

Easter is still with us! For forty days of Eastertide we celebrate the everyday reality of new life, which Easter proclaims. Of course this mirrors the forty days of Lent before Easter, but forty doesn't really mean much, other than "a long time". In other words the Easter experience is for ever - a lifetime, just as forty years was about a lifetime in ancient Palestine.

Having said that, I guess no one of us can live, even for forty days, at the intensity of joy and peace that Easter Day brings. Certainly the first disciples had huge ups and downs in their Easter experiences. For them the reality of new life proved a real roller coaster. Fear, disappointment, anger, punctured by moments of insight, a growing sense of presence, a developing realisation that this new life really could be trusted and passed on. It was no smooth road, but along it were milestones of hope marking the disciples growth in trust and obedience.

This year, as most years, Christian Aid Week falls within Eastertide. For me this is such a milestone, a marker of hope. Hope is easy to talk about, but in so many situations almost impossibly difficult to live. More than anything else the Christian Aid work that I have been privileged to see is about hope through change. In the desperate pain of downtrodden committees hope comes through our obedience to live Easter lives of reconciling love. It may not feel like it as we collect the little red envelopes from door to door, but every collection is another milestone on the road to life in all its fullness, which is God's will for all humankind.

Christian Aid's former Director, Michael Taylor, recently published a new book called *Poverty and Christianity*, and in it one phrase above all caught my eye. He says, "our obedience is the midwife of hope". This illustrates so poignantly that we are connected with each other in so many different ways - humankind is interdependent. This reality certainly works both ways. Our obedience through serving God in the needs of the world's poorest people can indeed bring to birth miraculous hope in communities across the world. But don't let's forget that the hope we can learn from such communities also proves a real milestone in our risen faith, not just for Easter but for every day of the year.

Think about that this Eastertide and this Christian Aid Week, as in obedience to love each other, hope comes both to giver and receiver.

*Brian Leathard*

# Christian Aid Week 13-19 May 2001

## You're making a difference!

Christian Aid Week this year is a celebration of making a difference and focuses on people in Uganda, Brazil and Bangladesh. Debt campaigning by people in the UK and Ireland has made a real difference to people's lives. One example is Uganda where debt relief means that children can now go to primary school without having to pay fees.

In Brazil, Christian Aid's partner the Rural Landless Workers' Movement, has set up tea-growing cooperatives; whenever people in other countries buy fairly traded products, such communities benefit.

In Bangladesh the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh, also partly funded by Christian Aid, is helping people improve their lives by making loans to small businesses.

Even though the amount you give, the campaigning action you take, the prayer you say may seem to be a drop in the ocean, together all these things really are making a difference.

### Could you be a collector?

If you could collect in a street near you, please call:

**MARGARET  
TAYLOR**

**Tel: 8979 3961**

**57 NIGHTINGALE ROAD,  
HAMPTON**

Last year Christian Aid Week raised a record £12 million of which £600,000 came from the tax reclaimed on people's donations. If you are a UK tax payer, Christian Aid can reclaim an extra 28 per cent over and above the amount you give, whether that is £1, £10, or £100. All you need to do is to make sure that you fill in your name, address, and the amount you are giving on the red Christian Aid Week envelope.

***UK taxpayers, help make an extra difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people.***

**London:** PO Box 100, SE1 7RT **Belfast:** PO Box 150, BT9 6AE  
**Cardiff:** PO Box 21, CF14 2DL **Edinburgh:** PO Box 11, EH1 1EL  
**Dublin:** Christ Church, Rathgar Road, Dublin 6  
**Website:** [www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)  
Registered charity number 258003

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

### 3<sup>RD</sup> HAMPTON HILL SCOUT GROUP

Spring term was once again busy for 3<sup>rd</sup> Hampton Hill Scout Group. There have been a couple of improvements to the headquarters including soundproofing (appreciated by the leaders) and work on the footpath. The Ordnance Survey visited us to update their maps, with the details of our headquarters building and land.

Amongst many other things the Beavers have made mascots, grown cress and made a new Beaver banner. They also went to a district Beaver New Year party, which they thoroughly enjoyed. A particularly successful meeting was the Dad's night. All the Beaver dads came down and spent the night as Beavers, joining in all the activities. The Cubs have used Scouting in the Seychelles as a theme for some of their evenings, incorporating map work, menu writing and thinking about immunisation. Additionally they have based evenings around Mother's day, Easter and St. George's day. Pancake evening was great fun, with cubs cooking pancakes on top of tin cans and candles. The Scout Troop's programme included a mix of activities such as first aid, camping skills, observation and codes. Creative skills came to

the fore in the hot air balloon challenge. Like the Cubs the Scouts also had a pancake evening and of course tin cans and candles featured amongst the methods used. Competitively the Scouts did well, with creditable performances in the district first aid competition and second place in the district volleyball and air rifle competitions.



