

I like words. I like playing with words, punning words, making up new words. I do think English is rather good for the development of new words although perhaps, with English being so widely understood across the world, we become lazy about the particularities of our language. Recently I happened to mention the word Spam in conversation with a teenager. The teenager looked completely blankly at me and clearly had no understanding of the word Spam. I, of course, meant that nasty, pinkish, slithery product which used to come out of tins and was supposed to be derived from *spiced ham*. The teenager concerned, of course, has grown up in the generation of not sliced bread but ciabatas, not cheddar but Pont l'Évêque and not Spam but Milanese salami (no doubt all washed down with some hopelessly expensive sparkling bottled water). Having looked blankly at me she said: "But spam is what comes through your fax and on your e-mail". And, of course, she was quite right too, although it pictured up a lovely scene of my fax machine like an old fashioned meat slicer churning out thin slices of Spam and very small slices of Spam wending their way down through the wires of my computer.

And it struck me, of course, that when we are talking about the resurrection we also have to face the hard truth of this understanding gap. For the first Christians there was no difficulty in thinking of a Jesus who was both risen physically and yet able to walk through locked doors and to appear cooking breakfast or actually sharing a meal at Emmaus. For us today this produces more questions than answers. We need to take seriously this shift in the use of words and concepts to describe the reality we know to be true. For me it helps if we can see that what the resurrection is trying to say is "both/and" rather than "either/or". By this I mean that the resurrection is about the coming of the reign of God and its expression in the risen Jesus which is both now and not yet. Through resurrection we can see and know and experience that newness, that fullness of life which is the hallmark of the kingdom of God.

For me, for example, one classic resurrection moment in my own experience was to watch Nelson Mandela walk free from prison after his 28 years of detention. A resurrection moment marking the beginning of a new life for the people of South Africa where the old boundaries of colour were no longer determinants to the way one lived. But while that was a resurrection moment it was also a "not yet" moment for clearly the old ways die hard and there is much still to be done in South Africa and elsewhere. But the resurrection shows the possibility, the potential and the guarantee. Not surprisingly therefore it is sometimes called the first fruits of the harvest - a taster - of what is to be. Resurrection is both now and still to come. Already achieved and not yet achieved.

And perhaps most particularly we know this every time we meet together to "do this in remembrance" of Jesus. Every time we celebrate our communion, our thanksgiving, we are the body of Christ needing to affirm afresh, in new and appropriate ways for our generation and our context the lasting truth that is Jesus

Christ we see the fullness of God's love expressed in our humanity. That fullness includes all of human life, betrayal and death and leads to life in its fullest form. This month we have a great opportunity in prayer and action to put resurrection fullness into effect by participating in Christian Aid Week as we stand with the world's poor, marginalised and excluded, just as Jesus did. In our solidarity with them we can share resurrection hope, new life, life in all its fullness now and in eternity.

Alleluia, Christ is risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

Brian Leathard

OPENING OUR DOORS

An update on the West Porch

By the time you read this, things will probably have moved on considerably, though how visible the progress will be depends on how difficult and labour-intensive the work is. The planning permission was granted, the Faculty from the Diocese eventually arrived and work has begun. The old West Porch has now been demolished, and the stonework, tiles, some of the brickwork and various fixtures and fittings have been kept to be used in building the new greatly enlarged porch. The next stage is to dig the foundations, which is a fiddly process because of the need to protect the roots of the copper beech tree on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. Digging will be limited to the area where piles are going to be sunk to support the base of the new building. This will have to be done by hand because of the restrictions put into the planning permission by the Council. At this stage we watch and wonder, with our fingers crossed, whether the contractors can complete the work in the scheduled sixteen weeks.

