

Two sets of contrasts have struck me during this last week. First we were all encouraged to set our alarm clocks for 2 am in order to leap out of bed and view spectacular skies across which meteors were passing through dust clouds way out in the distant universe. And yet a few passing rain clouds prevented us in Hampton Hill from seeing this spectacular sight, thousands of miles away. A transitory shower blotted out a sight which will never be repeated in our lifetime.

Secondly, I recently travelled by train up the East Coast Main Line to spend a weekend with my parents. Due to an act of vandalism these technologically advanced trains which usually streak along, were all slowed to a snail's pace through Durham. And what a magnificent sight Durham is. Yes, I'm biased I know, but even if it is the city of my birth, I don't know any other place quite like it, especially viewed from the railway station. The cathedral and castle dominate the landscape of the 'County of the Prince Bishops' as the road signs proclaim. The day I should have hurtled through Durham, but only crawled along at a very pathetic pace, the cathedral was 900 years and 1 day old - yet its foundations had moved only by millimetres during that time. Building was a very exact science for the founders of Durham Cathedral.

Time is such a strange concept - sometimes it flies past, other times it drags. We talk of things being permanent or temporary. We speak of millions of light years and millionths of a second. We talk of 'life everlasting' and 'world without end'.

But all time is a human construct - perhaps this is most clearly borne out in the yearly remembrances, such as birthdays and anniversaries. September is the month when things start up again - and many of our activities in the parish are detailed in this issue. It also seems to be the month when Christmas catalogues pour in.

So what about time? Perhaps the proverb 'There's no time like the present' is true, perhaps it would be even more true to say 'There is no time other than the present'. For as followers of Christ, we are not interested in what may be, but what is. And what is, is the presence of God in each moment, the opportunity to respond to God's love now - right now. Perhaps we need first of all to think less about the quantity - how much time we have in which to do things, how many more years of life we have, how long everlasting life is! Think rather about the quality of time - the quality of how I spend my time, the quality of using other people's time.

I rather think we could all learn to place the quality of living, even of the briefest moment, above the quantity.

Brian Leathard

The 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Our celebrations continued with cricket and a concert, with a history talk, a quiz and a parish splash, and were rounded off with an Open Day at the Church, and then, a special St. James's Day service.

Fitz Wygram's XI came second to The Hampton Hill C.C. in the Victorian Cricket match - but only just. The latter made 98 for 5 in reply to the FW's 96 for 4. The FW's included both regular members of St. James's and other friends - even an Australian! Our performance owed much to the (Alan) Taylor and the (Ian) Robinson families.

At the concert, we enjoyed some wonderfully professional singing from the accomplished Jacqueline Nelmes, and lovely violin playing from Lennert den Boer (we would have liked more!). Stuart Ward with his sopranino recorder gave us eighteenth century 'bird songs', and David Taylor sang two Biblical songs by Dvorak with real understanding and sympathy. Marcela's organ playing was, as usual, of a high standard, and the programme she had carefully assembled was much appreciated.

Over ninety people attended the talk on the history of Hampton Hill given by Margery Orton, helped by Helen Taylor; they displayed great interest in what was said and in the wonderful old slides that were shown, so much so that it was difficult to bring the evening to a close!

Ably devised and presented by the Rowett family, who had clearly put a tremendous amount of work into the preparations, the Quiz evening was a great success and much enjoyed by all. How did it come about that Brian's team won? Was undue influence exerted?

A rather rainy evening for the 'Parish Splash' meant that we did not have the promised barbecue at the Hampton Pool, but about 30 people actually swam in the pool, and quite a few enjoyed the impromptu disco/barbecue kindly provided by Coryn and Ian Robinson at their home.

Many people visited the Church for the Open Day, which was co-ordinated by Mona Gow. They had refreshments, climbed the spire, enjoyed the exhibitions of painting by local artists and spent a long time looking at the display of old photographs organised by Margery Orton, and the selection of wedding photographs, old and new, assembled by Helen Taylor. The weather was good which contributed to the pleasures and happiness of the day, as it did to the great success of the evening's Pig Roast, organised by Richard Melville and his cousin Vlado who did the cooking (which took five hours). All consumed with relish roast pig, salad and rolls, and some danced afterwards on the lawn!

The Festival Eucharist, at which the Archdeacon preached as our own special guest of the morning, was followed by a bring-and-share lunch, where the food was all delicious and consumed to the last crumb. We were privileged to have both the Bishop and our Archdeacon as visitors and preachers at our opening and closing Eucharists.

Our great thanks go to all who helped to make the Celebrations a success, specially to those already mentioned, to many others whose contributions were not so apparent, and most especially to the Lloyd family under whose able care all the refreshments at all the events were so much enjoyed.

Thank you everybody!

Margaret Taylor

The New Church Hall

At last!

The alterations to the Vicarage having been completed and the new garage and drive due to be ready for use very shortly, the way is now clear for work to start on the new Hall. A plan is shown opposite.

Following analysis of the tenders received from six firms, an order has been placed with Messrs. H.A. and D.B. Kitchin of Alton, Hants.

We expect them to move onto the site on or about 31 August, and they have undertaken to complete the building in thirty weeks: ie, by early April.

As a result of the work, our access into the Church will have to change. We shall no longer have the use of the car park, which becomes part of the construction site, nor will we be able to use the South porch. Instead, the West porch is to be opened up, and will become the main entrance. Once the work is finished of course, both the car park and the South entrance will be restored to us, changed but considerably improved.

The main outside notice board will be moved so as to face Park Road, and as has been pointed out in earlier issues of 'The Spire', the footpath route through the churchyard will be diverted so as not to pass through the building site. This too will be restored when the building is finished.

Full architect's drawings of the new Hall, newly printed and coloured, will be on display in the Church, so that people can follow and understand each stage of the job as it progresses.

Exciting times? I have never known a building job which went exactly to plan, and no doubt we shall encounter problems as this one proceeds.

But we are now on the way, and can look forward with hope and eagerness to the many opportunities which the new Hall will bring.

