

This month brings the end of Eastertide, not with a whisper, but with a bang. We keep Easter for fifty days until Pentecost when the explosive effect of God's spirit sends us out, each in our own way, with our own language and in our own culture to speak and live the Gospel truth of New Life. The Acts of the Apostles (Luke's volume II) describes the event in the city of Jerusalem as being a real humdinger. Followers of Jesus spoke openly, with courage and insight - and they were understood by their hearers in just about every known language! It was as if God poured flames upon them because they were so "on fire" with the message that in Christ's life, death and resurrection we can each see how to live in God's love. The bible describes scenes of such confusion that people made fun of the events saying "these people must be drunk".

Pentecost, or, as we used to say 'Whitsun', is a great feast in the church because it underlines God's presence in diversity. The creator God is not constrained by creation but operates in myriad ways across and beyond time or space. Pentecost emphasises our unity in Christ not in uniformity but in diversity. God is bigger than any single human being, greater than any one denomination's pattern of worship might suggest, more embracing than any single faith tradition can ever own. God speaks in more ways than any one language can capture.

Two reminders of this have recently occurred to me and they are both to do with being prepared to look outside our own language and culture in order to see God at work. During the first week of May, I was involved in running a conference within the growing partnership between the Diocese of London and the Protestant Church in Berlin. We worked hard at our subject of "Proclaiming the Gospel in capital cities". Globalisation and secularisation, power and powerlessness, inclusion and exclusion were some of our themes.

One evening we visited Soho at the invitation of the Parish Church, St. Anne, Soho. It is an unusual church to say the least, surrounded by theatres and tourists, sex shops, film businesses, the Chinese quarter, the centre of London's gay community, including the Admiral Duncan Pub blown up last year. Members of the PCC talked to us, guests from Berlin and London, about being Soho residents. They talked about the pressures of pornography all around the parish school, of housing and homelessness, of fear and alienation in the gay community, of being old and disabled in a city centre. These were ordinary people finding their voice to speak out about living as followers of Jesus today. One of the older men spoke, with real emotion, of it being a liberation to welcome German guests into their new church (built in the 1990s), for it was the first time he had spoken to a German since his church of St. Anne Soho had been bombed and destroyed during the Second World War. It had taken fifty five years for him to find the words to say it. It was the Christian community at St. Anne's Soho which had nurtured him through all those years before he could truly live at peace with himself. Now, he said, he could let it go and more fully commit himself to the mission of the church in his parish of today. This from a man in his late eighties.

Our other partnership link, ALMA, which brings together the Diocese of London and the Anglican Church in Mozambique and Angola, has also had guests, partners in the Gospel, in London recently. I was struck by many things - the commitment, the positive values of mission and service, a real desire to share. One guest, who I heard speaking, talked about acknowledging that though the cards are not stacked in their favour, nevertheless living as followers of Jesus is about constancy and struggle. Yes, the struggles are different in our two cultures, but just as real, requiring us to love God and love our neighbours as ourselves. "By the way", our guest said "how can you have a service without a song, don't you have a song within yourself?"

When I heard that I thought of Bishop George Bell's song, which we often sing, not only at Pentecost. It is a song about Christian women and Christian men the whole world over singing again :

*Let love's unconquerable might
Your scattered companies unite
In service to the Lord of Light*

*So shall God's will on earth be done
New lamps be lit, new tasks begun
And the whole church at last be one
Alleluia*

May God's living spirit inspire you to live at peace, to live with a song inside yourself and to live for God and your neighbour. Happy Pentecost.

Brian Leathard

CHILDREN IN CHURCH - A WORD OF THANKS

At St. James's, we are always glad to welcome young families and I, for one, am often surprised at the number of small children who are taken to be blessed, not even realising they were in church. So I would like to thank the parents for keeping them so happily and quietly occupied through the service. It is sometimes no easy feat, but one which the rest of us greatly appreciate.

It is nearly fifty years since I took small children to church. In those days we had Matins and the sermon was at the end of the service, so one could slip out during the preceding hymn. On one occasion, a little girl joined us, so glad she could come out

then, for her mouse was escaping from her pocket. Our departure was a small interruption compared with the consequences of that happening!



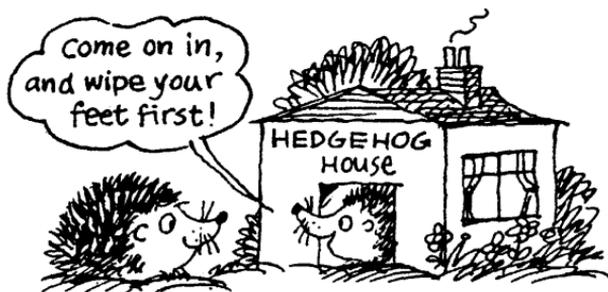
K. Brooks

BROWNIES AND HEDGEHOGS

For the last two terms the Brownies have been using the theme of animals for their programme and working towards their Friend to Animal Badge. We have had owls come to visit, held an animal service in the church, had a creepy crawly evening and raised money by holding a beetle drive.

The Brownies have been able to donate money to the Owl Sanctuary, Hounslow Animal Welfare Charity and St. Tiggywinkles Wildlife Animal Hospital which we visited for our Summer Outing. The weather was beautiful and both parents and Brownies had a good day. The Brownies purchased a Hedgehog House, which Brian has very kindly said we can put in the Churchyard to provide a warm and safe environment for a St. James's Hedgehog! To give you some idea of what it is like to be part of 3rd Hampton Hill Brownies Freda agreed to give a "Warts and All" account of a day spent out and about with us all. As this goes to print even I do not know what she has to say - all I do know is that the Brownies, as usual, were extremely well behaved and were excellent ambassadors not only for the Guiding Movement but for the life and work of St. James's.

Lesley Brough



Mrs. Tiggywinkle is probably one of Beatrix Potter's most popular animals so it was a delight to join the Brownies on their outing to St. Tiggywinkle's hospital! I wonder how many of you know it exists?

Set in the Buckinghamshire countryside lies the world's first wildlife teaching hospital. Way back in 1978, someone called Les Stocker came across a kestrel with a very bad wing and he soon discovered there was nowhere for wildlife to receive help. In no time at all, the shed in his back garden and his garage were full of injured, sick wild animals and birds and so an enormous fund-raising project was started to build this hospital. It is a wonderful testimony to what people can do if they have the vision and determination.

Every year in Britain, over five million wild animals and birds are injured as a direct result of their encounters with humans. Last year, 82% of all the patients at the hospital were safely returned to the wild but there are those who need to stay as permanent guests, being either unable to fly or too vulnerable to cope on their own. Snowflake, the pure white albino hedgehog is one of those - along with albinos of other species, her immune system is too poor for her to survive in the wild, and given her colour, she would be easily seen by predators like the badger. There were badgers at the hospital too including a blind one - but their rambling home was a good way from Snowflake and her companions. In the distance there were bats, owls and birds of prey, different kinds of deer, and on his own, Rusty the fox. Then, there were ponds with frogs and toads, herons and a black swan (they sometimes fly into electric cables), lapwings and ducks, plus lots of ducklings! Did you know that the feathers of ducklings aren't waterproof so they can't stay in the water long when they are young? Their mothers know all about that, of course, and take them out of the water when they realise the young are getting too wet but orphaned ducklings don't realise this and need to be kept away from ponds!

There was a lot for us to learn about how we can help wild life to survive. Don't be surprised if you see a Brownie or two peering over your garden hedge to see if your place is a safe haven for hedgehogs. They will be able to tell you all sorts of things we need to be mindful of - like using a fork or lighting a bonfire without checking first whether or not there is any wildlife around.

It was a happy, sunny day, ending with a walk through farmland rich with horses, sheep and nettles - as some of the Brownies discovered! A huge vote of thanks to Lesley Brough for organising the day and remembering to take along her wasp-eez spray!!

Freda Evans

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC
at St. James's Church
SATURDAY 24th JUNE at 7.30p.m.

THE APOCALYPSE SINGERS
conducted by Christopher Hodges

The Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams
Songs and part songs by Schubert, Elgar and others
Harp and clarinet solos
Readings by Anthony Bromham

EASTER VIGIL

For the first time, St. Paul's Cathedral held an all night vigil starting at 10.30p.m. and ending with Communion on the steps outside the building at 5.15p.m. Freda Evans attended the vigil and gives her account of it:

St. Paul's Cathedral conjures up pictures of dramatic and colourful occasions suited to its majestic grandeur so the idea of a band of pilgrims spending an all night Easter vigil there was imaginative and certainly different. Given that the vigil followed a service of baptism and confirmation, it was apt that we should begin beside the newly-lit paschal candle, where the Bishop of London gave a short introduction. For the rest of the night, we were guided by three Franciscans, Brother Damian who is based in North West London, Sister Nan from South Africa and Brother Seraphim from Egypt.

Each half hour took the form of a pilgrimage to a different part of the building, sometimes in the main body of the cathedral and at other times in the crypt. Our little procession of about 40 people slowly followed the Franciscan cross - an unusual icon of Christ with the faithful disciples displayed beside him. As we did so, we gently sang the chant: "We adore you, most holy Lord, Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches throughout all the world, and we bless you because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia." There is something very moving about the sound of human voices singing in the stillness and quiet of the deep night; and here, they rose up to the tremendous heights of the dome, full of mystery and wonder.

We gave thanks for the peacemakers - lighting candles for well known figures but also for those known personally to us. There were moving accounts of people whose lives are full of pain and tragedy and yet, whose Christian faith has enabled them to find inner peace. Videos and slides demonstrated all too clearly the responsibility of good stewardship each one of us carries to care for the created world and to maintain a state of peace and harmony. Taize chants and hymns lifted our spirits and prayers brought hope and encouragement.

Half way through the night, Brother Seraphim produced a large stainless steel bowl of dough and explained how he and the brothers at his monastery bake bread for every communion service; each brother takes part in stirring the mixture and the idea is that, while they do this, between them they recite all the 150 psalms! Who knows how many they get through but at least he realised there were limitations of time on this occasion! So each one of us stirred thoughtfully and prayerfully and left Seraphim to do the baking!

As morning grew closer, we made our way to the Easter Garden with its three large crosses, situated just in front of the main door of the cathedral. There, we said

morning prayer and as it drew to a conclusion, Brother Seraphim read in English and Arabic the account from Matthew's Gospel of what happened at Christ's death: "The curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. . . ." At that moment, the purple curtain which hung from the ceiling of the cathedral - just behind the garden - was symbolically torn into two, enabling us to pass through it and to follow Canon Lucy Winkett through the main door singing "Oh Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn" By this time, another fifty people had arrived and joined us with the Bishop to celebrate the dawn Easter Eucharist on the steps of the Cathedral. Christ is Risen, Yes, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia.

MILLENNIUM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2000

Yes! It's time to start thinking, planning and preparing for 'St. James' Millennium Christmas Bazaar'. If you have an idea for a stall or are willing to run a stall please contact Wendy Baker 020 8979 3654.

It is not too early to be making items suitable for a handicraft stall, or concocting preserves and chutneys. Perhaps you would bring an article back from holiday to create a 'Holiday Memories' stall. There will be many more ideas I know, so please put on those thinking caps and even volunteer to help. The Bazaar is always a very friendly occasion and most enjoyable.



As the examination season is now upon us again, here are a few genuine exam answers:

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

A republican is a sinner mentioned in the Bible.

They ate unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients.

Today wild beasts are confined to Theological Gardens.

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP



The Wednesday of Easter week was a lovely sunny day. Freda led a workshop for the children of the parish and their friends.

Although we knew the purpose was to build an Easter Garden we didn't expect our first job to be to 'move on' an army of ants!!

The children were divided into 3 age groups, 3 to 5; 6 to 8 and 9 to 11 [roughly!] and all started with the same

story - The Easter Story by Brian Wildsmith. I would thoroughly recommend this book it suited all ages and was beautifully illustrated. Each group then made a frieze depicting the week leading up to Easter Sunday. These can be seen behind the font in church.

Decorated eggs were also attempted, I say attempted because the finishing touch was not quite right, we couldn't dye them!

Then the piece de resistance, the Easter Garden. Wellies were not required only imagination and patience, the children had the first and Freda, Brian and myself tried to find the latter. It was started with black bin liners followed by gravel and sand, the children just loved getting their hands dirty. Potted plants lined the way from the cross to the tomb. Although we placed water jugs and urns along the sand road we didn't include a water feature, next year maybe? Predominately red flowers were placed by the cross and bright flowers by the tomb. The final touch was a candle placed just inside the tomb. Before we moved back into the hall for pizza and chips Brian led the prayers.

The twenty children enjoyed themselves immensely, we should have bought a bigger chocolate egg but the thought was there. One small girl was heard to ask whether she could have chocolate and chips every time she came to church!

Lou Coaker

On the Sunday before Easter we went to the workshop and learnt all about Easter. We split up into age groups and I was with Brian. We read the Easter story, and then did a collage, which were put up at the back of the church. After that we decorated some boiled eggs. We drew a design on the egg with wax crayons and then Mummy tried to dye them in beetroot and spinach water, but it wasn't very successful!

Next we made an Easter garden, which you have probably seen when you have come into church. To make it we put big bin bag down and then Brian opened the sandbag, everyone was keen to help spread the sand around! We each put a plant down by the path. We also made cave and a cross.

As you can imagine we were very hungry doing all that work. Luckily for us Janet had been busy in the kitchen providing drinks and biscuits during the morning and our Mums made us lunch. We had pizza, chips and hot cross buns. Freda told us the spices in them reminded us of the spices that Mary put on Jesus' body. We all shared an Easter Egg which represented new life.

I learnt a lot about Easter and enjoyed the morning.

Stephanie Bailey

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For more information, write to Resource Utilities Ltd., Unit 228, 30 Great Guildford St., London SE1 0YW or call 0800 064 8333.



On the Wednesday of Holy Week, there was a workshop for children in the parish. They all worked very hard and made a lovely Easter garden which was displayed in the baptistry. Many thanks for all the hard work which went into producing this work of art.

It was a very happy occasion on 6th May as Helen and Alan Taylor's son Christopher was married to Kristina McWhinnie at St. James's. All were invited to the wedding ceremony and to celebrate afterwards with the family with cake and champagne. It was lovely to be

with them.

We also congratulate Deirdre Curran's daughter Natasha who was married at St. James's on the same day. Our love and best wishes to both these young couples and their families. Good health and great happiness.

Finally, thank you to all those who contributed to the wonderful and inspirational music we enjoyed during Holy Week and Easter.

FROM THE APRIL REGISTERS

Baptisms

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Jonathan Richard Bratt, 43 Holly Road |
| 23 | Rebecca Louise McAlpine, } 49 St. James's Avenue
Ross Alexander McAlpine, } |
| 30 | Scott Jordan Percival, 31 Cheyne Avenue, Twickenham
Adam James Kench, 19 Dean Road, Hounslow
Emma Charlotte Bullen, 35 St. James's Avenue |

Funerals

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|
| 14 | Grace Wren, 9 Links View Road | 98 |
| 18 | Ralph Reed, 9 Acacia Avenue, Lincoln | 81 |
| 28 | Gordon Shackleton, 7 Ringwood Way | 69 |

Burial of Ashes

- | | |
|----|---|
| 16 | Kathleen Belcher (formerly of St. James's Avenue) |
|----|---|

DATES TO NOTE JUNE 2000

- 1 20.00 **ASCENSION DAY** Parish Communion
3 Martyrs of Uganda 1886 & 1978
5 Boniface of Devon, Apostle to Germany, 754
8 Thomas Ken, Bp of Bath & Wells, 1711
9 Columba, Abbot of Iona, 597
10 **HAMPTON & HAMPTON HILL CARNIVAL**
 Procession leaves St. James's at noon
11 **PENTECOST**
12 **Barnabas the Apostle**
15 Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941
16 Richard, BP of Chichester, 1253
 (Pray for our neighbours at St. Richard Hanworth)
18 **TRINITY SUNDAY**
19 Sundar Singh, Sadhu & Evangelist, 1929
22 Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)
23 Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, 678
25 **The Birth of John the Baptist**
28 Irenaeus, Bp of Lyons, 200
29 **Peter & Paul, Apostles**
30 Ember Day - Remember all those being ordained Deacon & Priest
 at this time.

ORDINATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

Freda will be ordained Priest at St. Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington High Street at 3p.m. on **Sunday 2nd July**. All are very welcome to attend the ordination.

Her first Eucharist will be at St. James's on **Wednesday 5th July**. We hope that as many as possible of you will be able to come and support her and to stay for a drink afterwards.

COPY DATE FOR JULY MAGAZINE: 11TH JUNE