Meanwhile, fundraising continues with great enthusiasm. There is the 'Buy a Brick' sponsorship scheme with prices from £5 for a brick, through £50 for a flagstone, to £800 for a computer. (Prices for the glass doors and glass roof are available on application. Details are on the brick-coloured leaflet which is available at the back of the church). There is also a magnificent programme of events throughout the year and into 2005, including theme suppers, a Quiz Night; musical events, such as the highly successful performance of Haydn's *Creation*, recitals; a Barn Dance and the Harvest Festival Spectacular weekend for the Official Opening of our Doors. All details are in the red leaflet available in church. Watch out for notices, and watch the space at the west end of the Church.

Rodney Taylor

Brief Summary of the APCM held in the Church Hall on 28 March 2004

There were 46 parishioners at the meeting as well as Brian, The Churchwardens, the Secretary and Treasurer. Rodney Taylor and Liz Butler were re-appointed as churchwardens for another year.

There are ten members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC): Don Barrett, Chris Cowlin, Martin Hinckley and Prill Hinckley were re-elected, Clive Beaumont and Paul Peterken were co-opted as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, while Michael Bunce, Ann Peterken, Chris Saul and Elizabeth/Dennis Wilmot (job share!) joined as new members this year.

Opening our Doors

Brian began by reporting that work had started on the West Porch. He reminded everyone that the idea of developing the West Porch and "opening our doors" to the community had evolved out of the Mission Action Plan that was produced three years ago. He said "*We need to change both the physical reality and the conceptual reality of the church if we are to become a more open church*". Brian acknowledged people's reservations about the project in terms of its cost but declared himself to be hugely excited about the project for "*doing something new*".

Secretary's Report

Clive Beaumont said that during the previous twelve months the PCC had spent a large part of most meetings on four main topics: the West Porch; St James's finances; the Diocese of London's finances; and our mission

Treasurer's Report

Paul Peterken reported that it had been a good year: there was a small surplus of income over expenditure; we had received just over £24,000 from the release of the covenant on 52 Park Road; and our investments had increased a little following the improvement in the stock market over the past 12 months. Paul stressed how important it was to have a high level of planned giving.

Looking to the future, he reported that the West Porch project was likely to cost £155,000. £51,500 had been collected via donations and fundraising and £50,000 had been formally transferred from the church's reserves. This left just over £50,000 around half of which we hope to raise via donations and fundraising. The PCC has yet to decide formally whether it will transfer the balance from the church's reserves.

Jack Gostling, on behalf of the parish, thanked Brian for his constant 24/7 support. Brian replied that "*it continues to be my pleasure*". He then closed the meeting by thanking Janet Nunn and Griselda Barrett for all their help over the past year.

REVIEW

– The Passion of the Christ

We recommend that you should see this highly controversial Mel Gibson film. Apart from a few minor criticisms this film can easily be described as a masterpiece. From the beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane the filming, and the production generally, are state of the art and overall the film has the haunting quality of a Caravaggio painting. Filmed with subtitles, Jesus and the Jews speak Aramaic and the Romans talk in Street Latin, thus adding to the authenticity of the interpretation, although apparently it is more likely that the soldiers would have spoken a Greek dialect rather than Latin.

Yes, true, it is very violent and this may be viewed as overdone by some, but it is not gratuitous violence. The story is essentially an accurate account of Jesus' last hours as most Christians believe it to be. Also, probably due to what can obviously be interpreted by some as its anti-Semitic content, the film has found popularity in the Arab world. But is it anti-Semitic? After all Jesus was a Jew himself, and in this story the Jews and the Romans were clearly not the good guys! He had to die, and in a traumatic way. That's the whole point of the story.

This is a deeply moving experience for Christians and non-Christians alike. People didn't rush to the exits as soon as the credits began to roll but rather sat in silent contemplation.

Dennis & Elizabeth Wilmot

We welcome contributions to our Review page. If you would like to write about a play, book, concert, exhibition, outing etc., please give your article to one of the editors or the clergy.

