

If practice makes perfect then we should all be well on the way to achieving our Lent goals by the time this edition of "The Spire" arrives through your door. I hope so!

The forty days of Lent bring home to us that there is no such thing as a quick fix. We don't get to Easter Day without first living through Holy Week. The resurrection is known only after the fear, betrayal and agony of death have been experienced. A week may be a long time in politics but, thank God, Holy Week and Easter are eternal.

After a visit to a very ill patient in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital I went into the chapel there to stop and think about a conversation we'd just had. The parishioner had been told that his illness knew of no cure. He hadn't yet seen his family to tell them. He felt utterly alone, totally cut off from all the activity of the ward around him, as if night had fallen all about him he said. We talked till words ran out, we sat in silence, we held hands, we let go. His fear and sadness overwhelmed him. But there was the faintest remnant of light still in his composure and in the quality of the silence between us. I couldn't say there was an articulate faith, but there was peace as we held each other.

Downstairs in the chapel I was amazed to discover a wonderful painting of The Resurrection by the 16th century Italian master, Veronese. As I sat and looked at it I began to see the truth which the artist sought to convey, namely that resurrection, new life, begins when we are able to relinquish our sense of dominance or independence. The painting shows Christ in resurrection strength, but surrounded by darkness. It is as if the painter knew deep within himself both the terrifying power of the darkness and the endurance of God's love which is never overcome by the darkness, just as that parishioner knew both awful darkness and the glimmer of light.

In the painting Christ strides forwards, with a bright cloak and banner, with accompanying angels, all speaking of triumph, but the surrounding darkness is profound. That is the reality of human experience. Darkness and light exist in relation to each other and we recognise one because of the other. Only when we truly acknowledge the painful reality of Holy Week, can we start to see the truth of Easter. When we know the darkness we can more fully recognise the light.

So I invite you to participate as fully as you can in the keeping of Holy Week and Easter this year. You will be very welcome at St. James' in the darkness of our human experience as well as in the light. God calls us to live fully, to be his image in the world, living through the darkness with the light of Easter's new life, for Christ the first fruit is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Holy Week and Easter 2002

24 March	Palm Sunday	0800 Holy Communion 0930 Parish Communion with Distribution of Palms 2100 Music, Silence & Compline (Night Prayer)
25 March	Monday	0915 Morning Prayer 2100 Music, Silence & Compline
26 March	Tuesday	0930 Holy Communion 2100 Music, Silence & Compline
27 March	Wednesday	0915 Morning Prayer 1200 Holy Communion & simple lunch 2100 Music, Silence & Compline
28 March	Maundy Thursday	0915 Morning Prayer 2000 Parish Communion with the Washing of Feet
29 March	Good Friday	0915 Morning Prayer 1200 Three Hour Vigil at the Cross 1900 Come & Sing Handel's 'Messiah'
30 March	Easter Eve	0915 Morning Prayer 2000 Easter Vigil & Lighting of Paschal Candle
31 March	EASTER DAY	0800 Holy Communion 0930 Parish Communion

You will be very welcome at any of these services

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP SATURDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2002

10.30a.m. - 1p.m.

Come and learn about Holy Week and Easter with
story-telling, crafts, Easter garden preparation, egg painting
... and lunch!

Telephone Freda on 0208 941 4424
or sign your name on the clip board at the back of church

CHILDREN'S HOLY WEEK WORSHIP GOOD FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2002 from 10.30 - 11a.m.



ELECTORAL ROLL RENEWAL 2002

Every year the Electoral Roll is revised, but every six years it must be completely renewed. This year is a renewal year, and everyone who wishes to be on the new Electoral Roll for this parish must submit the simple "Application for Enrolment" form even if they are on the present roll.

Electoral rolls provide an indication of the real membership and strength of the Church. Enrolment is a way of saying . . . "I belong". For us it is an act of commitment to St. James's Church and the Church as a whole. It opens the way for greater involvement in the life of the Church at parish, deanery, diocesan and national levels.

Application forms are very simple to complete. The basic form requires only a name and address and declaration of age and membership of the church. Applicants should normally be over 16 years old, but those whose sixteenth birthday will be before April 2003 may complete the application form and be enrolled on their birthday.

Additionally the General Synod are anxious that we should be seen to be a multiethnic Church and applicants are asked to complete a second form declaring their ethnicity. Completion of this section is optional.

