

If 'seeing is believing' then the exhibition called 'Seeing Salvation' currently showing at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, is indeed a feast of faith. It runs through Lent and into Eastertide and is well worth a visit. One thing it is not, though! It is not a life of Christ in pictures. Rather, it is an attempt to show how artists have understood the significance of Jesus Christ through time - from the earliest inscriptions of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in the catacombs of third century Rome to Mark Wallinger's 'Behold the Man' on the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square, 1999.

Seeing may not be the same as believing, as Thomas the Doubter came to realise, but seeing is at least a way in to the Easter mystery. The crowds saw Jesus as king and saviour as they feted his arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The priestly authorities took to seeing Jesus in a very different way as he taught in the temple. The people saw him teaching with authority, but the leaders of the people saw a threat to their position. The disciples saw Jesus with new intimacy at the Last Supper, but on seeing Jesus arrested afterwards, they fled. Pilate had Jesus paraded before the crowds in order that all could see him broken and powerless in the world's eyes, before being exhibited on a cross for all to see his final destruction.

But the destruction was not complete, for the seeing continued with new insight. Mary Magdalene thought, at first, that she saw a gardener, but realised that it was the risen Christ. As the disciples gathered again in an Upper Room they saw the risen Christ among them, and Thomas too. As they went back to the places where they had lived and worked in Galilee the disciples saw Jesus afresh.

Seeing and believing may not be the same thing, but believing certainly has to do with expecting to see Christ in the world today. Just as the artists at the National's exhibition have seen Jesus across the centuries in quite diverse ways, so we too will see Jesus differently in our lives. Bellini set Jesus against a backdrop of 17th century Italy, Hieronymous Bosch in the dress of his day in the Netherlands, Salvador Dali in his 20th century Spain and Stanley Spencer's Resurrection at Cookham is set just up the Thames from here. But our Jesus can only be seen through our eyes - seen in the world today, as unexpectedly, challengingly, prayerfully and passionately as ever. Jesus Christ is set amidst the world's deepest pains and greatest joys today as he was in his own betrayal, suffering, death and resurrection.

So do come to church and expect to see Jesus Christ alive at St. James', in Hampton Hill and throughout the world. We believe you will see him here in worship and service, in the lives of all who gather to celebrate his passion, death and resurrection this Easter. 'Seeing Salvation' the exhibition, costs nothing, admission is free - but seeing salvation in the church and the world even though admission is free, costs everything. It did for Jesus of Nazareth, it does for all who try to follow him.

You are welcome at our Easter Services

Sunday 9th April

1900 Music and Meditation for Passiontide

2100 Compline

Palm Sunday 16th April

0930 Procession of Palms & Reading of Passion

2100 Compline

Monday in Holy Week

1200 - 1215 Midday Meditation

2100 Compline

Tuesday in Holy Week

0930 Holy Communion

1200 - 1215 Midday Meditation

2100 Compline

Wednesday in Holy Week

1030-1300 Children's Workshop for Holy Week

1200 - 1215 Midday Meditation

2100 Compline

Maundy Thursday

2000 Parish Communion, Washing of Feet and Stripping the Altars

Good Friday

0915 Morning Prayer

1200 - 1500 Three Hours at the Foot of the Cross

Easter Eve

1015 Morning Prayer

2000 The Vigil and Lighting of New Fire

Easter Day

0800 Holy Communion

0930 Parish Communion

The Annual Church Meeting - 9th April

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday, 9th April, at 11 a.m. in the Church Hall. The first business, at the Meeting of Parishioners, will be to elect or re-elect two churchwardens for the following year. All parishioners on either the church or the civil electoral roll may vote at this meeting.

There follows the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the APCM. All parishioners on the church electoral roll may take part in and vote at this meeting. There will be reports from the Vicar, the Treasurer and other officers of the Parochial Church Council, the PCC, on the events of the last year, and what has been achieved in the parish.

At this meeting, four representatives to the Deanery Synod are confirmed in office or elected for a period of three years. They become ex-officio members of the PCC. A further election for up to twenty ordinary members of the PCC is then held. Ordinary PCC members must be elected or re-elected annually.

Sidespersons are also appointed at this meeting, and an auditor of the Treasurer's accounts appointed. The auditor must not be member of the PCC.

The APCM is always interesting and offers an opportunity for anyone to voice opinions on the way the church has been or is being managed. It would be good to see everybody on the new electoral roll at the meeting.