3rd HAMPTON HILL BROWNIES

As promised I am writing this article following discussions on the future of Hampton Hill Brownies since I announced my decision to step down as Brown Owl. Although one or two people have come forward and are interested in helping, no one individual is prepared to take on Brownies as permanent leader. Those who do wish to train for a warrant need to be mentored and I have agreed to take on the extra workload to mentor those who have shown an interest as this person plays an important part in the training of future Guiders. Thus Brownies is set to continue until July 2005.

However, a meeting that was arranged to discuss the future of the Brownies was very poorly attended and so I have decided that this will be my final plea to you, the members of St James's parish, to find someone willing to ensure that survival of YOUR Brownie pack.

After 20 years, I am most saddened that in today's world finding volunteers for anything is proving so difficult. I myself work and have raised a family and know that it is possible to combine it with these. Yes, it can be time-consuming, it is a commitment and sometimes you can get frustrated by all the paperwork, but there are great rewards in helping those young girls who otherwise will be denied a wonderful opportunity. So come on - try it - you might even enjoy it!

Lesley Brough, Brown Owl, 8979 6400

WORLD DEBT DAY Sunday 16 May

Jubilee Debt Commission (JDC) is part of the global movement calling for the cancellation of the unpayable debts of the world's poorest nations, continuing the work of its forerunner - Jubilee 2000.

Many of you will remember 16 May 1998 when over 70,000 people formed a human chain around Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and other world leaders at the G8 Summit in Birmingham, calling for a debt free start to the new millennium for the world's poorest countries. Indeed a good number of St James' congregation were there and at subsequent public events.

Jubilee Debt Campaign is holding an international day of action on 16 May 2004, following the success of World Debt Day in Birmingham a year ago. As 16 May falls on a Sunday this year, there's a real opportunity for every local congregation to reflect on the issue once more. Excellent worship materials can be downloaded from the JDC website.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has sent a message of support: *"I wish Jubilee Debt Campaign every blessing for their World Debt Day. On Sunday 16 May we can, as individual Christians, and together in churches and communities, reflect on the problems of world debt, share in thanksgiving for what has been achieved and ask for God's blessing on our continued struggle for a fairer and more just global economy".*

World Debt Day gives us a chance not only to celebrate the debt cancellation already achieved, but also to take a look at the financial burdens still shackling poor countries. In December 2000 the UK government cancelled all bilateral debt owed to it by highly indebted countries, many of which have now benefited from partial debt cancellation at the international level. In a recent letter to JDC, the President of Tanzania describes how this has greatly helped his country's education and health sectors. A laminated copy of this letter is in church; I encourage you to take the time to read it.

The less good news is that the goal of sustainable debt levels has still not been reached. Many highly indebted countries still owe large sums of money to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank - known as multilateral debt. As G8 governments have majority share control of these institutions, civil society in each G8 country still has a major role to play. JDC want us to send **Call for Change** postcards to Gordon Brown, asking that the UK lead the way by cancelling its share of this outstanding multilateral debt. To put the amount of money in context, it would cost each of us only £3 per year over the next 10 years to cancel the UK's share of this multilateral debt.

I hope you will complete and send a Call for Change card, as well as the Christian Aid Week postcard for trade justice. By exercising our democratic freedom, each one of us is able to do something beyond the ever-important task of giving and collecting money.

Ann Peterken

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9 - 15 MAY

What would you do with a million pounds?

In Christian Aid Week last year, over **£1 million extra** was raised for the world's poorest people, simply because of one little form! How? Gift Aid.

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows Christian Aid to claim back the tax paid on any donation made by a UK taxpayer, adding almost 30 per cent to the gift's value. All the donor needs to do is complete the simple declaration on the Christian Aid Week envelope. In 2003, Gift Aid declarations made in Christian Aid Week were worth more than £1 million.

A million pounds is enough to build 60 health centres in Cambodia, or provide clean water to 100,000 children in Ethiopia, or run Christian Aid's entire education, advocacy and campaign work for two months. But many eligible donations to Christian Aid are given without Gift Aid declarations, meaning that its programmes are missing out on this potential 'free' extra income.

