

"Like a mighty army moves the Church of God" are words which come from a hymn familiar to many - 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. To some this has been a stirring hymn from the first time they heard the words and to others it represents a totally unacceptable image of the Church. Where does the truth lie? The word army brings to mind for many the idea of military might in all its horror and violence, all its arrogance and overbearing attitudes. And there is no reason why it should not, for we have seen many military men (and women if we count Boadicea!) act quite appallingly and use the power and privilege given them for selfish and wrong purposes. Many of the world's dictators have been, and are, people with a military training and background. And yet the word 'army' also has other associations and if you consult the dictionary you will find that it represents also the ideas of organisation and of a collection of people on a vast scale. And surely this is much nearer the sense associated with the Salvation Army and the Church Army. We all associate the Salvation Army with the marvellous practical works of help which it is engaged in all over the world. Hostels for the poor and homeless, feeding the hungry and being in the forefront of any help needed during an emergency. We also I think associate it with a certain robustness of faith which means being prepared to witness in public whether by individual testimony or by the playing of music by the bands. Perhaps some of us feel a little bit put to shame by that preparedness to invite criticism by putting faith on public view.

By contrast comparatively few people know much about the Church Army. To correct this we have invited the local officers of the Church Army to preach at our Sunday Services on October 11th. And there will be an exhibition in the Church which will be mounted on Saturday to which we invite all those who would like to find out more about the Church Army and what it does. In short it is a Church of England organisation which looks for ways in which it can preach the Gospel and serve the community. Like the Salvation Army it calls its active members 'Officers' and calls them Captain. As members of the Church of England its members are licensed to preach and work by the Bishops. It is involved in many projects connected with the disadvantaged in our Society. Some of you will have met Audrey Shilling whom we supported for a while in Bow in East London until she retired. Some of you will have met Len Christiansen working among young people in West London. The Church Army also works amongst drug addicts and runs homes for the elderly. Like so many organisations of its kind today it is going through a rough time, partly through lack of money and partly because there seems to be a dearth of people prepared to live a life of uncertainty, hard work and poor pay. Let us here at least not suffer from ignorance of what the Church Army strives to do. We are part of the same 'army' or vast number of people called to preach the Gospel. Let us be organised and help in the work. First of all we have to find out what the work is. Here is the opportunity.

*Nicholas Chubb*

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**DON'T BE SURPRISED** if you find mistakes in this magazine. We print something for everyone. And some people are always looking for mistakes.

## **Dry Rot In The Church**

To be specific, the reference is to our building, and not the Church as an institution!

There have been at least two previous outbreaks in St. James's; one in the fifties causing extensive damage to the floors at the East end, and another in the tower in the early sixties. Very probably, fungus and spores have since lain dormant in the building.

'Dry rot' is a misnomer, since this fungus growth is normally set off by a combination of dampness and warmth causing the spores to germinate. Thus started, the fungus feeds on the cellulose in time, sending out roots which can travel behind plaster and through masonry.

Once established, an outbreak can spread through an entire building in a matter of weeks.

We were therefore lucky that this outbreak was located where it could be spotted and quickly dealt with while it was in its early stages.

The cause was in one of our cast iron Victorian rainwater heads which had rusted through and repeatedly became blocked, soaking the vestry wall.

In the event, the rot, which came from an old timber member buried in the brickwork, affected only the lower ends of a few of the vestry roof members, which were fairly easily replaced. For safety's sake however, we had to also open up the ceilings of the chancel to make sure that the infection had not spread into the roof there.

This cleared, reinstatement did not take long, thanks to very prompt action by our Architect, John Deal, and excellent co-operation from Messrs. E.G. Hollis, who did the building repairs.

In fact, from first confirmation of the outbreak to completion of the building work took just three weeks.

As we had to clear the vestry for this work, it then made sense to take advantage of the opportunity to carry out a long overdue redecoration.

Many thanks to all who helped in providing this much needed facelift.

*Jack Gostling*

## **John Sutton - The Church In Peru - Morning Service 6th Sept.**

When John Sutton, Youth Secretary of the South American Missionary Society, and his wife went out to Peru they spent the first year learning Spanish and finding out about the country. There is little stability - being in the earthquake belt even the ground trembles - governments constantly changing, the rate of inflation 200% and great uncertainty in pocket, mind and spirit. God certainly needed to build His church here.