Jack Gostling

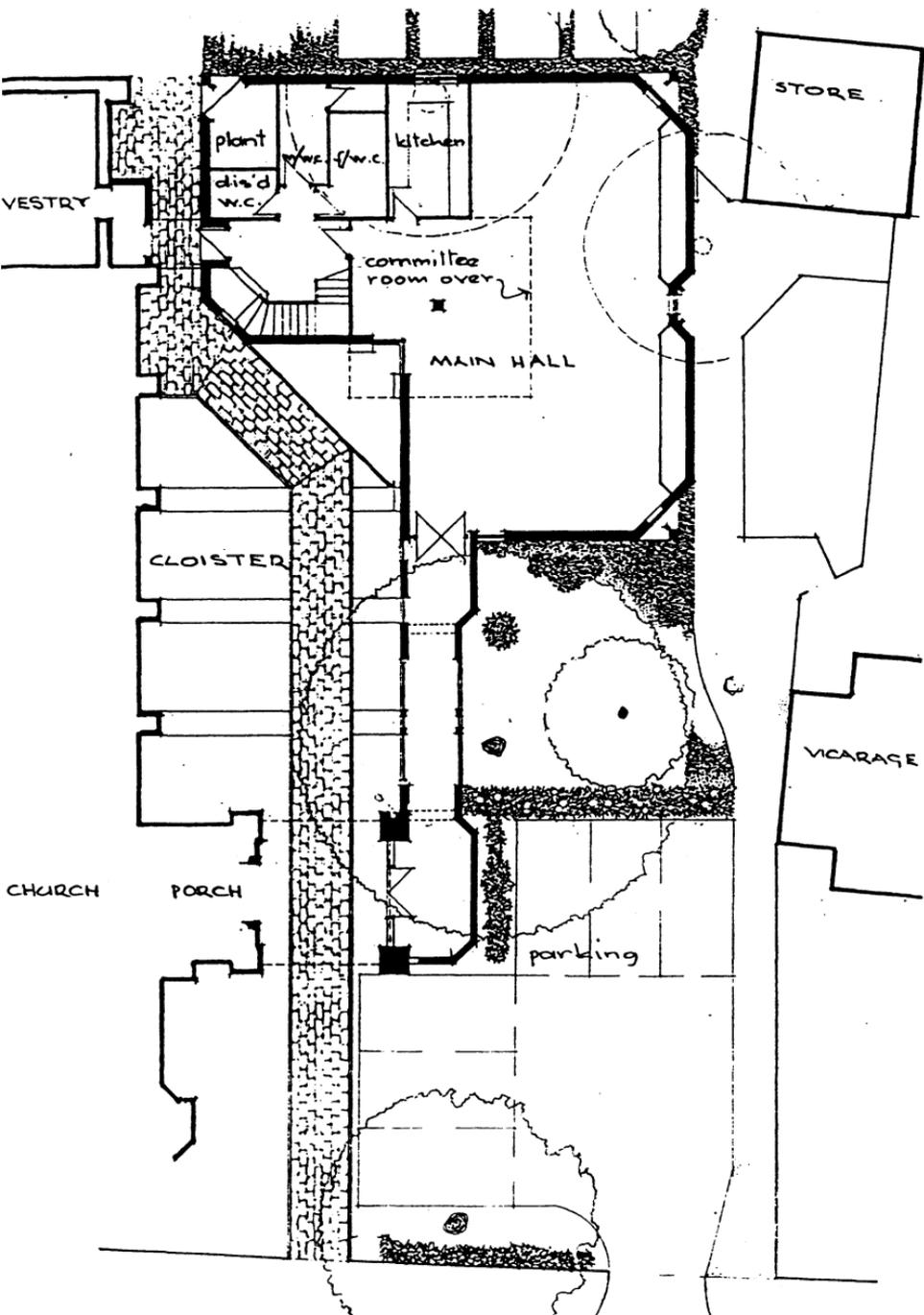
Thanks

We thank an Australian visitor, Mr. J.M.Reynolds, for his donation to our Church. He recently returned to Hampton Hill and was pleased to look around the church he knew as a boy - and to search out the house lived in by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Muckle, in School Road which was rented from the Rev. Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram, the first Vicar of St. James's.

We are also very grateful for the very generous gift of a radio microphone system for the Church in memory of Vera Rockcliffe by her family. This will greatly increase the flexibility of our speech amplification arrangements.

St. James's Church Hall

(Architects - The John Deal Practice, Walton-on-Thames)



CHURCH GROUPS

Sunday School

We are a large thriving group who meet every Sunday (except the first in the month) during school term time in the 'Portakabin'. We start at 9.15 am and then join the Family Communion Service at 10.10 am.

During the year we are involved in many activities within the Church, for example Easter; Harvest Festival; Mothering Sunday and this year the highlight was of course 'Song of the Hill'. We are also involved with a service at Laurel Dene or Marling Court once a year.

Our Sunday School is called the 'Jays'. Why, you may well ask? Well it is simply because of St. James and Jesus.

The Jays serve many purposes:

1. Your children are shown, in a variety of ways, the teaching of the Lord and are therefore a well-informed future congregation.
2. They meet and enjoy the company of friends.
3. They join in local Church activities due to their association with the Church.
4. You are left free to enjoy and benefit from the Parish Communion.

If you are interested in your child joining the Jays please feel free to come and join us one Sunday morning or telephone me.

Lou Coaker (979 2040)

Noah's Ark

Toddlers with their parents/nannies/carers are to meet from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm on Monday afternoons. Please ask the Vicar for more information.

3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group

The Beavers (6 - 8 years old boys), led by Sylvia Smith, meet on Fridays from 6 - 7 pm. and the Cub Scouts (8 - 10½ years old boys) meet on Wednesdays from 6 - 7.45 pm. Keith Ramsbottom is Assistant Cub Scout Leader.



