

Dear Friends at St. James's,

PENTECOST - Sunday 22nd May 1988

It was good to see so many people keeping this important Church Festival at the services that Sunday. All were a wonderfully joyful expression of the Spirit of Pentecost.

Susan and I cannot begin to thank you enough for the splendid send-off you gave us that evening. It will remain long in our memories.

Thank you tremendously for the gifts you showered upon us: the delicious cake that kept us all going throughout the move itself; the memento from the Mothers' Union, which is even now occupying a place of honour on the mantelpiece; the photographic record of the last seven years so expertly compiled by Dick Waltham; the box of beautiful dried flowers; and the incredibly generous cheque for £600. Soon we will be able to let you know how we plan to spend it.

Special thanks, too, to all those who spoke so warmly. Also to those who sent messages because they could not be there, and to those who prepared the delicious refreshments.

It seems hardly possible that already we have been in Peterborough for a fortnight, surrounded by so many lovely cards and reminders of all of you. We think of you often as we settle into our new home and way of life.

We have many very happy memories of the seven years we spent amongst you and would love to see anyone who is brave enough to venture north of Potters Bar! (but do give us warning, so that we can be sure to be there to greet you).

With our love and Christian greetings to you all.

Nicholas and Susan

Nicholas and Susans' new address is:

40 Bathurst, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, Cambs. PE20 0QH.

A FITTING FAREWELL FOR NICHOLAS AND SUSAN

Imagine a church full of red and white flowers, of people and a scarcely repressed bubbling excitement, and you have conjured up the scene of the Pentecost evening service, Nicholas and Susan Chubb's last service at St. James's. Alan Taylor, churchwarden elect, opened the service and welcomed the parishioners. Then followed music and liturgical dancing to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. The music had been composed by our own Paul and Margaret Revis and performed by their group "The Travellers". There was a great feeling of community and belonging as Eila Severn, Coryn Robinson, Debbie Nunn, Joanna Vince, Jennifer Lloyd, Sheri Sazegar, Rosalie Meyerowitz and Pat Young danced feelingly the story of Jesus's resurrection, narrated very clearly by Vera Rockcliffe.

The second part of the service was conducted by Nicholas with a sermon and prayers. We were asked to have faith in the months to come: to remain faithful to the church and hence to one another. We were reminded of the symbolic structure of the chancel roof beams, in the shape of an A and O, that God is Beginning and the end - Alpha and Omega.

Presentations to Nicholas and Susan followed: a cheque embracing donations from many parishioners, a beautiful album collated by Dick Waltham of photographs depicting the church and its surroundings throughout the seven years that Nicholas has been Vicar here at St. James'. There were speeches from Eila Severn and Alan Taylor expressing our thanks to Nicholas and Susan, and wishing them well in their new venture*. Little Suzanne Nunn then presented a posy of flowers to Susan and there was also a gift from the Mothers' Union presented by Jean Wilson. Nicholas and Susan were obviously moved and their voices were feeling the strain after a long emotional day, but the humour was not lost when Nicholas asked for some WD40 to clear his throat!

The evening was rounded off with delicious light refreshments accompanied by wine and punch, clearly indicating the hard work which had been put in by many to make the evening a great success. There was informal chatting as the evening drew to a close, and a queue of people waiting to bid Nicholas and Susan a personal farewell and to share a few last precious moments with them. All in all, in spite of the inevitable sadness of farewell, it was yet a happy and enjoyable evening which, I know, will be remembered for a long time to come. I know that everyone in the Church joins me in wishing Nicholas and Susan all the very best as they begin a new phase of their life together and in thanking them for their tremendous input during their time with us. Certainly we shall miss them greatly.