Several of the older Scouts have moved up to Ventures, rejuvenating the unit. They came second in their district volleyball competition and have decorated their room in our headquarters. They are planning many activities for next term including a raft race and a camp.

The group undertook a sponsored walk in April, which we hope to make an annual event. The summer term promises to be packed. In addition to the regular evening meetings there will be a training camp for Cubs and Scouts on the first weekend in May, group campfire on 29<sup>th</sup> June, Cub adventure 2001 and Borough Camp and a Scout camp in the summer holidays.

If you are interested in joining any of these sections or would like to help with a section, please contact John Nielsen on 8941 0352.



*Peter Horner  
Scout Troop*

# The PCC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001

## Clergy

Revd Dr Brian Leathard,  
Revd Freda Evans

Chairman

Tel: 8979 2069  
8941 4424

## Churchwardens

Ann Peterken  
Richard Wilde

Tel: 8891 5862  
8979 8887

## Members of the Deanery Synod

Mona Gow  
Ruth Mills  
Lesley Mortimer  
William (Pip) Rowett

Tel: 8287 9550  
8977 5165  
8941 2345  
8892 4736

## Elected Members

Elizabeth Susan Adams  
Wendy Baker  
Clive Beaumont  
Christopher Hodges  
Andrew/Caroline Miskin (shared duty)  
Kate O'Sullivan  
Paul Peterken  
Eila Severn  
David Taylor  
Margaret Taylor  
Rodney/Janet Taylor (shared duty)  
Valerie Traylen

Tel: 8979 3267  
8979 3654  
8943 4336  
8941 5765

Treasurer

8891 5862  
8979 1954  
8979 3961  
8979 3961  
8979 0046  
8977 5365

## Co-opted Member

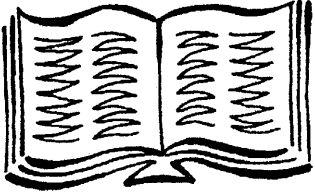
Elizabeth Gossage

Secretary

8979 3793

## THE BOOK OF JOB

# BOOKS of



# the BIBLE

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★ JOB ★

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For my contribution to this series I decided to choose a book from the Bible which was unknown to me. I would read it without any commentaries and see the impact it had on me, what thoughts it gave rise to, how it made me feel. If you haven't read Job before, you may wish to do the same before reading any further. It would be interesting to know how you respond.

I'm so glad I made this choice, although the book astonished and perplexed me. But then so does my faith. I'm sure it's a book that Jesus enjoyed. His inspiration for the parable of the sower might have come from the descriptions of nature in ch.8 *"What he trusts in is fragile; what he relies upon is a spider's web. He leans on his web, but it gives way; he clings to it, but it does not hold."*

The cathartic experience of reading Job is similar to reading Shakespeare's King Lear - he and the stricken Job were surely soulmates. To read of their sufferings is almost unbearable. They both assert their innocence of wrong doing and both become raging and somewhat tedious in their self-pity. However, they both have glimpses of a sublime peace.

It begins in the best story telling tradition with the blameless Job being put to the test by Satan who pops up like a pantomime villain. I loved this dialogue:

*"The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the Lord, 'From roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it.'"*

It then goes on to read like a play on Radio Three; a mix of poetry and prose, some of it vivid and beautiful, some a bit long winded. The main dialogue between Job and his friends takes the form of lengthy speeches. I don't understand why these patient men deserve the derogatory 'Job's Comforters' title. To me they seem like true friends in the fullest sense. When Job was covered in sores, having lost his family and all that he held dear, an outcast from society, they *'sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No-one said a word to him because they saw how great his suffering was.'* How often have I spoken - or indeed just written - words of condolence or comfort rather than going to that person and sharing silently in their grief. I shall never forget the friend who turned up on the day my mother died and just sat with me. Job's friends did not hesitate to chide, reprimand and drive him towards the confrontation with God that he has at the climax of the book. Ought we not sometimes to honestly say if we think a friend is harming themselves by their behaviour even if we risk losing their friendship? I once thought I had lost a friend when I questioned his drinking - he lost touch, but a year later he called to say he had just acknowledged he had a drink problem and could I help him find treatment.

Once or twice in my life I feel I have been granted an experience of God; how wonderful have been those moments, but how quickly I have lost that feeling and reverted to my blinkered self. I was reassured to see that happening to Job. In the midst of his troubles suddenly:

*"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. . ."*  
and then *'even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. . .'* back to the old self pity!