In shifting ground buildings and people need firm foundations. The church John and the people built had to have foundations that would hold in earthquake - natural and spiritual. Christ was its spiritual foundation - God the rock; its walls were faith and constancy, prayer, hope and love. "Build your Church Lord, make it strong Lord" we sang! Money too was always needed among poverty stricken people "Freely, freely have you received, freely, freely give" we sang! More workers in the field were needed, fifteen in Peru alone but they were not forthcoming. John had brought with him leaflets not only giving information about the South American countries but several filled with prayers for us to use for "building a People of Power".

In talking of the need for constancy John said that in such surroundings it was very possible that one would catch a flea. The flea fed and then hopped off on to the next person. Many Christians were rather like this, hopping from one project to another instead of working faithfully at one! He was an inspiring speaker and the love of God and his fellows shone out of his face. His people in Peru must miss him.

*M. Orton*

## **A Missionary From Peru**

So - what do you know about Peru? Not a great deal, is probably the answer. Let's see, the capital is Lima and didn't Paddington Bear hail from 'darkest Peru'? Well that's about all I knew about Peru until the visit of Rev. John Sutton a few weeks ago. He was a missionary in Peru for eight years in the South American Missionary Society and for the last two years has spent his time travelling round most of south-east England telling people what life is like in Peru. And life in Peru for the majority of people is pretty tough as you can imagine. There is a drift away from the land to the towns bringing with it all the urban problems we see in so many places. Shanty towns spring up on the outskirts of larger towns and no services are available until the people can prove that they have been on the land for more than five years. There are many homeless youngsters living rough on the streets and the authorities have no resources to help them. It is estimated that over nine million under thirteens live like this in South America.

Lima itself is a very dreary and depressing place but nevertheless the Christian message is very much alive in Peru and at the eight o'clock in the evening service John took up Paul's guitar and together we learned a South American song in Spanish. It was very simple but immediately we identified with those Christians, who are very happy to stand and sing for two hours or more of God's love for them and what He has done for them. If they, who have so little can do this, what about us, who have so much. Let us at least remember the Missionary Societies in our prayers and John Sutton and Margaret Cranston especially. Let us also be generous in our giving to the work that these people undertake on our behalf in bringing people to an understanding of Jesus and His love for them.

On a final note John Sutton is looking for people to run the New York Marathon with him in Autumn 1988, they will have to finance themselves and they would also have to look for sponsors to support the work of SAMS but it would be quite a challenge - is there anyone out there interested? If you are please speak to me or the Vicar.

*Helen Taylor*

**FROM THE CRUSADES TO THE BLITZ...AND  
THE SUMMER FETE, WE OWE A LOT TO**

# **THE NOBLE KNIGHTS & LADIES OF ST. JOHN**



They are almost taken for granted. Throughout the country they give over 4 million hours each year to unpaid voluntary work, keeping a watchful eye on the crowds at country village fetes and attending venues as diverse as cinema and theatre performances, the Royal Wedding, football matches and the new Year's revelry in Trafalgar Square. For a major event such as the London marathon, they provide more than a thousand qualified volunteers, backed by a fleet of ambulances and mobile First Aid centres.

They are members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade whose centenary is celebrated this year.

The Brigade is a foundation of the Order of St. John which has its origins in medieval times when monastic brothers ran a hospice for pilgrims in Jerusalem. The Order itself was founded after the First Crusade and subsequently was based first in Cyprus, then Rhodes and finally Malta. The English branch was dissolved by Henry VIII but the Order was revived in England in the nineteenth century. Ambulance Corps were set up and these were formed into the Brigade in 1877 so that a recognised body of fully qualified volunteers would be on duty at public events and wherever crowds collect to give First Aid treatment and to organise an ambulance service.

Over the last century, the work of St. John Ambulance has developed considerably. Highly specialised teams regularly undertake mountain rescue work and, in coastal and lakeland regions, waterborne units are on call day and night. In the fields of community care and auxiliary nursing, St. John members give constant help throughout the country to the lonely, aged and handicapped at home and also at child welfare clinics, residential nurseries and hospitals.

Recent developments include the Aeromedical Service, which brings back sick and injured people from abroad, and the Air Wing, which is the largest provider of emergency transport of transplant organs and transplant teams. And now St. John is taking the lead in providing basic health care in the Third World with a programme to teach volunteers who will be able to pass on to others simple medical knowledge and skills.