Pippa Butterfield

*Eila Severn's tribute to Nicholas and Susan included the fine example of a loving, caring Christian family which the Chubb family have given us; Nicholas's affinity with young families which has resulted in so many of them becoming regular worshippers, his fabulous memory for names and faces - never forgetting the couples he married, the children he baptised and confirmed, they were not just names to him but valued individuals. In a very few weeks after coming here he had memorised the names of all the communicants, caringly prefacing "the Body of Christ" by each individual name, (a deeply meaningful and valued service which many, including myself, will very much miss). Alan said that Nicholas had had "a hard row to hoe" coming from a country environment to minister in the Thames Valley with its suburban apathy. He had bridged the gap and taken up the challenge calmly, taking a moderate path which encouraged people to use their mind and reason. He had the very necessary gift of a sense of humour which often must have stood him in good stead. He never failed to encourage the ministry of the laity, irrespective of sex. He was imbued with great qualities both as a man and a priest, going out to meet people and also willing to step aside with them and help them. He encouraged active involvement as a means to spiritual growth and had a great impact on family life - he and his family will be greatly missed from among us.

Margery Orton

Highlights of Nicholas Chubb's

7th Annual Report to the ACM

Nicholas said that one of his first reactions on seeing the profile of the parish and then reading the parish magazine was "What a lot goes on at St. James". He found that this proved to be true and that "much more so than in many parishes, there has grown up a large number of people and groups who have learned to share in ministry of a wide variety; ministry of action and ministry of word". He remarked that not many parishes can boast of having four people trained as Readers, and throughout the congregation it was evident that "involvement is what helps a good many people to grow". He went on to enumerate all the different and varied work carried on at St. James's and to thank those chiefly responsible - names well known to us but which lack of space precludes mention of here. Our Readers, those who plan the services, those who clean and beautify the church, the sidesmen, the readers of the lessons, the musicians, the leaders of the various house groups, the overseers of the linen and the bookstall, of the Wayside Monday Centre. So many jobs faithfully performed; parish breakfast, secretarial work, stewardship recording, maintenance of church properties and churchyard, keeping the accounts, arranging the social life of the church, the Mothers' Union, the Sunday Schools, the uniformed groups, Tuesday Club and Young Families Group. On and on, so much achieved by so many people, in one year - so what about in seven years?

In reviewing the achievements over his time with us, he started by giving thanks for the warmth of the welcome extended to himself and to his family. His aim had been to make St. James's more widely known over the whole area of the parish and to spread the Good News of the Gospel to its furthest corners. We have not succeeded fully in this although changing the pattern of our services and the introduction of the Informal Service and the Prayer and Praise Service, the starting of Healing Services and now the integration of the Healing Service into the pattern of the Eucharist has helped a growing number of people to have a good experience of church worship. "It is vital" he said, "not to lose touch with those who have come and to continue our efforts to meet people personally face to face". (In this he has certainly set us a good example.)

Nicholas spoke of the remodelling of the church, the re-sited altar on the new raised stage in front of the chancel, the warm carpeting, the speech re-inforcement equipment with the loop system for those with hearing difficulties - all helpful to the more effective and dignified conduct of the services.

A solid way forward would be through the growth and encouragement of Fellowship Groups, some already well established, some just beginning; undoubtedly the pattern for future togetherness in Christ, ultimately spreading parish wide.

Nicholas, having paid warm tribute to so many gave a special word to the support of "some marvellous church wardens" - a strongpoint in the parish was that it could produce so many worthy - in the best sense of the word - people for this onerous job - "no soft option this, no sinecure" and he added wryly "no such support in my new job!".

Margery Orton

ST. JAMES'S DAY

Make a date in your diary.

ST. JAMES'S DAY will be celebrated on **JULY 24th**

The Parish Communion at 9.30am will be conducted by Rev. Rupert Brunt and Rev. Gordon Wilson, and we hope to have some special musical items and a **FULL CHURCH**.

The afternoon Service will be at 4.30pm when Rupert Brunt will be preaching. Tea will be served afterwards: weather permitting it will be on the lawn outside.

Come and join us, let's fill the church and really celebrate!

New Church Warden

Time for another change of Church Warden - it seems to pass so quickly.

We say "thank you" to Eila Severn for her term of office and welcome Alan Taylor, the man we must all know for the part he takes in the life of the church, in the services where his deep spirituality shines from his vigorous words from the pulpit and for the many other ways in which he demonstrates his strong religious faith.

Alan came from Birmingham to London in 1959 and joined St. James's Church about three years later and then helped with the Young People's Fellowship for about ten years. Many young people got their grounding in the faith through him and several of them have taken Holy Orders.