The Scouts, led by Greg Martin (979 7268), are for boys and girls aged 10½ to 15½ years and meet from 7.15 - 9 pm on Fridays, and the Venture Scouts, also a mixed section, are led by Richard Moody (941 2243). They are for those 15½ to 20 years of age, and meet at 8 pm on Fridays. All meetings are at the Hampton Hill Junior School, Windmill Road. The Group Scout Leader is John Nielsen (941 0352).

3rd Hampton Hill Brownie Pack

We meet every Tuesday evening from 6 pm to 7.15 pm (term time only) at Carlisle Infants School, Broad Lane, Hampton. The Brownies follow an eight point plan helping them to develop new skills and relationships whilst having fun. If you would like to know more, please contact - Lesley Brough (943 0683)

Young Adults

If you are aged from about 13 to about 18, why not drop in at the Portakabin and meet your friends on Sunday evenings from 8 to 10 pm? You may play your tapes and discs, and tea and coffee are available.

Ruth Mills (977 5165)

House Groups

A group meets at Hannah Stanton's house (30 Burton's Road, 943 1336) on alternate Wednesdays at 10.30 am. It will re-commence on 15 September. It is hoped that at least one evening group can be arranged and perhaps others as well. Please look out for details or ask the Vicar.

Julian Group

We meet on the first Tuesday in each month, at 2.30 pm promptly, at 30 St. James's Road, starting again on 5 October. Our prayer group was formed after four miracles of healing took place during Eastertide, 1983.

A period for silent praise, quiet confession and petition, when prayers are offered for those known to be ill or in distress, and an opportunity to be still and to seek to know that God is God, are followed by the ministry of the laying on of hands for those who wish it. We finish with the giving and receiving of the Peace. Some come regularly, others when they feel a special need. All are welcome.

Margery Orton (979 5868)

The Travellers

We are a group of singers and musicians who lead the singing of Christian hymns in a modern style especially at the Informal Sunday morning services at 9.30 am on the first Sunday in each month and at Prayer and Praise services at 6.30pm on the second and fifth Sundays. If any musician would like to join the group to take part on the Sunday mornings or on the Sunday evenings or both, please let me know.

Paul Revis (979 4858)

Choir

The Church Choir sings at the Parish Communion once a month and on special occasions. It normally rehearses on one evening a week. There is also a Junior Choir. Please speak to our Choirmaster, Marcela den Boer (979 1777), if you would like to join either of these.

Liturgical Dancing

Our Liturgical Dancers meet on most Monday evenings at 7.30 pm in Church. All who are interested in worship through dance are welcome to join or come along to watch.

Eila Severn (979 1954)



Ladies Casual Choir

We are to continue to meet on alternate Wednesdays, starting on 8 September, at 10am in the Vestry. Come along and join us - no audition is necessary!

Eila Severn (979 1954)

Women's Forum

The Women's Forum invites all women to meetings twice a month. The meetings on the first Wednesday in each month start at 2.30 pm and those on the third Wednesday in each month at 8 pm. Both are held in church, where there are some toys and plenty of space for toddlers to play if members wish to bring children. Meetings may take any form - prayer and contemplation, music of any kind, discussions, visiting speakers, outings, parties or . . . any requests? The women of the 'Forum' may also help with various church activities. Our purpose is to increase our fellowship, strengthen our faith and stimulate our minds.

Ruth Mills (977 5165)

Open House

We are open in church on Monday mornings (except on Bank Holidays), from 10.30 am to 12 noon, for a coffee and biscuit (or tea or soft drink) and a chat. The north aisle of the Church provides a very pleasant and comfortable meeting place - and our charges are very modest!

Ron Bridges (979 6865)

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Sunday 26 September

The Women's Forum invite all those who have been baptised at St. James's in the last three years - and their families and God-parents - to tea at 4 pm in Church. You will be very welcome.