All these activities are carried out by unpaid volunteers - and are entirely financed by voluntary donations. Your local division is in Park Road, Teddington. First Aid courses are run in January to March each year on Wednesday evenings. If you need further information please contact Carol Atkinson on 979 - 0146.

## Parish Ramble - 12th September

About 27 people gathered outside St. James's church, plus Sally the Taylor's dog. Those of us who don't have cars of our own were packed into other people's and we were off to Newlands Corner, west of Guildford, for a 7 mile walk through beautiful countryside. We started off along the valley top with lovely views stretching for miles before going down into the woods. We had our picnic near Tylings Farm. It started to rain a bit so we did not linger too long but carried on with the fields all sectioned out like a giant jigsaw puzzle to the right of us. We climbed a steep hill and on The Pilgrim's Way we looked over to Shalford village having paused to admire an enormous, unhappily derelict, tythe barn. It was hot work and we were all grateful to Coryn for sharing her delicious juicy apples with us.

Some of the families with young children parted company with us for a shorter way home whilst the rest of us went on. We crossed a river and saw a large trout farm. Some of the paths were very muddy and there were plenty of stinging nettles and so several "ouch's" were heard and dock leaves and soothing cream came into use. We rested a bit having drinks and sharing each others food. In isolation, in a tree-covered valley along the stream where the rare Jewel Orange Balsam grows we came across the ruins of several gunpowder mills, the grinding stones which used to grind the ingredients for the explosive still intact. Water power was used and there was a water wheel dating back to the 16/17th century which was still in use at the end of the 1914-18 war. St. Martha's Chapel, dating back to Saxon times was damaged by a gunpowder explosion and was rebuilt in 1848.

We now came to a very steep, muddy path up the valley side and after nearly four hours of walking some of us were very weary but Alan kept his brotherly eye on us all and helped us along - our ages ranged from five to eighty! We were very relieved when we reached the flat path along Albury Downs and neared the carpark with its welcome kiosk serving hotdogs, chips, ice creams and tea. So ended a tiring but lovely, happy day. I think nearly everybody commented on how well I had done and encouraged me along the way. Who would have thought that just six months ago I was lying paralysed in hospital! Thank you, those who organised such a wonderful day.

*V. Clark*

## Why The Julian Group?

The answer is because in the light of her experience Julian of Norwich both knew and said that "Prayer one-eth the soul to God", so what better name for a prayer group than the one chosen?

Mother Julian of Norwich lived between 1342 and 1425 - the exact dates are not known. She experienced 16 unforgettable "shewings" of Christ which she caused to be set down in her "Revelations of Divine Love" which, together with Thomas a Kempis's "Imitation of Christ" is one of the most well read books in the world. She became an anchorite and many people made pilgrimages to consult and pray with her. During the present century she has been "rediscovered" and once more people are making pilgrimages to her shrine in Norwich.

There is a Penguin edition of her Revelations and a couple of little books of abstracts "Enfolded in Love" and "In Love Enclosed". All available at the Bridge Bookshop, Hounslow.

*M. Orton*

## **Children's Working Mornings**

During August Pam Atkinson and others organised a twice-weekly morning for young children in the meeting room and garden of St. Michael and St. George Church, Fulwell. I went along to find out how things were progressing. I found a part of the room occupied by busy little people sitting at low tables colouring pictures all relating to Moses - the subject chosen for study in a play setting.

Another area of the room was very active as helpers were dressing children from a collection of long garments and with pieces of material draped over their heads secured by head ties thus transforming them into Beduins.

As the children passed through the door I followed and found a hive of activity in the garden. These miniature Beduins were busy erecting tents as used in the desert. This all caused a great deal of amusement as the tents were inclined to collapse when nearing completion.

As I bade farewell I was kindly invited to join all at their simple barbecue of sausages and bread. I left with an impression of a happy and educational morning. I went again the next week but found a funeral in progress - so, of course - no cheery children. I tried once more but there was no one around; perhaps I mistook the day. However, I think that sometime in October we may be entertained, in the two churches concerned, by a play developed from this training.

*Alison Thompson*

## **From Hilde**

We would like to thank our dear friends in Hampton Hill for the lovely farewell they gave us when we left for Haselbury Plucknett. It has been so good receiving all your cards here in our new home.

What they say about the quieter pace of life in the country must be a myth! Trying to put a very neglected house and garden into some sort of order has, so far, kept us very busy. With a very active W.I., various church activities and a whole host of adult education classes on offer one could soon find one's evenings booked up.

Although Haselbury is a true working farming village - we have the land of a large cheese producing farm all around us and the smell of cows drifts into the house at any time - we have so far not personally met any true Somerset aborigines; the people who stay behind for coffee after church are all immigrants from London and elsewhere. Everyone is really friendly, the welcome has been super.

It has also been splendid to greet some Hampton Hill folk here. Keep it up. We love to see you. Our address is: Tinkers, North Street, Haselbury Plucknett, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7RJ. Tel: 0460 74418.

## **Flower Festival At Misterton**

Last Sunday we went to a flower festival in aid of the sister parish. Unfortunately it was the first rainy day we have had here but it hardly detracted from the charm of St. Leonard's Church, Misterton, set in a leafy, beautifully kept country churchyard. As an inscription along the organ loft told us, the church was rebuilt in 1840, providing for 250 seatings, 213 of which should be free. The walls of the impressive neo-gothic room, without any side aisles, were painted a pale yellow and provided a perfect setting for the flower arrangements which illustrated all the named wedding anniversaries. Apart from the obvious deep red chrysanthemums for ruby (40 years) and pure white carnations for diamond (60 years). I found a pale green cascade of foliage for emerald (55 years) particularly attractive. Sapphire (45 years) was depicted by a delicate fan of mauvy wild flowers. The most charming arrangement of all, though, was that for the humble 5th anniversary - wood. A little mossy garden with two overgrown 'tree trunks' and the most dainty miniature cyclamen; so fresh and natural.

Demonstration of crafts like weaving, all set out in oak beamed rooms of buildings near the church, and tea with a wide choice of home made cakes rounded the pleasure of this lovely afternoon. It was so nice to already recognise familiar faces and be greeted by name after only three weeks here in our new locality.

*Hilde Bucknell*

## **London City Mission**

If I were to ask readers what they knew about LCM I expect I would receive a variety of answers ranging from "Do what John?" to "Ah yes, well of course we've known xyz for years". Up until about 1st August I was firmly in the first category, but over the past twelve months I have worked with a team of about 20 young people attached to LCM. This is what I have discovered.

LCM is made up of people who have a desire to share the Good News of Jesus with the people of London. Why do they do this? Well, perhaps firstly because they love God and are grateful for how He has changed their lives. Many (such as Brian Greenaway) were unhappy, wondering, frustrated people until Jesus gave them a new life. Secondly they have a great compassion for people, and long to share their faith that the lives of other people might be changed. This compassion is particularly evident at the West End Day Centre where alcoholics and homeless people can come for a meal and can hear about the love and life-transforming power of Jesus. One of the staff members there was an alcoholic himself and longs to see other alcoholics released from the bondage of drink. Thirdly, Jesus' last command to his disciples was to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:18). Of course, not all are called to join LCM or any other missionary society to fulfil this command but some believe that to obey this command is God's call to them.

The small team of which I was a part had some of these same reasons. And so the year began. We would have been hypocrites talking about God's love and power to transform seemingly hopeless situations if we didn't experience it ourselves. And so we all had to make fairly major adjustments in our life style as we got used to living at very close quarters to each other. Sharing a dorm with 5 other blokes encouraged me to become much tidier, and many of the other team members really irritated me! However, this was true for all of us. We found that asking God to give us a love for each other enabled us to live together very well as we learned to serve each other instead of selfishly putting ourselves first.

And then there were the day's activities. Most days we would visit people in their homes, getting to know them and giving them the Good News that Jesus would forgive their sins, give them a new life now and a place with Him in heaven for eternity if they simply believed he was who he claimed to be - the Son of God - and repented (i.e., said sorry to God for wanting to lead their lives without Him). and turned away from their sin and made Jesus Lord of their lives (i.e. wanted to let Jesus change their attitudes).

We also ran a youth club and a children's club which both were very hard work but rewarding as about three lads turned to follow Jesus. After all, an exciting year. The conclusion? God is very much alive today, and working powerfully in people's lives.