To comply with the Data Protection Act we must state that the information given may normally be used for legitimate purposes connected with parish administration and for general ecclesiastical purposes connected with the parish. It may also be made available to officers of the Diocese and other Church of England organisations when legitimately requested. However, any parishioners may require that any information given, such as an address or phone number, is not used other than for registration of enrolment and is kept confidential to the incumbent and specified parish officers.

Enrolment forms are at the back of the church. When completed the forms can be posted in the special box in the church or returned to the vicarage. The closing date for application this year is Sunday 10th March.

At the Women's Forum Meeting on March 20th, Sara Butterfield will talk about her work with UNICEF in Somalia. She calls her subject "Cutting the Rose" which is the term used for female genital mutilations. Sara has been involved with this project for some time and will share with us her thoughts and experiences. Not a subject for the fainthearted, but one of which we should be aware.

All are welcome to this, the last meeting of the Women's Forum in its current format.

Mona Gow

PREPARATIONS FOR LENT (GREEK STYLE)

Easter is the most important event in the Greek Church's Calendar. It therefore follows that the preparations for the lead up to Easter and Lent are also taken with great reverence.

Eight weeks before Easter sees the start of two weeks for partying and carnival called "apokries". This is the last chance to eat, drink and be merry before the start of lent.



Children especially love this time. They can go to school in their fancy dress outfits and most schools have their own "apokries party" at some stage during this period. On the last Sunday, large towns will have their own street Carnival with floats - more on the lines of Rio de Janerio, the largest being in Patra.

The following day all parrying stops and, the Greeks now enter into a day of preparation for the 6 weeks of lent. This day is called "clean Monday" (kathara deuthera). On this day no food containing animal blood can be eaten commencing the cleansing of the body. Usual foods eaten will be octopus, squid, taramasalata, pickles, lettuce, fassolia (bean salad), black eye

beans and a very sweet dish called "halva" which is made out of crushed sesame seeds. It is sometimes combined with chocolate and almonds and is very fastening.

After lunch everyone goes to fly their kites.

Now begins 6 weeks of lent. Holy Week (megali ethomada) literally meaning big week is the most solemn of times, is a period of mourning. No entertainment is allowed this week, and the Church has services every night, each re-enacts the events leading to Easter Sunday. Fasting is strict especially on Good Friday.

Yvette Alexandratos

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN: 14th, 15th and 16th MARCH

The Properties Committee have planned the annual spring clean to take place about two weeks before Easter Day. We rely very heavily on volunteers to help us finish the necessary work.

We start on Thursday 14th March by dusting and cleaning the high-level areas, roof trusses, window ledges, column caps and chandeliers. On Friday, after morning prayer, we continue by dusting chairs, polishing pews and vacuum-cleaning floors and carpets. The final work is the washing and sealing of the tiled floors. Usually we are almost finished by the end of Friday evening; work will stop not later than midday on Saturday.

We hope that as in the past we will have many helpers to share the work for as long as they can spend with us. A notice in the south aisle of the church specifies time and jobs, with the number of helpers required for each. If you can join in please add your name to the list.

The Properties Committee

£250 ev

A problem to share an

Yes, in 2002 it will cost us £250 every single day to main
We would very much like to challenge you with

It seems incredible to believe but this is the case. We need to raise £250 every day this year if we are to continue with the life of our church as it is. This sum does not allow for any expansion or development of our activities, but reflects the nuts and bolts costs of parish ministry today.

Like you and your household we too have to budget very carefully. Everything we receive in income is by voluntary giving. We have almost no historical resources to fall back on. We try to save a little every year to build up some reserve for the maintenance of the building. We are committed to using our money wisely and generously as serious followers of Jesus Christ.

But just think about some of those costs which we have to bear.

£35,000 this year towards **ordained ministry**
(stipends, pensions, national insurance, training, housing)

£10,000 of **parochial expenses**
(Every visit to someone in hospital, every telephone call or letter)

£5,000 for **Insurance of the church and Hall** each year

£14,000 for **heating, lighting, maintenance and supplies**
(We all like our homes to be warm and clean, and the church too)

and so the list goes on.

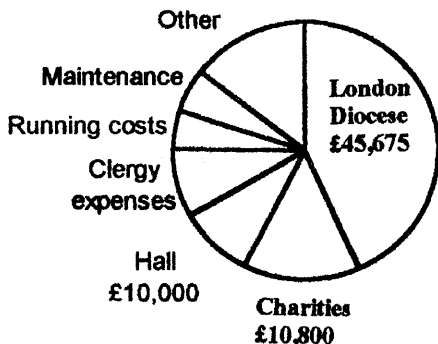
ry day!