Helen and Alan Taylor's son Christopher is to be married at St. James's at 12.00 on 6th May. Everyone is invited to join them for champagne and cake in the Church Hall immediately after the ceremony.

THE MESSIAH

in Church

Good Friday, 21st April

7.30p.m.

£5

Come to sing or just to listen



On Sunday, February 27th, at morning service, Jean Western was presented with a bouquet as a token of thanks for nearly thirty years service in running the church bookstall. It has taken her some time to find anyone to succeed her and this may be because her wisdom, thoughtfulness and quiet efficiency would be impossible to live up to. It is therefore with a spirit of hoping to learn as we

go along that Liz Butler and I have agreed to run the bookstall at St. James. Initially it will be open in the hall after services on the first and third Sundays in the month, although this may change.

If there is sufficient interest we would like to have a small lending library at the back of the church. We are starting to collect books for this and would ask you to let us have any books you feel able to part with which you have found enlightening, interesting or helpful. . . I would be happy to come and collect these from you if you would like to telephone, or you could give them to one or other of us at church. Should you want to attach a very short 'review' to the inside front cover, that might inspire others to read it too.

Any suggestions or ideas concerning the bookstall would be most welcome.

Marion Dewey 941 6559

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To all the members of the St. James's family, a big thank you for the surprise bouquet of lovely flowers and a special lunch with Freda. The announcement and gift on Sunday 27th February quite took my breath away as I was wondering who the second 'saint' being referred to could be! I felt, and still feel, that my contribution to the life at St. James's, via the bookstall, was just a very ordinary one; but I do appreciate your kindness very much.



Jean Western

JUBILEE 2000 - PLEASE GET WRITING

Sunday 23rd July 2000 is the final day of the G8 Summit in Okinawa, Japan. On that day the G8 will announce to the world their final response to the Jubilee 2000 campaign. Only one third of the amount the campaign believes needs to be cancelled has been agreed to date. Just three months remain to convince the G8 countries to go further.

Please make your voice heard in this Jubilee year. Sending letters and postcards does have an impact and it is something we can all do. Please use the handouts available in church to help you. If in any doubt, give me a call.

Ann Peterken

RON METCALFE R.I.P.

When you met Ron, you were conscious of his physical presence, especially when you exchanged the peace and felt that strong, capable hand in yours. Brian used words from Jeremiah when, at the funeral service, he referred to Ron as a "pillar of steel", an apposite description of one whose work was with metals, as a blacksmith. But there were also references to Ron's commitment to the Christian faith, his years of serving and his regular tidying of the Canadian war graves; here also was the man of steel. The large congregation on Friday March 3rd witnessed to the strength of feeling among his large extended family and among his friends at St. James's and to his years of loyalty to the British Legion.

We shall all miss seeing Ron, usually with his dog, and often with Chloe, in the park and around Hampton Hill, as well as with us all in Church so regularly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary, their children John and Margaret, and their young grandchildren.

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We would like to convey our sincere thanks to everyone who sent us letters and floral tributes, to Brian who gave such a lovely tribute to Ron at his funeral service and to Geoffrey and all members of the choir, to all the ladies who supplied food afterwards in the hall, and for all their help, and to the whole congregation who came to pay their last respects and to Barry who played the Last Post.

Margaret and John join me in passing our thanks to you all.

Mary Metcalfe

POT LUCK AND POETRY

This very popular evening's entertainment, organised by Ruth Mills, took place on 26th February. The food was delicious and plentiful, the poetry fascinating - an entirely self-help party! We had two mother and daughter contributions, from Alison and Katrina Hampton and Carol and Jennifer Greville-Giddings, an amazing Robbie Burns from memory and in the vernacular from Bill Henry and many other poems and verses, amusing, sad, heroic and witty. There must be a mention of Eve's chocolate cake poem, rendered most graphically, and of Brian's impersonation of the Loch Ness Monster!

Many thanks are due to Ruth for giving us such a splendid evening's pleasure. She introduced and linked the poems and summed up in her own verse - a stroke of genius. This was a party relished by people of a wide age-range and different tastes - a great success.

Margaret Taylor

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2000

MAY 14th - 20th

This year we are working to help people in India Rwanda and Nicaragua. This story tells how one of Christian Aid's partners brought life and hope back to one boy in Nicaragua in 2000. We want to do this for many more.

If you can spare a few hours to collect, please contact me.

Margaret Taylor 977 1342

AFTER THE STORM

In October 1998, Hurricane Mitch hit Central America, killing thousands of people and leaving two million homeless. The disaster provoked a worldwide relief effort.