So if you give to Christian Aid and are a taxpayer, please do fill in the Gift Aid form. And if you collect for Christian Aid, please encourage those who are donating to complete the declaration. It only takes a few seconds, but just think what could be achieved with another million!

To find out more about Christian Aid Week, 9-15 May 2004, visit www.caweek.org or call 08080 006 006

Gifts that change lives

Donations made in Christian Aid Week, 9-15 May 2004, will transform lives around the world:

- £5** buys rice for a family in Sierra Leone to plant, providing food, income, and seeds for the next season
- £10** pays for taps and troughs to provide two villages in Bolivia with a safe and reliable water supply
- £15** trains a Guatemalan woman in business techniques, and gives her the opportunity to learn how to make a sustainable living
- £17** provides a month's food rations for four Burmese refugees. Completing the Gift Aid declaration would provide them each with a blanket too.

By supporting Christian Aid Week, you are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions, commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world.

To find out more or make a donation, visit www.caweek.org or call 08080 006 006

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

UK registered charity number 258003
Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998

To volunteer your help here at St James's contact Margaret Taylor 8979 3961

EDEN ROCK

They are waiting for me somewhere beyond Eden Rock:
My father, twenty five, in the same suit
Of genuine Irish Tweed, his terrier Jack
Still two years old and trembling at his feet

They beckon to me from the other bank,
I hear them call, 'See where the stream-path is!
Crossing is not as hard as you might think'.
I had not thought that it would be like this.

Charles Causley

The Hampton Hill Association is in CRISIS

The Hampton Hill Association is in its 40th year. Its aims are to foster a community spirit and preserve the amenities of Hampton Hill. A very active and caring Chairman and committee of local people work voluntarily to achieve this:

- Planning and Environment Committee keeps a close eye on all local developments
- Police and Community Consultative Group liaises with the Metropolitan Police on law and order
- Social Committee organises wonderful trips, BBQs and get-togethers
- Newsletter distributed four times a year
- Advertising Manager ensures local businesses are publicised which generates a healthy income

However, the Hampton Hill Association is facing a deep CRISIS regarding its future. It has not been possible to attract younger members of the community to take on roles within the various committees and on the Executive Committee. The current members have put many years of hard work into the Association and feel they can do no more. Consequently, it is the intention of the whole committee to resign en masse at the Annual General Meeting in the hope that others will be fired into volunteering to carry the Association forward. If this does not happen the Association will be dissolved.

THE A.G.M. WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 24th MAY AT 7.45pm AT THE GREENWOOD CENTRE, SCHOOL ROAD, HAMPTON HILL.

Please help to secure the future of the Association by becoming actively involved in your community - the future of the HHA is at stake!

Malcolm Day, Public Relations Manager 8977 8527



St. James's Chronicles

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine 1904 Extracts from the May Issue

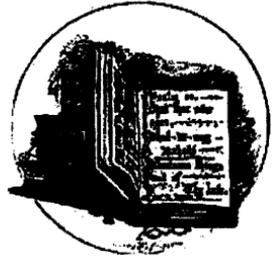


MY DEAR FRIENDS,

It will be noticed that the Day School Building Fund shows a large balance in hand, but the Managers have been required to carry out so many alterations that most of this balance will be needed to meet the cost. A new cloak room has been built for the Girls' School, and a large number of repairs and alterations are being effected at a cost of £180. In future the Managers will receive no grants, and they will depend entirely upon voluntary subscriptions for the maintenance of the School Buildings.

A resolution was unanimously passed requesting the Churchwardens to ascertain the cost of establishing the electric light in the Church, with a view to its adoption if practicable. The Churchwardens' account shows a balance in hand, but there are several bills unpaid, and there is really a deficiency, chiefly owing to various improvements that have been effected.

