

There has been much publicity surrounding the opening of Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of Christ*. The film has been welcomed by some as a powerful portrayal of the Gospel. Cinemas across the co-called Bible belt in the USA have been booked 24/7, and one Church in the UK is prepared to give away £20,000 worth of tickets as part of its evangelism strategy. However very many column inches have been devoted to expressions of concern and criticism on the grounds of anti-Semitism, graphic violence and biblical inaccuracy.

Films depicting Christ's life seem to capture the imagination and provoke controversy in equal measures. Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ* presented difficult questions about Jesus' humanity by raising the issue of sexuality. Zeffirelli's' portrayal of the Gospel narrative in *Jesus of Nazareth* may appear palatable because it is more reverential, with the optimism and comfort lacking in Gibson's portrayal. Every generation seeks to interpret and respond to the Gospel afresh, but inherent within this quest is the reality that the results mirror the preoccupations of the director or of society.

Jesus is not yet another film hero battling against the odds in a fight between "the Good" and clearly defined "badies". In our Holy Week and Easter liturgies we find ourselves caught up in the drama of God's love for humanity revealed in Christ's life, death and resurrection. In the incarnation Christ suffers with us, in *compassion*, challenging and transforming us in the midst of the complexities of life. Rowan Williams reminds us that 'If Jesus is indeed what God communicates to us, God's language for us, his cross is always both ours and not ours, not a magnified sign of our own suffering, but a mark of God's work in and through the deepest vulnerability, not a martyr's triumphant achievement, but something that is there for all human sufferers because it belongs to no human cause' (Rowan Williams, *Writing in the Dust*, pp77-8). On Palm Sunday we celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem, mindful that the cries of 'Hosanna' revealed worldly expectations of power and kingship, which were at odds with Jesus' own ministry. On Maundy Thursday we commemorate the Last Supper, and the institution of the Eucharist. We are reminded, by Jesus' act of washing his disciples' feet, that our own participation in broken bread and out-poured wine demands that we should also act with loving service. In sharing in the sacrament we are united with him and are formed into his body, the Church, but we are also confronted with our own betrayals and failures.

Good Friday focuses our minds on the painful reality of the cross in all its horror and darkness. Jesus gives himself for us: God's love for us is poured out in the ultimate sacrifice. Christ's body is laid in the tomb, and we face Holy Saturday. A day of silence following desolation, of utter loss. And we wait. Our waiting culminates in the Easter Vigil, during which the symbols of fire, light, water, bread and wine are restored as we celebrate the risen Christ among us. The resurrection is not an event to be captured. The women arrived at the tomb early in the morning, yet Christ was already risen from the dead.

The glory and light of the resurrection are gradually revealed amidst tears, confusion and unanswered questions in the lives of Mary, Peter John and the other disciples. There the risen Christ met them and called them by name, and transformed them. Sometimes we might find ourselves overwhelmed by confusion and disbelief; sometimes we cannot see beyond the silent darkness of Holy Saturday. Christ's sacrifice on the cross reveals God's love in the depth of suffering and desolation. He stands with us in those dark places bringing us into his risen light, sharing with us God's love in order that we might bring that love to others. Alleluia!

*Julie Gittoes*

## HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

4 April	08.00	Holy Communion
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	09.30	Parish Communion with Procession of Palms
	19.30	Performance of Haydn's "Creation"
5 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
Monday of Holy Week	21.00	Compline
6 April	09.30	Holy Communion
Tuesday of Holy Week	21.00	Compline
7 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
Wednesday of Holy Week	21.00	Compline
8 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	20.00	Parish Communion with Washing of Feet
9 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
<b>Good Friday</b>	10.30	Children's Service
	12.00-15.00	Three-Hour Devotion
10 April	09.15	Morning Prayer
<b>Easter Eve</b>	20.00	Easter Vigil and lighting of the New Fire
11 April	08.00	Holy Communion
<b>Easter Day</b>	09.30	Parish Communion

## IT CAN'T BE DONE

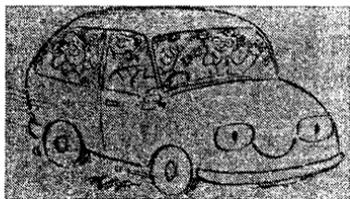
Somebody said that it couldn't be done  
But he with a chuckle replied,  
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face; if he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed, "Oh, you'll never do that,  
At least, no-one ever has done it."  
He took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew, he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure.  
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,  
The dangers that are sure to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Then take off your coat and go to it.  
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done", and you'll do it.