After a four year course he obtained a London University Diploma of Religious Studies and became a Reader in our church and went on from strength to strength being Chairman of the Stewardship Committee and organiser and leader of the Koinonia for many fruitful years.

Always interested in young people he started and ran for a few years in the more recent past a Youth group known as The Questors. Now, a great believer in the Ministry of the Laity, both men and women, he is active in the Prayer and Praise services and has organised many interesting speakers for that besides preaching powerfully himself.

He has helped with the Lent Groups, with many maintenance jobs around the church buildings and churchyard and his strong voice has been very effective on social occasions, rising above the noise at Christmas parties as M.C.!

Being always cheerful and ready to help should make him an ideal Church Warden and we thank him for agreeing to serve and wish him a very happy and satisfying term of office. We include Helen in our good wishes for I'm sure that she will be as always right beside him all the way like a "Warden's Curate!".

Alison Thompson

If your troubles are long standing and deep seated, try kneeling!

"Sing Forth ... Make His Praise Glorious"

If Christians are having difficulties in their mission to non-Christian neighbours it might be "because they are trying to sell an experience before they have had it themselves". That is one of the memorable things the Bishop of Bath and Wells told his congregation of well over 1,000 worshippers when he spoke during the closing service on Saturday 21st May. (We had come together in Wells Cathedral for a Teach-In on the Holy Spirit, very appropriate for the Whitsun weekend.)

The Bishop of course meant that the coming of Christ into one's life has to become a real experience of good news. But I think he would not frown on the attempt to communicate the deep joy which some little fringe experiences can give. Imagine the huge beautiful building of Wells Cathedral absolutely packed with people of all ages, a little way in front of me a young mother was gently rocking her baby to our rhythms and some worshippers were very elderly indeed. The singing was led by a small orchestra who played the type of choruses St. James's own "Travellers" have made familiar in Prayer and Praise, and the lead singer had the same beautiful soprano as Margaret Revis - it soared up sweetly among the pointed arches. Even if one did not know a song it was easy to follow the clear lead and most of the words were simple and repetitive. After all, these choruses don't aim at making any intellectual statements, they are straightforward expressions of love for God; they are just simply worship. The beautiful thing was, however, that most people did seem to know these songs very well. They sang them with great fervour and from the heart. It was so thrilling to be part of a multitude of people who clearly loved the Lord. If thirty people join together to express their love in music, as in my new church, the sound remains rather thin however sincere the feeling; a hundred people in St. James's produce a far more powerful noise - but try to imagine one to two thousand all singing together - that really is something. It was just like a powerful tide; hands stretched up over the sea of heads clapping to the rhythms, applause after some songs, all came quite naturally. Nobody wanted to leave at the end. (*It is the same after Prayer 'n' Praise. Ed.*)

And then at one point when we had just sung a chorus twice, the lead singer became quiet, the instruments just continued playing the melody ever so softly, and gradually people began to harmonise spontaneously, producing a more and more complex, totally new sound. This singing in the Spirit did not last long but to me it was the most beautiful part of that hour of inspired and inspiring worship.

Hilde Bucknell

Amplification & Sound Equipment

The advance in technology in the church has created a new important position. That of the sound engineer. We now have a good amplification system in church but currently I think I am the only person who knows how it works. As I am often involved in the production of music I would like to train two or three people in the use of the system. It is not difficult to operate and no knowledge of the technical aspects of the equipment is required. The most important requisite is a keen sense of hearing to be able to detect any problems at an early stage. If anyone feels they could be of help I would be pleased to hear from them.

Paul Revis

Extracts from a Thank You Letter

We would like to convey our thanks to our friends at St. James's for the gift which you presented to us at the Parade Service on 6th March. The beautifully framed picture of St. James's Church is now installed in the hallway of our new home for all who visit us to admire.

We have had so many happy years of association with St. James's church that it is quite impossible to single out any one moment or incident to comment on. What we always found was friendliness, a helping hand when needed and appreciation of boys and adults for what we did in an effort to serve the community.

Our life in Witheridge is only just beginning and your prayers that the Lord will provide the means to make a living would be most welcome (especially in the light of falling numbers in Secondary Schools). We are optimistic that the Lord has brought us to Witheridge for a purpose. We wait patiently for His will to be unfolded to us.