I have great pleasure in acknowledging with grateful thanks a handsome gift to the Church of two large and beautiful Prayer Books, from the Rev. C. C. Collins, in memory of his wife who died a year ago and was buried here.



The S.P.G. Missionary Working Party closed last month, and the work done was despatched to the Society. The Secretary writes in acknowledgment to Mrs. Job, "Thank you very much for the most acceptable box of clothing, games, &c. It will be divided between the parishes of All Saints, S.Marks, and S.Cuthbert's, Chinabasa." Boxes of work and subscriptions have also been sent to the Colonial and Continental Church Society, and the Secretary writes to Mrs. Job:- "Very many thanks for so kindly sending me the £2 5s. and the boxes of work, which we are always so glad to receive.

Your contributions are always a valuable addition to our stores, and we look forward to their arrival. Please thank the members heartily for their help."

The offertories on May 8th will be for the Bishop of London's Fund, and the Bishop earnestly appeals for generous support, so that at least one new Church may be built for the growing needs of London.

I am, my dear friends, Yours very sincerely,

CHARLES R. JOB.



The church has been open every weekday morning throughout Lent, as it was during Advent. Almost every day people have come in to pray, to light a candle or just to enjoy this special place. Thank you to all who have "church-sat" to make this possible. Once the West Porch development is completed, the church will be open every weekday morning.

We would like to thank many others for their help over the Easter period:
the spring-cleaners for ensuring that the church was bright and sparkling,
Ash Charles for putting together a most enjoyable and uplifting performance of the Creation,
the Young Church for a powerful contemporary presentation of the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday,
and, of course, Brian and Julie for all the time and effort they put into preparing the services for Holy Week and Easter.

Year 5 pupils from Hampton Hill Junior School visited the Church towards the end of term and Brian talked about Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter. He was somewhat surprised when one pupil asked, "Do you mean the Resurrection is just a metaphor?" - and then proceeded to explain exactly what he meant!

We are very pleased to hear that Jean Wilson had a wonderful holiday in New Zealand visiting family and friends. We send our good wishes to Betty Redmond who is in hospital.

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Kevan Walker, husband of Rachele and son-in-law of Jennifer and David Lloyd. Rachele and Kevan were married at St.James's in July 2002. We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to them all and to Rachele's sister Justine.

GUESS THE LENGTH OF THE THESIS !

By now Julie will have handed in her Ph.D. thesis on the Eucharist.

Guess the number of words (maximum 80,000)

£1 per entry. Prize guaranteed. Proceeds to Opening Our Doors.

Speak to Julie on any occasion to enter.

FROM THE MARCH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

14 Daniel Riley Jonusas, Hampton

WEDDINGS

6 Raymond Anthony Miller-Soleil and Tracy Michelle Soleil

13 Andrew John Greenleaf and Rebekah Emily Shearlock

FUNERALS

2 John Wickstead, Hampton Hill 75

3 Sydney Wells, Hampton 77

30 Irene Raynsford, Hampton 77

DATES TO NOTE IN MAY

1 **St Philip and St James**, apostles

2 **4th Sunday after Easter**

3 Bank Holiday - have a great day!

4 English saints and martyrs of the Reformation

8 Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer and mystic, 1417

9 **5th Sunday after Easter**, Christian Aid Week begins

14 **Mathias**, the apostle

16 **6th Sunday after Easter**

20 **Ascension Day** 20.00 Parish Communion

23 **7th Sunday after Easter**

24 John and Charles Wesley, priests and poets

25 The Venerable Bede, Monk of Jarrow, historian and scholar, 735

30 **Pentecost**

31 **The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary** to Elizabeth

Bank Holiday - have a good day!

DIOCESAN EUCHARIST ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Saturday 22nd May at 3pm

to commemorate the 1400th anniversary of the re-founding of the
Diocese of London. Archbishop Rowan Williams will preside.

COPY DATE FOR JUNE MAGAZINE 10TH MAY