*The first verse of this poem has helped me through a variety of adverse experiences over the years. I first saw it in a magazine in about 1934/5 and have an idea that it was written about Hudson Taylor, who founded the China Inland Mission, but I don't know who the author was. Perhaps someone will be able to tell me a name.*

Jean Western



### **Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group (VCG) The Greenwood Centre**

The VCG makes regular bookings for door-to-door transport to Tescos, Sainsburys, Linden Hall and other outings. If you need help ring Ron on 020 8979 9662.

The VCG always needs more volunteer drivers. There is great satisfaction in this work, which enables the elderly, housebound or infirm to get to shops, hospitals and day centres. There is also a need for another driver for the door-to-door shopping minibus. If you can help, please ring Fiona Brennan, Director, on 020 8979 9662. You will be made very welcome.

# REVIEW

## "ANYTHING GOES" THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE

Set on a luxury liner leaving New York for London in 1932, Cole Porter's escapist musical opened seventy years ago in America, during the Depression. Prohibition has ended, the once-rich were no longer throwing themselves off buildings in quite such large numbers and the still-rich were pursuing permissiveness and various crazes, just to ward off boredom. Something like now . . . . .

The original production starred the legendary Ethel Merman as the Evangelist nightclub singer Reno; she went on to star in four further Porter musicals. Here, Sally Ann Triplett's singing and dancing Reno, evolves, climaxing gloriously in the mock gospel rendering of 'Blow Gabriel Blow' in the second half; she and her four rivetting attendant Angels stop the show. Co-star Billy (John Barrowman), stowaway and clerk to tycoon Elisha (Denis Quilley), sings gloriously but his smile seems pasted on, which is worrying. By contrast, Martin Marquez's Moonface, a gangster, inhabits his role effortlessly, making his and Reno's 'Friendship' number another show-stopper. An opulent stage set, a cast of forty-two on stage, *all* expertly choreographed and backed by a large orchestra, make this a memorable theatrical event. The beautiful, authentic costumes and wigs produce sexy, elegant, mature women; teenagers did not yet exist . . . . .

Based on a re-write of a PG Wodehouse and Guy Bolton book, the tongue-in-cheek story is unimportant; the tycoon's clerk fails to sell stock as instructed, thereby saving his tycoon boss from ruin, mistaken identities abound - that sort of thing. Lord Evelyn Oakleigh (Simon Day), is an archetypal Wodehouse creation, one that Americans can both laugh at and emulate; his character too grows, reaching fruition in his and Reno's hilarious rendering of 'The Gypsy in Me', complete with a 'gypsy' trio of musicians . . . . .

This is Director Trevor Nunn's final, triumphant production at the National Theatre, which has now transferred to Drury Lane where it is sure to make much needed income for our National Theatre.

Oddly, the title seems socially just as relevant now as it did in the thirties; *then* they sang about 'Kicks from cocaine' and the 'ecstasy' of love; *now* Ecstasy is something young people can buy for £1 at a 'Rave' and dance all night . . . . . Then, as now, criminals became celebrities - remember James Cagney in *Public Enemy*.

But don't think about that. Do some economising, then spend quite a lot of money for a good seat at Drury Lane and wallow in the gorgeous clothes, amazing singing and dancing and how privileged we are to have access to London Theatre. I first saw 'Anything Goes' at the National and internally danced my way to Waterloo Station singing - softly I hope - 'You Are So Easy To Love'. Recently, I took a daughter to see it at Drury Lane, where the staging is less elaborate than the Olivier production but just as exciting. This show will make you feel happy.

*Barbara Withers*

## SLAVES FOR A DAY!

The Young Church have recently been raising money for a charity called Christian Aid. This charity sends goats to poor widows in Africa and the young church thought that we would raise money for this charity by being slaves for a day. Being a slave for a day consisted of shoe shining, dog walking, leaf clearing, brass polishing and ironing. We were aiming to raise £144 but managed to make **£195**. The young church also decided to have a tea and biscuit morning. Which raised another £25. After we had collected all the money in we had raised a staggering and most generous **£220**. This was enough money to send 20 goats to widowed mothers in Africa.

*Some of the young church members thoughts:*

- It was so boring I never want to work again!
- It was hard but I can't imagine doing it for the rest of my life.
- I didn't like being told what to do.
- It was a good experience, not that I'd want to do it again.
- It was unfair.
- We'd all like to say a special thanks to Ned Durrans who raised £25 to make the £220 pounds we raised to the total of £245.

Thanks for everyone's support and help to raise this huge amount of money.