We should be delighted to see you at any time you need a break, a telephone call will suffice.

Yours with love,

Yvonne and Michael Childs (0884 860012)

Christian Resources Exhibition

The fourth national Christian Resources Exhibition was held recently at the Sandown Exhibition Centre. It could perhaps be best described as an ecclesiastical Ideal Home exhibition. In conjunction with the main exhibition a series of lectures, films and seminars were held on different aspects of communicating the Faith. This theme of communication ran strongly through the main exhibition and in addition there were many stands showing support services such as heating, robes and vestments, electric organs and many other items that we take for granted.

The theme of communications fell into two parts, those who wished to communicate and those who wished to provide the means of communication. In the first category came just about every missionary society I had ever heard of, and many which were complete strangers. In the second category came the duplicators, sound systems, video systems, projectors and all the accompanying software which the new technology requires. Several companies were showing computers - essential for the parish office! There were in all 332 stands reflecting the various resources and back up the modern parish church needs but I suspect very few parish budgets could afford more than the most basic essentials.

My prime interest in the exhibition were the many stands belonging to music publishers. The range and volume of new music is quite staggering. So much is now being produced that it would be quite easy for a church never to sing a hymn more than once. I heard it said recently that religious revival and upsurge is always accompanied by an abundance of new music. Let us pray that the reverse is also true.

This exhibition is now an annual event. If you have the opportunity to attend next year (May 17-20) try and take it. It is a real eye opener in how the church is moving in this modern age to bring the christian message into the 21st century.

Paul Revis



There will be a box
in church
to receive donations for
**THE MISSION TO
SEAMEN**

Richmond Shakespeare May Fayre

I spent a whole day at the Fayre. There seemed to be more stalls, shows and people than usual and it was a perfect day.

After a hour of wandering, looking and spending we returned to the Duke Street Baptist church for lunch time refreshment and a look at the Art Exhibition, small but of an interesting standard. Then into the body of the church for the treat that I was looking forward to, the beautiful flower arrangements. We had time and we used it to proceed slowly, in and out of the pews to study the art and to read the small cards fixed on the wall beside each display giving the person's name and the church which they represented, so many over a wide area. Beside these name cards were larger cards and this is where we became intrigued.

Following up the Shakespeare theme we discovered that each floral tribute represented a quotation from the Bard, sometimes obvious, sometimes not, but the discovery which gave us pleasure was that underneath the quotation was another, this time from the Bible, saying the same thing in different words. It was fascinating.

My sister then went on a conducted tour of the theatre but I could only manage a seat in the dress circle and then buses for home. It had been a good and entertaining day, our purses were lighter and so were our hearts.

Alison Thompson - our Roving Reporter!

WANTED

New Magazine Committee Members. It is a very enjoyable committee to serve on. Have you just retired or are you a young mother with small baby who would slumber away during meetings? Come along - you haven't got to be literary prize winners - just interested and willing.

Contact: R. Bridges, Editor, on 979 6865

Doing The Lambeth Talk

While University of Kent students are away this month their place will be taken by 600 Anglican Bishops and Archbishops from all over the world. They are meeting in Canterbury from 16th July to 7th August in the Lambeth Conference, which is brought together by the Archbishop of Canterbury every ten years.

It takes two years of organisation to mount the mammoth event. At the 'home' end, David Long has been the organiser, and in Anglican Churches worldwide parishes and dioceses have been meeting to discuss the main themes of the conference with their Bishops and Archbishops.

Dr. Runcie has asked each Bishop in this way to 'bring his diocese with him'. When they disperse afterwards, the process should be reversed, when the Bishops 'take the conference back to the diocese'.

The main themes are: Ecumenical Relations, Mission and Ministry, Christianity and the Social Order, and Dogmatic and Pastoral Concerns (including relations with other Faiths). That will be especially important this conference, with the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism and renewed attention on the Holocaust on the part of the Jewish Community.

David Long sees as one of the most important aspects of 'Lambeth' the chance for so many church leaders to live, work and pray together for three weeks. For the rest of the time, in most parts of the world, they will live widely separated by perhaps snow, desert or thousands of miles.