The main source of comfort and inspiration I derive from this book is a sense of sharing in a struggle to understand God, but also of sharing in the beauty of His creation and in His love. The age old problem of innocent suffering is not solved. God does not come down and explain it all to Job, just as He doesn't explain to us the agonies and deprivations of innocent people. He makes it perfectly clear that His ways are beyond our comprehension, but he does come to Job. Just as He comes to us.

## Geoffrey's Requiem

Nearly five years ago, at a Friday Choir practice, Geoffrey showed us a piece of music he had written specially for the Church Choir and me. I felt very deeply touched and honoured by such an unexpected gesture, particularly as the piece was so beautiful. It was a *Pie Jesu* and was to be the beginnings of his *Pilgrim's Requiem for Choir and Orchestra*.

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March the combined forces of our Church Choir, Teddington Choral Society and Cantanti Camerati, gave the world première to a very full house, including local dignitaries. The orchestra was on very fine form and the choirs blended well, giving it their all in the *Dies Irae* but singing with a delicate touch in the quieter movements.

It is a wonderful work, full of lovely and very singable tunes. For some strange reason I am rarely nervous singing solo in church, but this was different - such a sea of faces in the packed church, including some standing. I found it a very moving experience. All the Baritone solos were sung exquisitely by Chris Hodges, who skilfully contrasted the sombre darkness of the *Funeral Sentence* with the optimistic jollity of *The Pilgrim's Song*.

The end came and, after a moment's silence, thunderous applause and a standing ovation for Geoffrey which he certainly deserved. The audience loved it. Well done Geoffrey. I look forward to the next performance - Albert Hall?

*Liz Butler*



# St James's Church

THE SPIRE

St. James's Chronicle 1901

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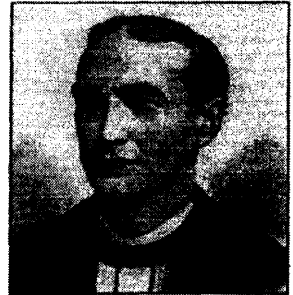
## Extracts from the May Issue



MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Once more Easter has come and gone. All the Services were very well attended, indeed, it would not be too much to say that more than once the Church was crowded. The decorations were quite equal to the usual traditions, the Church certainly looked its best with the beautiful spring flowers, arranged with the best of care and taste by the many kind helpers. The bright and hearty services were thoroughly in accord with the happy thoughts and feelings always suggested by Easter Day. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks for the most kind Easter offering.

On Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., the offertories will be the Bishop of London's Fund. The Bishop issued a most urgent appeal for help, and I am requested to ask any who may be prevented from being present at Church on that day if they will most kindly send their contribution, however small, that it may be added to the offertory.



The Annual Vestry Meeting took place on Easter Tuesday. The attendance was fairly good. The Churchwardens' accounts shewed that the total offertories amounted to £463 0s. 10d.



On Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> ult., the Annual Band of Hope Tea took place. The arrangements were carried out by Miss Short, Mrs. Creane, Mrs. Singleton, Miss Cremer, Miss E. Barton and MT. Phillips. After tea a number of Medals were distributed for good attendance, and the children thoroughly enjoyed a Magic Lantern Exhibition.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

## JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN

Website [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

Campaigning on the unfinished business of Jubilee 2000 did not cease at the end of last year. The baton has been well and truly passed on, with the launch of the Jubilee Debt Campaign (JDC) on 24<sup>th</sup> March. JDC is a coalition of the UK supporter organisations (national and regional) who played such a critical role in delivering the successes of Jubilee 2000. It encompasses NGOs such as Christian Aid, Oxfam, Tearfund and Cafod, and also energetic grassroots supporter groups, including London Jubilee (which I am very involved with and had its roots in a London Diocesan group formed by Rev Chris Brice).

The first major project of JDC is to support the Drop the Debt project that is working to secure a New Deal on debt at the G7 Summit in Genoa, 20<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The aim is to secure 100% debt cancellation from the multilateral lenders (the IMF and the World Bank), to match the 100% bilateral debt cancellation already agreed by most G7 governments, including our own. Please take one of the colourful **Drop It!** postcards in church and send it off to The Prime Minister.

## UGANDA DEBT NETWORK and Christian Aid Week

In order to qualify for debt relief, the government of Uganda had to tackle the problem of corruption. A Poverty Action Fund has ensured that funds released from debt relief can be monitored by civil society. The Uganda Debt Network (UDN), an advocacy and lobbying organisation, was started in 1998 to help pursue this monumental challenge. It is a Christian Aid partner and in March they brought Christine Nantongo, head of communications, to England.