*Written and edited by The Young Church*

## Buy a Brick and Help Open our Doors!

**We need to raise £25,000 to complete the West Porch Project**

### Can You Help?

To help complete the number of sponsorship will suit everyone's budget flagstone for £50, a window £800. If you are a taxpayer of your gift with Gift Aid.



project we have created a packages which we hope Buy a Brick for £5, a for £500 or a computer for you can increase the value

For more information please speak to the Vicar or one of the Churchwardens.

## **CMS Overseas Visits and Encounter Groups**

CMS offers two short-term overseas programmes for both younger and older people: ENCOUNTER and Praxis.

ENCOUNTER (ages 18-30) is an opportunity to be part of a team for 3-4 weeks in the summer to share the lives, hopes, worship and struggles of Christians in another part of the world. Teams have two leaders who have cross-cultural experience.

Praxis (ages 25-65+) is for those who would like a two-week holiday with a difference. Praxis aims to enable Christian groups from the UK to experience and meet with another part of the world church and experience their culture, spirituality and friendship. It is an opportunity to connect with Christians who are seeking to make a difference in the world and find out more about what is going on at grassroots level.

Further information is on the notice: "**Overseas Visits**" on the board inside the church, or email "[debbie.james@cms-uk.org](mailto:debbie.james@cms-uk.org)" or phone 020 7803 3326

## **Richmond Independent Custody Visiting Panel**

The Independent Custody Visiting Panel is undertaking a recruitment campaign for Independent Custody Visitors. Visitors are members of the local community who visit police stations unannounced to check on the welfare of people in police custody. They come from a variety of backgrounds and sections of the community. They must be over 18 and have had no direct involvement in the criminal justice system. The panel is particularly keen to recruit young people and those from ethnic minorities.

Those interested should contact: Juliette Taylor, Civic Centre, Twickenham TW1 3BZ or phone 020 8891 7155. Email [j.taylor@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:j.taylor@richmond.gov.uk)  
See also the green notice on the board inside the church.

## **Chapel of St George, Heathrow Airport**

The Heathrow Chaplains' Team gives support 24 hours a day every day of the year. Additionally, the Chapel of St George and the Multi-faith Prayer Rooms are available to all airport staff and passengers. They are appealing for volunteers to collect in the airport area on St George's Day, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. If you can help see the notice on the board inside the church.



## St. James's Chronicles

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### The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1904 Extracts from the April Issue

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Our voyage is now approaching its end. Since my last letter we have visited Syracuse in Sicily, where St. Paul was allowed to stay for three days when he was being taken as a prisoner to Rome, and where he was the first to preach the Gospel. We crossed the mouth of the Adriatic Sea, where the same Apostle was "driven up and down" for three days in a storm. We have "sailed under Crete", and seen its high mountains covered with snow. We landed at Rhodes, an island visited by St. Paul on his third missionary journey. It was once the chief naval power in the world, but now belongs to Turkey. The Crusaders had possession of it for many years, and upon many of the houses are still the coats of arms of members of the English nobility.

From Rhodes we went to Cyprus, famous in early Christian times for its missionary spirit. St. Paul passed through it from east to west with St. Barnabas, and won the Deputy, Sergius Paulus, to Christianity at Paphos. The Mohammedan feast of Beiram was going on when we were there, and the natives were dressed in their gayest costumes and looked most picturesque.

From Cyprus we went to Beyrout, in Syria, a large prosperous seaport. As we approached land we could see the whole range of the mountains of Lebanon covered with snow. We took a train at Beyrout, and crossed the Lebanons at a height of 4800 feet and descended to Damascus, one of the oldest cities in the world and still great and prosperous. It is surrounded with immense orchards of apricot and other fruit trees, and looks extremely beautiful from the hills. The streets are narrow and dirty, and crowded with Arabs, Jews and Greeks. We crossed the rivers Abana and Pharpar, which Naaman the Syrian thought "better than all the waters of Israel". We visited the house of Naaman; the place of St. Paul's conversion; the house of Ananias, and many other historical sites.

From Damascus we went to Baalbek, where we saw the ruins of what once were the most beautiful heathen temples in the world, dedicated to the worship of Baal. Some of the single stones of the temples are said to weigh over 1000 tons, and no one knows by what means they were put in their places. At Beyrout, Damascus and at Baalbek, I visited the British Syrian Schools and heard the children sing both in Arabic and in English. The most useful missionary work seems to be amongst the children. From Beyrout we went to Jaffa, the ancient Joppa, and there we saw the house of "Simon the Tanner, by the sea shore", where St. Peter stayed. The whole neighbourhood is a vast orange grove.