*Andrew Chubb*

## **Margaret Cranston**

In November we are looking forward to another visit from Margaret on leave again from her work in Nepal. Many of you will remember that she had some fascinating things to tell us about her life and work there. She will be here from Friday 13th until Monday 16th. I hope that she will be able to show us a new set of slides of her work on Saturday evening and she will be preaching at the Sunday services. She will also be talking to the children at Hampton Hill Junior School on Monday morning before she leaves, as she did last time. If anyone would like to offer her hospitality do please let me know. She will be sleeping at the Vicarage, but otherwise will be willing to accept meals with any family.

Here are a few extracts from her last letter in July:

'We are now well into the second term here at Gandaki Boarding School, Pokhara. The girls have all returned happily and safely . . . . they know the routine . . . . they know the rules and go to bed without too many complaints, they don't make too much noise before 5.30 am and they get on with their cleaning and sweeping duties without too many reminders.

. . . . This is the monsoon season so the weather is either hot and humid or raining heavily. The consequences of this are that no one has much energy and everyone gets tired more quickly than usual, clothes don't dry, towels are always damp, cameras start growing mould, food doesn't keep, the electricity keeps going off, lots of people get sick and everyone gets wet and muddy!

Doubtless she will bring us up to date on this and much more when she comes. Put the dates in your diary.

## **From The Registers**

### **Baptisms**

August 23	Jessica Alison Burman Stephanie Louise Sheldrake	94 Rectory Grove 7 Laurel Road
September 13	Luke Alexander Pickett Jonathon Nicholas Peter Howarth	77 Waverley Road, Stoneleigh 115 Uxbridge Road

### **Wedding**

August 22      Duncan John Colquhoun and Fleur Gorham

## **St. James's Women's Tuesday Club - Wayside 8pm**

8 September	Social
22 September	Talk by Mrs. Janet Formby on The Princess Alice Hospice at Esher
6 October	Fashion Show by Harriet
20 October	My visit to America - talk by Monica Lockyer
3 November	Musical Quiz arranged by Pat Young
17 November	Sherlock Holmes - talk by Mr Vernon Goslin
1 December	Wild Flowers - talk with slides by Mrs. P. Bigg
15 December	Christmas Party

## **A Notice For Parents With Young Children**

We have been asked to give guidance as to when it would be least distracting to bring young children into the Sunday Parish Communion and yet to be worthwhile. It generally works out that there is a natural break in the service at about 10.10. The Intercessions are over and the Offertory Hymn is about to begin. So aim for ten minutes past ten and all should be well. We will endeavour to see that sidesmen are ready to welcome you. Please tell all parents with small children.

*Nicholas Chubb*

## **Around The Spire**

We are delighted that Lesse Mills is so quickly out of hospital after recently breaking a hip and that Ruth is recovering from a fall she had while on holiday. We wish them both a speedy return to full health.

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Rosemary Woodland's first baby Luke. Grandparents Ray and Brenda Oliver are reputed to be thrilled and we hope to see them for the Baptism on 15th November.

## Dates To Note

October	1	20.00	P.C.C. Special Meeting to discuss Groups
	3	10.00	Churchyard Working Party
	4		Harvest Festival
	6	20.00	Hampton Council of Churches AGM at St. James
	10		Church Army Exhibition
	11		Church Army Speakers at Sunday Services
	18	16.30	United Service for Week of Prayer for World Peace Speaker: Dr. Edward Carpenter, lately Dean of Westminster
	20	20.00	Deanery Synod
21	20.00	P.C.C.	
25	18.30	Cantata for Harvest 'Ruth' at the evening service	
November	7	10.00	Churchyard Working Party
	13		Visit of Margaret Cranston who will be speaking on Nepal at the Sunday Services and looking forward to meeting her friends.
	17	20.00	Properties Committee
	24	20.00	P.C.C.
	29		Special Music for Advent Sunday
December	5	14.00	Quiet Afternoon in preparation for Christmas led by Rev. Kitty Platt, Dean of Women's Work for the Kensington Area.

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A **PROCRASTINATOR** is one who puts off till tomorrow the things he has already put off until today.

**LAUGHLINE:** "Mummy, does God use our bathroom?"

"Of course not darling. Why?"

"Because every morning daddy bangs on the door and shouts, Oh God, are you still in there!"

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