Around the Spire

Last year we informed you of the death of Merlin Brown, now we report the departure of Coral McCarthy, her sister aged 96. She died suddenly without pain. We remember the Brown sisters with great affection and send our love and condolences to Laurie in her sad loss.

Doris and Stan Childs have not been well lately. Stan recently had a second cataract operation and Doris is suffering the after-effects of a virulent virus infection which has left her feeling tired and listless.

We have heard that Angela Horner, Assistant Brownie Leader and Assistant Beaver Leader, has been selected to go with the national Scout and Guide Concert Band on their concert tour of Japan in August. Angela has played the clarinet with the band for the past 3 years.

Some more good news - Stan and Vera Bannister have become great-grandparents! Their granddaughter Leslie (also known as Brown Owl) and Ian, her husband are now the proud parents of Katrina Jayne, born on May 24th. We wish all the family a very happy time with the new arrival and we look forward to seeing them soon.

Healing Services

These services are on the First Wednesday of alternate months, and consist of Worship and Music (Gospel style) with bible reading, address and prayers. This is followed by quiet music to listen to or meditate with.

Those wishing to be prayed with for healing for themselves, or for others, are invited to go to the North aisle, and someone will join them.

Dates and time of services:

Wednesdays 8.00pm 3rd August 5th October 7th December

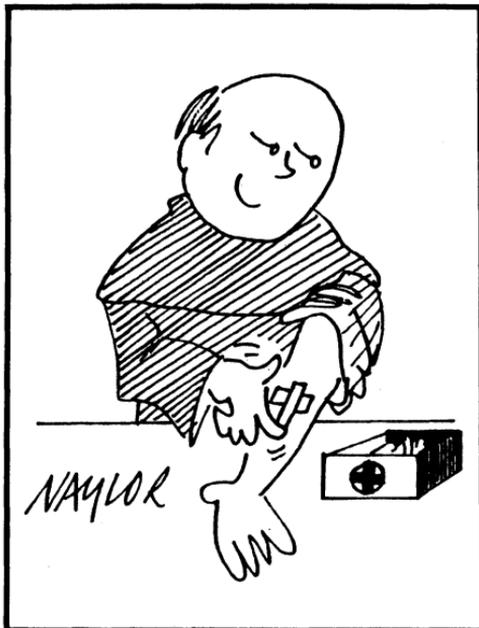
Evening Eucharist, with Healing Ministry for those who wish to participate. There will be laying on of hands, and time for praying with someone after the service.

Dates and time of services:

Sundays 6.30pm 3rd July 4th September 6th November

You do not have to be sick to come to either of these services. You can just come and worship the Lord.

Next Service 3rd July at 6.30pm Sunday - with Holy Eucharist



OH DEAR!

When a vicar had been in his new parish twelve months a parishioner asked him what he thought had been his main contribution to the life of the church.

He replied, "People here didn't know what sin was until I came".

From the Registers

Weddings

June 4th Michael Arthur Greenland and Stephanie Jayne Edwards

Deaths

May 30th Isabel Mary Wiggins 88 Murtle Road aged 88

Services and Dates to Note

July	2	11.00	Coach leaves for Parish Outing
	3	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Informal Service
		18.30	Parish Communion with Healing Ministry
	5	09.30	Holy Communion
		20.00	P.C.C. Vestry
	6	14.30	Mothers' Union Invitation Service with address given by Kitty Platt of St. Mary's Church, Hampton
	7	19.15	Holy Communion
	10	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Parish Communion
		16.30	Evensong
		18.30	Prayer 'n' Praise
	12	09.30	Holy Communion
	17		Services as on July 10
	19	20.00	Taizé Meeting, St. James's
	24		Celebration of St. James's Day
			Morning Services as usual,. Special Service in the afternoon
	31		Services as on July 10 except there will be <u>no</u> Prayer 'n' Praise

Advance Notices

August	3	20.00	Healing Ministry
September	15	20.00	P.C.C.
	30		Concert (HHA) in aid of Princess Alice Hospice
October	9		Harvest Festival
			Sunday School re-opens
	15		Harvest Supper

Mothers' Union

September 7 14.30 Meeting with the theme "Share a Recipe".

COPY DATE FOR AUGUST MAGAZINE 10th JULY