Hampton Court Stewards

Hampton Court is opening the whole of the Chapel to visitors and would welcome interested people as stewards in the chapel to provide a Christian welcome and presence for the many visitors. If you can spare some time or would be interested in this work and would like to know more, please speak to the Vicar.

Intercessions Book

There is now a book on the main altar in Church in which you are invited to enter the names of people or issues for which you wish us to pray. It may be that someone is ill or in trouble, that a particular matter concerns you - whatever it is, simply write it in the book and we shall pray at Morning Prayer each day and at Parish Communion for all these intentions.



The Early Church. 3 The Pagan World

The chief god in greek mythology was Zeus, son of Kronus, who was the youngest son of Uranus (Heaven), and Ge (Earth). Kronus castrated his father in order to gain the throne, then married his sister, and swallowed all his children as they were born, to avoid the fate he had inflicted on his own father: however, the mother gave Kronus a stone wrapped in a baby's blanket, which Kronus swallowed instead of the infant Zeus. Zeus eventually overthrew Kronus, and ruled earth and the heavens, (situated on Mt. Olympus in Greece). His brother Poseidon ruled the seas, and a third brother, Hades, ruled the underworld. The dead were pictured as mere shades twittering about in the twilight. Homer states that they had to be given a draught of blood, before being capable of sensible conversation with the living.

The gods were imagined as superior to men in power, and of course immortal; but they had all the human passions writ large - lust, jealousy, anger, hate - they had nothing to teach men about morals.

The Roman state religion identified their gods with those of the Greeks: Zeus= Jupiter, Aphrodite= Venus, Poseidon= Neptune etc. They added a priesthood in which the emperor himself was chief priest - pontifex maximus. Some of the later emperors such as Caligula, who ordered a statue of himself to be put in the Jewish Temple, either believed they themselves were gods, or thought it politic to say they were.

This unsavoury and unlikely mythology excited the justifiable contempt of philosophers, who were either agnostic or atheistic. But it persisted through the New Testament period.

The emperor Domitian (ad81-96) tried to force worship of himself, and persecuted Christians for refusing to carry out what was declared to be a patriotic duty.

Those dissatisfied with the state religion often turned to mystery cults, Greek, Egyptian, Oriental. These promised purification, enlightenment, and immortality, through secret initiatory rites involving ceremonial washing, blood sprinkling, sacramental meals, frenzy and impressive ritual, leading to union with the deity. They were attractive because their devotees 'knew something that the others didn't', and because within the cult all were equal. Attempts have been made to link christian beliefs with these mystery cults, but they are unconvincing. Superficial similarities such as sacramental meals mean only that people find a common meal is a good way of promoting fellowship; and if such a meal be joined with worship of a god, then it is a powerful means of promoting that worship. Mystery faiths became popular in the second, third and fourth centuries ad, and little is known of their beliefs before then. Such similarities as exist between their rituals and Christian observances, are more likely to be the results of borrowings from Christianity than the reverse.

Myths of gods dying and rising again are common, and can be traced back to earliest times, as personifications of corn and other crops dying and 'rising again' from the seed. But these deaths of gods are not redemptive - a very important difference. Also, the death and resurrection of Jesus had to do with a very recent historical figure, not a shadowy mythological concept such as Osiris. Crucifixion and physical resurrection were abominated by pagans, who knew that crucifixion was for criminals, and thought of the body as a prison, the seat of evil. Pagans respected the Mystery Faiths, but often thought of Christianity as foolish and incredible.

Stuart Ward.

1,000 miles for Rick

A member of our congregation, Dr. Jim Brockbank, is to undertake a sponsored 1,000 mile cycle ride in memory of his twin brother, Richard. Rick was a Maritime Engineer who died last November after suffering from a complex and protracted rheumatological illness, which highlighted the shortfall in the provision of continuing care for those with chronic non-malignant illness and disability, especially the young.

Jim hopes to raise £2,000 for a bursary for the best maritime student of each year at Liverpool University (where Rick studied) and to match that amount for Young Arthritis Care, a charity dealing with many of the issues raised. His ride will coincide with National Arthritis Care Week.

Jim is to start from Liverpool University on 6 September, to cycle round the Welsh and English coasts and to finish at Rotherham where he and Rick lived and went to school.

Stewardship

Stewardship giving over the last four quarters and the corresponding period twelve months earlier has been as follows:

July - September	1992	£ 6,888	1991	£ 5,713
October - December	1992	£ 7,335	1991	£ 6,149
January - March	1993	£ 8,474	1992	£ 7,501
April - June	1993	<u>£ 8,098</u>	1992	<u>£ 7,065</u>
Total for 12 months		£30,795		£26,428

Around the Spire

A long-time member of St. James's, Betty Stewart, is to be ordained Deacon at Southwark Cathedral at 11 am on Sunday 3 October. We will write more in the next issue, but, in the meantime, we shall be thinking of her on that day and wish her well in her ministry.

For the first time in these columns (correct me if I am wrong), we are very pleased to announce the safe arrival of twins. Rebecca (7lbs.) and Joshua (5lbs.) were born to Amanda, the wife of Nicholas who is the son of Margaret and David Taylor. They put in their first appearance on 9 August to an admiring audience, and all are well. Our best wishes go to them all.

The Breese family are off to the U.S.A. soon where Harvey has a new job. Michelle was Christened recently and we wish her and Daniel, as well as Carol and Harvey, bon voyage and good fortune in the new country.

News now of some of our invalids. Hettie Burgess is back in West Middlesex Hospital after a series of small strokes. Trevor Parry, Megan's husband, is home after an operation, making slow progress. Mike Meyerowitz and Muriel Rawlins are both seriously ill in hospices, and Joanna Coffey, who has an addiction problem, is also causing much concern to her family. Please remember all these people in your prayers so that the friends and families may feel our support in these difficult days.

From the Registers for July

Baptisms

18	Samuel Gulab Lalla Kitch	10 Park Road
	Michael Paul Rosato	Flat 19, 179 Uxbridge Road

Marriages

10	David Marcus Johnson and Elizabeth Helen Goodwin
31	Carl Jason Wood and Ann Marie Palmer

Marriage Blessing

24	John Charles Stewart and Julie Ann Bromley
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Funerals

8	Elizabeth Maddox	67 Pigeon Lane	Aged 98
14	Arthur Percival Sidney Chester	29 Laurel Road	Aged 82
26	Gladys Hurst	12 Evans House, Watermill Lane, Hanworth	Aged 73

Interment of Ashes

18	Eileen Bishop	Burnaby B.C., Canada
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Dates to Note

Sept.	1	19.30	Parish Prom, Royal Albert Hall
	6	14.00	Editorial Board, 68 Park Road
	8		The Blessed Virgin Mary
		14.30	Women's Forum, Church
	15	20.00	Women's Forum, Church
	18	10.30-18.00	'Many But One' organised by the Focolare Movement, Wembley Conference Centre
	16	20.00	P.C.C., Vestry
	19	11.00	Meeting for those who read at Parish Communion, Church
	21		St. Matthew the Apostle
	26	16.00	Sunday Tea for all those baptised here in the last three years, Church
	29		St. Michael and All Angels



Advance Notices

Oct.	3	11.00	Ordination of Betty Stewart, Southwark Cathedral
	4	14.00	Editorial Board, 19 St. James's Road
	7	20.30	Stewardship Committee, 16 Cranmer Road
	9	19.30	Harvest Supper, Greenwood Centre
	10		Harvest Festival
	12	18.30	onwards, Open Evening at Bishop Wand C. of E. School, Layton's Lane, Sunbury, for parents who are interested in educating their children (aged 11+) at a C. of E. School
	24	15.00	Borough Civic Service for United Nations Day, St. James's

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