From Jaffa we went by train to Jerusalem, the most interesting city in the world to Christians. It is scarcely possible to enumerate all the sacred sites we visited. We

stood on the Mount of Olives and looked on the City from the spot on which the Saviour stood when He approached it from Jericho and pronounced its doom. We visited Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre, and the site of Solomon's Temple, the tombs of the Kings, Solomon's stables with their 3000 pillars, Solomon's quarries, the pools of Gihon, Hezekiah, Siloam, and Bethesda, the garden of Gethsemane, the Valley of Hinnom, etc. We went to Bethlehem and saw the cave in which it is said the Saviour was born. We saw the "fields in which shepherds watched their flocks by night", when they heard the angels' announcement of the Birth. We went "down from Jerusalem to Jericho", under a guard of four cavalry-men, because the road is still infested with robbers. Jericho is now a small village of mud huts, occupied mainly by Nubians and Arabs. We tasted the water of the Dead Sea, which covers the cities of Sodom and Gomarrha, and we stood by the Jordan where the Israelites crossed, where John the Baptist preached and where Jesus was baptised.

From the Holy Land we went to Egypt, and saw all that was left of Heliopolis, where Moses was brought up and became "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians". We visited the pyramids of Ghizeh, the tombs of kings who lived nearly 6000 years ago, and one of whom employed 100,000 slaves for 30 years to build his tomb and make a road to it. We went to Memphis, where we saw two immense statues of Rameses II, the king "who knew not Joseph", and who for 66 years cruelly oppressed the children of Israel. We went up the Nile, and were shown the place where Pharoah's daughter found the infant Moses in the cradle of bulrushes. In the museum we saw the mummied body of the Pharoah of the Exodus.

We are now on our way home, having yet to visit Palermo, Naples and Pompeii. The voyage has been a delightful experience that one will never forget and for which I can never be too thankful; but, after all, the trees and green fields of England will be very pleasant to look upon, and one feels more than ever that there is no better place to live in than England, and no rule better than English rule.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.

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## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9 - 15 MAY**

Christian Aid works with other organisations to campaign for trade justice, not necessarily free trade. Poor countries must be allowed to protect their own farmers and developing industries. There are many ways in which we, a rich nation, can help poorer countries help themselves. Some of these ways will be outlined in "The Spire" next month, just before the Christian Aid Week. The simplest way of course is to give money generously to our parish Christian Aid collection. Margaret Taylor, who organises the parish collection, is very anxious to recruit helpers for this.

To find out more about Christian Aid Week, 9 - 15 May, visit [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org) or call 08080 006006. Margaret Taylor's local phone number is 8979 3961.



Our sympathy to Rose Frier on the death of her brother William Cole, who died in February.

We are glad to hear that Jean O'Sullivan is recovering in Teddington hospital and that Margaret Bramall is very comfortable in Atfield House. We send our good wishes to the people in the parish who are on our prayer list and of course to all others who are unwell.

Congratulations to Linda and Darrell on the birth of their son Jonathan, a brother to Joshua. Also to Lewis and Laurence on the birth of their daughter Charlotte Eileen, a granddaughter for Moya and John Meredith Smith.

Congratulations also to Damian for winning the hand of Kirsty Butler. "I thought you'd never ask!", he said, when she popped the question on 29<sup>th</sup> of February.

Chris Hodges has been awarded a D Phil (Law) from Oxford University. Our congratulations to him for this academic achievement.

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## A MYSTERY

Does Anyone know anything of any of the following people who lived in the Parish in the early years of the twentieth century?

Victor Baldwin  
Hazel Hews  
Frederick Keet  
Sidney Lane  
Leonard Longley  
Edward Metherell  
Alfred Townend  
Lyle Woolveridge

If you know anything at all about any of them, please let Rodney Taylor, Churchwarden, know, and you may help to unravel a mystery.

# FROM THE FEBRUARY REGISTERS

## BAPTISMS

- 15 Luke Bravery, Twickenham  
Madeleine Olivia Pirages, Hampton

## WEDDINGS

- 28 Adam James Gilroy Smith and Abigail Rebecca Victoria Wood

## FUNERALS

- 23 Beatrice Mabel Maberly, Hampton 93

## DATES TO NOTE IN APRIL

- 4 **Palm Sunday**  
8 **Maundy Thursday**  
9 **Good Friday**  
11 **Easter Day**

*For details of all services in Holy Week, see the page after the leader*

- 18 **Easter 2**  
19 Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury and martyr, 1012  
21 Anselm, Abbot of Bec, 1109  
23 George, martyr and patron saint of England, 304  
24 Mellitus, Bishop of London and first Bishop of St. Paul's. 624  
25 **Easter 3**  
26 Mark the Evangelist  
27 Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894  
29 Catherine of Sienna, teacher of the faith, 1380