Marvin Flores Picado is 14 and lives in Matagalpa in Nicaragua. He remembers when the hurricane struck: it rained continuously for four days and nights, and people didn't see the sun for seven days. He says: 'I was asleep when it all started, but by the time my mum woke us all up, the water had already entered the house and was up to our knees. We had to leave the house really quickly because the water was rising so fast. We left in what we were wearing, each of us boys carrying one of our sisters. We went to a large hall where we lived for a month with over 200 other families.'

The Community Movement of Matagalpa (MCM), which is supported by Christian Aid, was quick to provide food and medicine for people made homeless by the hurricane and soon set about repairing and rebuilding homes. A year after Mitch, Marvin and his family were able to move to a new home outside the city, where 40 houses are being built for Mitch survivors.

MCM is also helping Marvin through its backing for the Support Centre for Working Children (CANTC). Marvin works as a shoe-shine boy at one of Matagalpa's city markets, and CANTC provides educational and recreational activities for children like him who need to work to boost their families' income, on condition that they also go to school.

Marvin charges 1 córdoba (5p) per shoe-shine and on an average day he earns around 25 córdobas (£1.35). After a morning shining shoes he goes to CANTC for his lunch, and to school in the afternoon. At CANTC Marvin is also learning a new trade - sewing, and he hopes one day to have a sewing machine and to be a tailor - if he doesn't make it as a professional footballer, that is!

After the storm, the future is at last looking brighter for Marvin and his family and others like them.

Christian  Aid
We believe in life before death

THE COMMON CUP



At a time of the year when the common cold makes a friend of each one of us, an issue which gives concern to some parishioners is the sharing of the communion cup. What participants of the eucharist may not realise is that the correct form of using the cup means that it is gently swivelled round each time someone partakes of it, being firmly wiped when a full circle has been reached. Base metals are used for vessels

because they destroy germs; the alcoholic content is also one of the best antiseptics. However, if people are worried about sharing the cup because, for instance, they may have a cold themselves, it is perfectly in order to dip the host (wafer) into the wine or to receive the wafer only. Before they are used at any other service, all vessels are thoroughly washed with boiling water.

Report from the PCC - Richmond's Asylum Seekers

At its meeting on 28th February, Peter Wilson, Strategic Director with the borough council, briefed the PCC on the issues surrounding asylum seekers. Brian opened the meeting with a reading from Deuteronomy 24, 17-22, that underlines our responsibilities towards strangers.

Peter Wilson described the steps that had been taken by the borough to manage an inherently inhumane system with as much respect for individual dignity as possible. Asylum seekers are not allowed to earn money, and the Council is not allowed to give them any (other than under the Children's Act for families). Until their cases are processed they remain destitute, being housed at local expense in private rented accommodation or in Bed & Breakfast "hotels" and receiving food vouchers exchangeable at Tesco's. There is now no accommodation left for single males, so some have had to be sent to places like Kettering, Stoke on Trent and Coventry, where they remain the responsibility of the borough. Given the huge backlog of cases and the resources currently committed to clearing them, the borough will have to cater for the present number of 1,700 people, or about 1% of the population, for some time to come. Most arrived from the second half of 1998 onwards, but so far the Home Office has not been able to process the backlog of outstanding claims for asylum which stretch back to 1995. The mix of asylum seekers varies from borough to borough, but in the case of Richmond there are two distinct groups. There are families of middle class Sikhs who have fled from Taliban repression in Afghanistan, and there are predominantly single males who have fled from Kosovo. In addition there are individuals and families from Iran, Iraq and Nigeria. Many of the Kosovans are teenagers, mature beyond their years from the bloodshed they have witnessed or participated in, and some are even

unaccompanied children. Peter Wilson described his own experience of seeing the crusty veneer of these young people soften as they acclimatise to peace. The practice of handing out the Tesco vouchers fortnightly in the atrium of council offices has been discontinued because of the congestion that it caused, and the racist comments it elicited from members of the public. The asylum seekers had understandably used the gathering as an opportunity to chat to fellow countrymen and exchange news, so they had hung around the building for much longer than was strictly necessary. Moreover it is perhaps not surprising that knots of teenagers hanging around street corners because they have been turned out of their B&B's at 10a.m. and have nowhere to go, are seen as threatening by local people. The potential for antagonism is exacerbated by the disproportionate financial burden being born by council tax payers. The funding system is complex and in a state of flux. Central government grants just about cover the costs associated with single adults, they go nowhere near meeting the needs of families and children. In the coming year the borough faces a shortfall in excess of £3 million, representing over 2% of the total Council budget. This will cost Council Tax payers £30 a year, compared with £9 for the residents of Kent, who have received far more media attention. The impact is so large because the borough has very high house prices that inflate the costs of accommodating people and heavily depress the degree of general government support for local expenditure. A consortium of London boroughs was established in December 1999 to apportion the burden of new asylum seekers more fairly, and this has reduced the previously escalating inflow by about half. The government has agreed to take on this role from 1st April 2000 to disburse new asylum seekers throughout the country. The PCC is pondering what it should do next to respond to the needs that have been identified.

John Gossage



If you have someone between the ages of 4 and 12 and they are around on 19th April, do encourage them to join us for a workshop on Holy Week and Easter. We shall also be creating an Easter Garden by the font in the church. If there are enough parents who can stay to help we can finish the morning with lunch.



2000
The United Nations'
INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR
THE CULTURE OF PEACE

"Peace is in our hands"

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace. It wants to transform the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace and non-violence.

Through the UN's Manifesto 2000 programme, the people of the world will be reminded of their responsibility for the future of humanity, in particular to the children of today and tomorrow. The UN hopes that 100 million people will sign the manifesto pledge to respect all life, reject violence, share with others, listen to understand, preserve the planet and rediscover solidarity. The names of those signing will be presented to the Millennium General Assembly of the United Nations this September and will appear on the website: www.unesco.org/manifesto2000. Copies of the manifesto will be made available in church for those interested in signing it.

The United Nations Association of Twickenham and Richmond is arranging a public meeting in the borough as part of its contribution to the manifesto programme. The main speaker will be Patricia Rogers, Director of the Pestalozzi Children's Village (and former Director of the Council for Education in World Citizenship). Her subject is "A CELEBRATION OF PEACEMAKING". The meeting will take place at the Salon, York House, Twickenham on Monday, April 10th at 7.30p. m.

Margaret Hobbs

ALMA - LONDON'S LINK WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA

Many of you will know that the Diocese of London is linked with the Anglican church in Mozambique and Angola. Such links with partners overseas are an excellent way to learn, share and work together for peace and justice. Hopefully our partnership can help in some way to overcome the tragedy of the recent floods in Mozambique.

The Angola, London, and Mozambique Association (ALMA) helps to promote the Diocesan link at the parish level and many churches have appointed an ALMA representative. The job can be as small or big as you wish it to be, but it will be interesting.

The link that St. James's already has with St. Luke's Milo Mission Hospital in Tanzania gives me a lot of pleasure. It would be very nice for someone else to have a similar experience through ALMA. So if you are interested in becoming our ALMA representative, please talk to me.

Ann Peterken



Many of our readers will be sad to hear that Doris Makepeace has died. Mrs. Makepeace was born in Richmond but lived in Windmill Road for 53 years, for many of which she delivered the Spire, accompanied by her dog. We send sincere sympathy to her three daughters and her son and remember them in our prayers.

It is very good to be able to welcome Georgia, Joshua and their mother Caroline into the congregation of St. James's.

We send good wishes to Marian Nevill who has had a knee operation in Ashford Hospital. She is now home and we hope she will make a good recovery.

Congratulations to Margaret and David Taylor who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in February together with their children, grandchildren and friends.

Have you all seen the posters and petitions against the reduction of hours at Hampton Hill library? It is a great pity that this will restrict access for many people who enjoy and benefit from this essential service.

There was a very interesting visit in February to the Images of Christ exhibition at the National Gallery. Twenty-five of us enjoyed a guided tour of these works of art through the past millennium. It was particularly appropriate to reflect on these as we draw near to Lent.

FROM THE FEBRUARY REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 6 Oliver David Hall, 16 Cambridge Road, Teddington
Henry James Newton-Savage, 9 School Road
- 27 Darcy Holly Vichte Mills }
Mitchell Lloyd John Mills } 204 Hanworth Road

Funeral

- 28 Doris Makepeace, 34 Windmill Road

85

VESTRY HOUR

Please note that from Tuesday, 2nd May 2000 the church will be open for a Vestry Hour from 7p.m. to 8p.m. every Tuesday evening. This is to allow routine administration to take place e.g. Arranging baptism or marriage details, copies of register entries or certificates. We hope this will mean, with the church open more, people will pop in and that we can progress the 'nuts and bolts' more smoothly. Any enquiries about this to Brian or Freda.