June	10	D.G. Manley, 122 High Street, Teddington
	17	F.G. Martin, 3 Station Approach, Hampton
	24	E. & R. Kirby, 53 High Street, Teddington
July	1	Boots, 66 Broad Street, Teddington
	8	D.R. Thomas, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
	15	H. Hall, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

June

- 9 All-day MASS ATTACK in the Churchyard
- 10 TRINITY SUNDAY: The Welcome Service at 16.30 will present themes related to the International Year of the Child
- 11 ST. BARNABAS: 10.30 Editorial Board (75 St. James's Avenue); 19.15 Holy Communion
- 12 20.00 Social Committee (115 Burton's Road)
- 14 CORPUS CHRISTI: 19.15 Holy Communion; 20.00 Parochial Church Council (W)
- 16 14.00 Bishop Wand School: Summer Fete
- 19 20.00 Prayer Meeting (75 Burton's Road); Tuesday Club AGM (W)
- 21 10.30 Young Families' Group: 'Children in Hospital' (W)
- 20 19.15 Holy Communion
- 26 NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST; 19.15 Holy Communion
- 28 19.45 NEIGHBOURHOOD & NEWCOMERS' PARTY (Hall)
- 29 ST. PETER'S DAY (Day of Prayer for more Priests): 19.15 Holy Communion (NB. Choir Practice 19.50)
- 30 PARISH PICNIC. Flowers & Music Festival begins at All Hallows Church.

July

- 3 20.00 Tuesday Club (W); Hampton Council of Churches (Methodist Church, Percy Road)
- 4 14.30 Mothers' Union Service (Preacher: The Rev. Tom Maidment), followed by Afternoon Tea on the church lawn; 19.15 Holy Communion
- 5 10.30 Young Families' Group: 'A typical day at Playschool' (W)
- 7 14.30 Wel-Care Garden Party (Vicarage lawn)
- 8 Themes at the Welcome Service at 16.30 will be related to SEA SUNDAY

BAPTISM

- May 13 Zoe Forbes, 28 Royal Road
Benjamin Paul Gidlow, 218 Hanworth Road
James Richard Lyall, 73 St. James's Avenue
Richard Henry Nottage, 4B St. James's Road

MARRIAGES

- March 24 Richard John Farrow to Geraldine Johnson
- 31 Robert Alan Firman to Lorna Jean Howells

CREMATIONS

- May 8 William Malcolm Bell, 226 Uxbridge Road, aged 79 years
(at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)
- 9 Jonathan Bridgeman Towers, 55 Park Road, aged 82 years
(at South-West Middlesex Crematorium)