1 opportunity to grasp

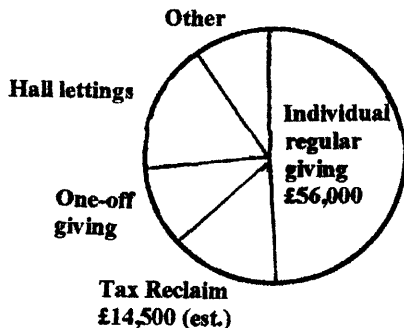
1 the worship, mission and ministry of St. James Church.
hard facts and ask for your considered response.

The pie charts below illustrate the proportionate costs of our work and our income. They are very finely balanced.

Expenditure 2001



Income 2001



We need your help to secure our church's work. Let's see this as less of a problem and more of an opportunity to rethink our priorities.

For example:

A daily newspaper might cost £4 per week

A good meal out for two people £30

The weekly supermarket round for a family £75

Could you give this weekly or monthly?

If you pay tax we can make your giving more efficient.

Please contact Carol Bailey (8783 0633) or Pip Rowett (8892 4736)

St. Chad, Bishop of Mercia (Lichfield)

d.672

Feast Day March 2nd

Next time you feel a wave of righteous indignation sweeping over you at being treated unfairly, it might be well and good for your blood pressure to think of St. Chad.

A young missionary monk in Ireland, Chad was recalled to England to replace his brother Cedd as Abbot of Lastingham Monastery. Chad was chosen by King Oswiu to be Bishop of York, but apparently he was consecrated by some dubious bishops who were involved in simony (the buying and selling of ecclesiastical benefits). When Theodore the Archbishop was making one of his visitations he discovered this and Chad was deposed. No appeal tribunal for wrongful dismissal here; it is recorded that Chad said 'If you consider that I have not been properly consecrated, I willingly resign this charge of which I never thought myself worthy. I undertook it, though unworthy, in obedience.' Theodore was so astounded by his humility that he reconsecrated him as Bishop of the Mercians with his see at Lichfield. He founded the cathedral but built himself a simple oratory where he lived and prayed. No bishop's palace for Chad. It is said that all who met him were aware of God's glory. A frail man, he insisted on walking around his diocese as he felt going on horseback would put him above the common man. Bede tells of how the Archbishop lifted him up with his own hands and sat him on a horse, so as to conserve his strength. I expect Chad dismounted once the coast was clear!

Humility is certainly not a buzz word in these days where status, wealth and sticking up for our rights are all important.

There is a lovely story of how when St. Chad came to die his oratory was filled with the sound of music and his followers who were working in the fields came to see what it was. Chad told them that his hour had come and they had heard the angels calling him home. He blessed them, begged them to keep together in peace and faithfully fulfil their calling. Bede reports that his body had simply worn out and 'his holy soul was released from the prison-house of the body and one may rightly believe was taken by the angels to heaven.'

Marion Dewey

ELLA LEATHARD

With sadness we record the very recent death of Brian's mother, Ella and extend our sympathy and love to Brian, Ramani and Anusha, to Brian's father, Ray, and the rest of the family.

**A Lenten meditation from a very long standing friend of
St. James and a respected member of our congregation.**

WHY?

Brian's article in the February 'Spire' asks "Who is this?" I ask "Why?" Some may remember the lovely poem 'The Heart of the Matter' I read at Margaret's Farewell Service nearly two years ago. Since then I have had much time to reflect, remember and unashamedly cry. The Somme - my mother crying - the Jarrow March - unemployment - re-armament - Munich - Dunkirk - The Battle of Britain - Normandy - Arnhem - Stalingrad - Dresden, and then September 11th. I was saddened by the picture in the press of the young American mother whose husband's prompt action prevented more deaths. Then pictures of Afghan children maimed and starving.

Why, I ask, is there not another way?

I go soon with my family to the Isle of Wight. Tennyson Down where Margaret's ashes are interred is a place we loved. Peace, happy memories of country walks, such friendly folk. Sitting by Tennyson's Memorial with the Solent to the north and the English Channel to the south, the miniature daffodils and snowdrops we planted show us that nature cares.

Finally, maybe the answer to my question is to be found here. For attending the candlemas service recently brought home so very vividly to me - HOPE. Sitting behind me with her father and brothers was a little girl (Stella?). So lovely and sweet, so full of life and showing such interest in the strangeness of it all. A wonderful innocent smiling face. I told her to look above the door upon leaving the church at the carving - Jesus - 'Suffer little children to come unto me'. Hopefully that is the answer. Our future is surely with our children. We must try to help them understand our past mistakes and guide them to a better way.

Bill

The Ladies choir meets in the Vestry every alternate Wednesday morning from 10.30 - 11.45a.m. Anyone who likes to sing would be most welcome to join us. (We do not take it too seriously!) Following our pattern, the dates should be 27th Feb, 13th & 27th March and 10th April etc.

For more information 'phone Eila 020 8979 1954.



We have said a sad farewell to the "Ballet Ladies" Noreen and Colleen who have moved away; we wish them happiness in their new home and hope they will visit us from time to time. The Candlemas evening service on January 2nd with the Apocalypse Singers was very much enjoyed and appreciated. Five new bell ringers have joined the team recently and are now ringing regularly. We welcome Clive and Maria Beaumont, Lisa Jones, Ian Harris and Chris Coates. Ring out, wild bells! The young church is very much enjoying the Sunday mornings with Lucia (and Ruby in her pushchair) and Nick. Thanks to both for their help. Marcella den Boer, whom many will remember for her organ playing at St. James, has returned to live in Canada. She sends her wishes to all and misses her life in Hampton Hill. Our January Taizé service was especially good: keep an eye open for the next one - you may be surprised. Stephanie Bailey has been selected to join the training squad for the National Sports Acrobatic team. She will be going to a training camp in Bulgaria in the summer. Congratulations Stephanie!

SCOUTS ON THE HUNT

**THERE MUST BE SOME PEOPLE OUT THERE WITH SOME ENERGY
TO SHARE WITH CUBS, BEAVERS AND SCOUTS.
WHERE ARE YOU?**

We all know just how much youngsters benefit from and enjoy being part of a uniformed organisation but for that to continue in the future we need some adults to assist.

Can you please, please consider giving some of your time in one of the following ways:



- As a committee member to help with admin and fundraising or help with HQ cleaning and maintenance**
- As a Cub leader willing to take out a warrant**
- As a Warranted Assistant to help with the Cub Section**
- As a Beaver Leader**

No experience is necessary for any of these posts as there is an excellent training programme.

3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group has enabled countless young people to experience scouting over the last 50 years. Without additional help in the very near future, this may end.

Re-consider how you use your time now and just think what a difference you could make to our young people - and it's all good fun too!

Ring Paul Fitchett on 0208 941 7186 for a chat.

On Friday 8th March at 7.30p.m. and on Saturday 9th March at 2.30p.m. and 7.30p.m., Cantanti Camerati with Geoffrey Bowyer will be giving their 26th 'Just a Song at Twilight'. There will be usual mix of old and newer favourites, audience participation and general good humour! Tickets from £7 - £8, concessions £5 - £6 from Marion on 8898 8020 (from 6 - 7p.m.), Albert's Music Shop or at the door.

TEDDINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY - Conductor Geoffery Bowyer, in conjunction with CANTANTI CAMERATI present Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" (abridged), at St. James's Church on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30p.m. Soloists: Kathryn Hyde, Marion Olsen, Paul Martyn-West and Anthony Cunningham. Tickets £9, concessions £7 at door.

FROM THE JANUARY REGISTERS

Baptisms

Nicola Jane Croucher, 77 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill.
 Owen Paul Croucher, 77 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill.
 Magnus Bell, 233 High Street, Hampton Hill.

Funerals

4	Bessie Doris Smith, Sherwood House, Walton-on-Thames.	94
9	Audrey Lillie Roodenburgh, 58 Canford Avenue, Battersea.	72
10	Christopher James Polley, 49 Slade House, Edgar Road, Hounslow.	
23	Peter Michael David Willington, 2 Addison Way, Teddington.	29

DATES TO NOTE MARCH

1	David, Patron of Wales c.601
2	Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672
3	Lent 3
4	2000 Parochial Church Council
10	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday
14 - 16	Church Spring Clean. Can you help?
17	Lent 5 Passion Sunday
20	Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687
21	Thomas Cramer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1556
24	Palm Sunday
28	Maundy Thursday
29	Good Friday
30	Easter Eve
31	Easter Day

COPY DATE FOR APRIL MAGAZINE: 10TH MARCH