Those of us who heard Christine speak were truly humbled. She is energetic, positive, and a real beacon of light. She showed a wonderful film of the Uganda Debt Network using artwork and street drama productions to teach awareness of corruption at all levels of society. Illiteracy does not prevent ordinary people understanding the issues. The workers and volunteers in the UDN wear T-shirts and baseball caps bearing the slogan *Ugandans Against Corruption* as they travel round the country. Having focused on adults in the past two years, the UDN has now started a lot of work in schools.

Uganda is the first of the highly indebted poor countries to have received debt cancellation and their debt burden has been reduced by about 42%. Universal primary education was already planned before debt relief came along, but Christine gave some heartening statistics on how debt relief has enhanced the programme: 3600 classrooms completed, 7 more primary teacher training colleges, student to teacher ratio reduced from 1-200 to 1-80, all of this benefiting about 6 million children.

In addition, there is the less obvious benefit of empowerment. Jubilee 2000 is perceived as a campaign led by people in the North. Many people in the developing world have of course been working tirelessly on social justice issues, including debt, over many years, without any high profile. Christine very kindly said that Jubilee 2000 has helped Ugandans to occupy political space and to establish relations with



other African countries and with the North.

With those words and knowledge that the Uganda Debt Network has a 10-year plan, how can we give up debt campaigning just because the year 2000 has ended?

*Ann Peterken*



On her 74<sup>th</sup> birthday last year Monica Heaford vowed that she would undertake a sponsored swim of twenty lengths of Feltham pool to raise money for the Richmond Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. A sufferer herself, she has to adapt to her disabilities day by day and so was unable to give a specific date. However, on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March she accomplished her aim and has received huge support for her wonderful effort. If you would

like to contribute please contact Monica or call in on her at 251 Uxbridge Road - the kettle is always on the boil!

We remember Irene Watson, recovering after a hip replacement operation and send her our good wishes for a speedy recovery.

Last month we included some extracts and drawings from letters sent to Brian from the children of the Jack and Jill school after their visit to St. James's. This month Brian has received visits from year 5 at Hampton Hill Junior School and a group of 47 religious education students at St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill. It is wonderful that St. James's is able to inspire and educate such a wide age range.

The Lent Groups this year have been a great success. 35 people attended three groups to read and discuss Rowan Williams' *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles our Judgement*. The book was commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury and is quite the most challenging Lent book we have used. All three groups agreed to meet again after Lent to finish the last chapter, which must speak for itself. If you weren't able to attend a Lent group but would still like to read the book, please ask Brian or Freda if you can borrow a copy.

The Women's Forum soup lunch on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March raised over £700, which has been donated to the Twickenham Refugee Welcome Centre for their IT corner.

On Mothering Sunday we were delighted to welcome the Rev Joanna Udal, our new CMS Mission Partner. Joanna has now begun her mission as assistant to the new Archbishop of the Sudan, Joseph Marona. It was wonderful to meet her and to listen to her telling us of mothers in the Sudan. We look forward to receiving her letters. Please remember Joanna and her ministry in your prayers.

## A QUIZ NIGHT

has been arranged for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May in the Hall  
to raise funds for

**Christian Aid**

If you are interested please sign the list in church  
Tickets will be available later

## DATES TO NOTE IN MAY

- 1 Philip and James, Apostles  
2 Athanasius, Bishop and Teacher, 373  
4 English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era  
7 Bank Holiday  
8 Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, 1417  
13 **Christian Aid Week Begins**  
9.30am **Preacher at Parish Communion, Andrew Clayton,  
Senior Policy Officer with Christian Aid**  
6.30pm **Churches Together Around Hampton, United Service at  
St Richard's, Hanworth**  
14 Matthias, Apostle  
16 Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877  
19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988  
7.30pm **Parish Quiz Evening**  
21 Rogation Day  
24 **ASCENSION DAY**  
8.00pm **Parish Communion**  
25 The Venerable Bede, Monk and Scholar, 735  
26 Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605  
28 Lanfranc, Prior and Archbishop, 1089  
Bank Holiday  
30 Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906  
31 Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

## FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

### Baptism

- 4 Isobel Helen Parkes, 228 Buckingham Road, Hampton

### Funerals

- |    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 6  | Maureen Satow, c/o 49 Spencer Road, Strawberry Hill | 90 |
| 23 | Jim Cork, 43 Deacons Walk, Hampton                  | 88 |
| 26 | Michael Dixon, 154 Hanworth Road, Hampton           | 48 |

**COPY DATE FOR JUNE 2001 MAGAZINE: 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY**