

ONE WORLD. VISION ONE

For the last two months I have been helping in the promotion campaign of a new magazine. **ONE WORLD** is a monthly publication, well illustrated, produced by the World Council of Churches, and giving news and comment of Christian involvement from all over the world. It is a lively and entertaining magazine. Into this the British Council of Churches has put an inset, **VISION ONE**, giving news of the Churches and of Christian doings throughout Britain. British Christian involvement is thus seen in a world context, and this is as it should be. We have much to learn from our fellow Christians overseas.

Let's look at **ONE WORLD, VISION ONE** this new combined April issue, and see how it lives up to its advertisement to bring us "up to the minute news and comment about people around the world seeking to live out their Christian mission".

The first article "Opinion" is by a German Lutheran Pastor and is entitled "Confessing Christ Today. Dare I?"; next, an article on the Church of Christ in Zaire; later, a profile of Lt. Gen. (Rt.) T.B. Simatupang of Japan, formerly a high-up adviser to the Japanese Ministry of Defence, and new President of the Christian Conference of Asia; and later on in this issue there is an article on new moves in the Italian Churches. The main "Spotlight" article is on the Russian Orthodox Church - "The Icon Shines Through" - and is very readable. News and comment come from, among other countries, Laos, Cambodia, the United States, South Africa, Chile, New Zealand, Crete, Indonesia, Israel, the People's Republic of the Congo. The Bible study this month is for children and is a witty poem translated from German. The "Viewpoint" article is on "Confession through self-denial", and the writer, Dr. Kosuke Koyama, a Japanese theologian who teaches in New Zealand, draws inspiration from the Buddhist monks in Thailand, from the Hindu message and from Confucianism; he quotes from a popular poem in Thailand:- "Goodness is to be found in non-grasping". These great spiritual traditions are against greedy grasping, and the writer is firm in his appreciation of them and in his thankfulness to God for these different religious traditions. He says that it seems to him that we must move from the finality theology (Christianity is the best and superior religion), often conducted in the context of Joseph's dream "lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and behold your sheaves . . . bowed down to my sheaf" of Genesis 37.7, to John 12.32 "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all men to myself". Jesus Christ is the one lifted upright **on the cross**. "As we look up to the crucified Lord, we also see that the great historic religious traditions participate in the loving concern God has for us".

Throughout **ONE WORLD** there are lively illustrations and cartoons; and particularly striking in this issue are the illustrations accompanying the article on the Russian Orthodox Church. Portraits of personalities who are going to take a leading part in the 5th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi in November are also featured, and the whole issue looks forward to this important Conference with its theme "JESUS CHRIST FREES AND UNITES".

VISION ONE replaces the former publication of the British Council of Churches, **VOYAGE**. Peter Harland of the Sunday Times is its new editor and he has put in an inspired editorial introduction. As he says, 1975 is an auspicious year for a new publication; for our Roman Catholic friends it is the Holy Year, and, among many other events, is going to be marked by an ecumenical conference in June at the Vatican between representatives of the Roman Church and the World Council of Churches.

VISION ONE brings in news from the regions in England, and also from Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Up to date events and book reviews are included. It will be a vehicle for the very varied commitments of the British Council of Churches in the spheres of education, racial issues, social responsibility and ecumenical affairs.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has written for this first issue: "In a sense," he says, "it is easy to send money to other countries. It is a more shattering experience so to feel, and acknowledge, our need of the insights of the Spirit of the universal Church, that we lower the barriers of our pride, get 'our arms right round the world', and say to our brothers and sisters in the younger Churches: 'We need you. Come and teach us. Help us to worship. Help us to evangelise'". Themes in his article are: Growth in Prayer; Growth in World-Vision; Growth in the dimensions of our thinking.

All this can be helped, I am sure, by this new and exciting publication **ONE WORLD. ONE VISION**. There are copies on the book stall. Have a look at it.

Hannah Stanton.

THE FOLK PASSION

The most valuable part of our preparation for Easter this year, apart from the peaceful and inspiring hour of meditation on Saturday night, for me, was the Folk Passion which the 20th Century Christian Music Group of students from Cambridge performed on the Monday of Holy Week.

The value, I thought, lay as much in the Christian witness the performers gave as in the musical work. We were privileged to have two students staying with us, one of whom talked till long after midnight of his experience of life in close relationship with God.

The music told the story of Christ's crucifixion much more vividly and expressively than any classical work I have ever heard. Bach's passions, for instance, always seem one step removed from reality. Whereas his music conveys joy and serenity more perfectly than most modern compositions, it does not bring pain and suffering home to the listener with the same intensity. It is more music for its own sake. And here the music spoke to us more clearly even of the agonies of the crucifixion than the words that went with it.

But it did not stop there. After the pain came the deep and over-brimming joy of faith. The work described the resurrection as well, and in its second part gave a most moving and challenging account of what Christian faith means to the individual today.

I was not the only one who wished we had encouraged more friends to come to the Folk Passion. And I was happy the church was so full and that so many people had this experience.

Joy was the most striking feature that came through in our discussion afterwards. Maybe in conversation it was quieter, but it was very real in the way the students told us they knew they were being helped in each performance by God. It was not their own efforts alone that made the Folk Passion such an experience, it was God himself speaking through them. And quiet confidence and joy shone through the young man afterwards at home when he told us of incidents when he himself witnessed God's powerful and miraculous working in the world today.

I hope the Folk Passion has brought many of us nearer to experiencing such

joy for ourselves, and I wonder how many still stand at the point described by these lines from "Manana" in Part Two of the Passion:

Oh, I want to love you, Lord,
But the time I can't afford,
Give me longer, longer, longer, then I'll come;
And I want to come to you,
But I've too much else to do,
Give me longer, then I'll come.

H.B.

BRAINS OF HAMPTON 1975

At 10.00 p.m. on the evening of Wednesday April 16, against a background of great tension and excitement, St. James's brain-stormed ahead of Hampton Methodist Church to clinch the 1975 title of 'Egg Heads of the Year'. But it had been a close-run thing for nearly two hours, with first the St. James's team (Bill Robinson, Jean Western and Kenneth Wells) taking an early lead and then the Methodists (represented by the knowledgeable Stride family) coming up fast on the outside. Both teams had their groups of very vocal supporters, who happily supplied the answers when the experts couldn't. Everyone agreed that it was not only a stimulating evening, but one of good fellowship with our Methodist friends, who went away promising to avenge themselves at some early date. One question remained however. As well as not knowing how to spell ONOMATOPOEIA nobody knew what it meant!

R.L.B.

VISIT TO ST. PAUL'S

A very enjoyable visit to St. Paul's by coach was arranged for Saturday, March 22. Leaving Hampton Hill just after lunch, we arrived outside St. Paul's at 2.30 p.m. to begin a guided tour of this historic cathedral built by Sir Christopher Wren, and full of the tombs and monuments of great men and women of the past. Most of us managed to reach the Whispering Gallery, and a few stout hearts and lungs got as high as the Golden Gallery for a wonderful view of London. Then we descended to attend Evensong. This proved the highlight of the whole afternoon, as we sat with the choir in front of the gloriously illuminated High Altar. The service was a deeply moving one and will long be remembered by those who went.

R.L.B.

COMING EVENTS

The Social Committee invites you to an **Evening Barbecue at Laurel Dene on Saturday May 31**. Soft music, dancing and games on the grass, sausages grilled over charcoal. Tickets for this idyll: 50p. The **Parish Outing is on Saturday June 14**, when we pay a visit by coach to the **Bluebell Private Steam Railway in Sussex**, with a glorious picnic en route. All-in price: £1.60 (£1.20 for children) which really will be a bargain for these days.

Looking well ahead, we have a conventional dance arranged for Friday, September 19, in the Parish Hall, to the music of the Knightriders Trio. We believe this will satisfy a long-felt need by those who cannot travel too far from their homes for family reasons. Who knows what the Ladies' Invitation Quickstep will bring? Put the date in your diary now.

R.L.B.

LOCAL TALENT TO AID COMMUNITY CARE GROUP

Some of the tickets for the next production of the Old Hamptonians' Amateur Dramatic Society are to be sold in aid of the Hampton and Hampton Hill Community Care Group, so here is an opportunity to contribute to their funds at the same time as seeing a performance by this well-known local acting group.

The play, "The Prime of Miss Jean Broadie" (adapted from Muriel Spark's novel of the same name), will be performed at St. Margaret's Hall, Princes Road on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 22, 23 and 24 at 7.45 p.m.

Set in the 1930's, the play concerns an Edinburgh school teacher whose avant-garde methods - stressing individualism and the pursuit of culture - find little favour in the genteel, conservative atmosphere of the Marcia Blaine Academy. Scandals increase, chiefly involving the art teacher, Teddy Lloyd, and the music teacher, Gordon Lowther. It is, however, her admiration for Fascist Italy which eventually brings about her downfall, when she is denounced by her chief protegee, Sandy. Spiced with comedy, the play presents a fascinating study of contrasting attitudes in education and of personal relationships within a girls' academy.

Tickets, price 40p., are available from the Community Care Group bookshop and office in Hampton Hill High Street, or from Miss Hannah Stanton, 63 Park Road. Please do your best to come, and at the same time to support a worthy local cause.

Bernard Wigginton.

ST. JAMES'S LADIES ENTERTAIN

"You are invited to an hour of entertainment in the lounge on Thursday, April 17". This is how the poster read; all residents seated themselves as comfortable as possible and waited. Outside the rain fell steadily. "What are we going to see and hear?" - this was everyone's thoughts. Cars began to arrive - then very soon a group of laughing, cheerful ladies began to entertain - and what a joy and pleasure this was. Good singing - even with a problem piano; comedy numbers, a Can-can (the gentlemen enjoyed this); monologue; hilarious sketch - then more singing much to the delight of all the residents including one of 107 years. I personally was delighted as these ladies had performed at other homes and clubs and I had missed them each time - it was a joy to catch up with them at last. "Thank you, and DO come again ladies". This was the farewell from all at Rosebank.

B.M.O.

CHRISTIAN AID

The tragic situation of Vietnam makes us ask ourselves what we can do for the unhappy people there - and of course Christian Aid is concerned, and through Christian leaders in Asian Christian Service is **on the spot**, able to assess the position and send help where it is most needed. When the emergency arose, Christian Aid immediately made a large sum of money available to them, and further amounts are to be sent when they can be put to good use. Those responsible for directing the work of Christian Aid have long since learnt that the first emotional reaction is not always the best, and that wisdom and care and skill are needed in making help effective as well as compassion. Christian Aid also co-operates with the Disasters Emergency Committee, and at the moment is helping in the £75,000 airlift of urgently needed supplies to the stricken areas.

But as well as these sudden pressing claims, we must not forget the continuing needs of millions of people in many countries who have far from enough to eat. Again, Christian leaders and Councils of Churches are on the spot. They have made a thorough survey of the main needs, and have suggested long-term projects to alleviate them. Christian Aid considers these proposals carefully, and when they are approved, makes money available to add to that raised locally so that the life-giving, food-increasing plan can be carried through.

So we feel that we are right in channelling our desire to help through Christian Aid, and we have no need to go on switching our support from one agency to another as appeal follows appeal. Christian Aid is always there!

We sent of a cheque for £100 at Christmas, and now another for £75.41 has just been sent. This was the result of our efforts in Lent: £17.62 from the Austerity Lunch; £6.28 was given on Good Friday, and the money saved by individual and family fasting came to £51.51.

We shall soon be hearing more about the Foodshare Campaign, which, among other aims, desires to extend the habit of the weekly fast beyond Lent and establish it on a more permanent basis. Some of us will be joining our Methodist friends at their Foodshare Campaign Luncheon on April 27, when we will be asked to pay the full cost of our normal Sunday dinner, but feed only on bread and cheese.

In May there will be a number of opportunities to learn more about the work of Christian Aid and also to give generously in its support. We can give in church on Sunday evening May 11, when Paddy Conway (who spoke so impressively at the Gathering at Miss Stanton's last year) will be bringing us up to date; we can also give through our Whitsun offerings the following Sunday, and through the envelopes which will be collected from every house in the area in the course of Whitsun week (which this year is also Christian Aid Week).

CHRISTIAN INITIATION AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Church is being asked to consider questions concerning these very seriously, because over the past 40 years it has become increasingly obvious that something is gravely wrong. So there are those who want to abolish Infant Baptism, or restrict it very severely, and replace it by a Service of Blessing open to all. But many Church people are beginning to feel that it is the present practice of the Church with regard to Confirmation that is the more urgent issue. The situation is very unsatisfactory here: large numbers of children are still being confirmed, but many lapse almost immediately, and the majority have disappeared within three years, and few of these ever return. One thing that has worried me for many years is that we ask children to make a serious commitment - in effect, a vow similar to that made at marriage, or by a monk or nun, binding them for life. Children are not mature or intergrated enough to make such a commitment. And when they break it, as many speedily do, at least the more sensitive of them carry with them a deeply-rooted sense of guilt which can cause much havoc later. Others continue to attend Church worship impelled again by guilt rather than love and inclination. One solution seems to be to admit children to Communion at an early age - or at least at the present 'normal' age for Confirmation, but to defer Confirmation till much later - making 18 the minimum age. Children certainly need the grace of Communion, but those who lapsed would be spared this terrible sense of guilt.

Then again - what kind of religious education should be given to children?

In the past that given by both Church and State had many drawbacks and shortcomings. Over forty years ago I heard an expert say that its main effect had been to give to most English people a mild attack of Christianity sufficient to immunise them for life against the real thing. And today many more theologians, psychologists and educationalists are saying much the same thing, pointing out that Christianity is an adult faith beyond the grasp of children, and to try to teach it to them really immunises them against it. As St. Augustine heard the voice of Christ: 'I am the food of the full-grown: become a man and you shall feed on me'. So Professor Christopher Evans, one of our greatest New Testament scholars, and also a wise and loving pastor, writes after years of experience: 'I would like to claim quite simply that the New Testament ought not to be taught to children because it is a book for adults and crystallizes the experience of adults, and that if taught to children it is either talking about experience which is beyond what they have or ought to have, or it is disembowelled in various ways in an attempt to bring it within what is supposed to be their experience. After dealing with the kind of philosophical preliminaries to religious faith which are relevant to young people, he turns to the present situation: 'a Church on the one hand which in a desperate attempt to hold on to what it thought it had, becomes more and more child-centred, and therefore unable to appreciate the essentially adult nature of its gospel; and on the other hand an increasing number of the young who grow into maturity immunised against the gospel, because they have been through a process in which the New Testament has been so adapted to their imagined needs that their abiding impression is of having grown out of it and of having seen through it.

There is a great deal here for all of us in the Church who are concerned about these things to get our teeth into, and it is encouraging to see that this is beginning to happen all over the place. We should be glad to hear from readers of this magazine who share this concern and want to do something about it.

MEET JOSEPH

So said the broadsheet, and ten of us from this parish joined about 90 others from the other ten parishes, and listened to Brother Joseph talking to us for over an hour in his charming Italian way. He pulled no punches in his challenging conception of what a Christian individual and a Christian community ought to be, and he made it clear that he thought - from his own experience - that the only way in which a lapsed or atheistic adult in our modern world could be induced to take Christianity seriously was to see the real thing in operation. To see individuals who had become different, transformed, through belonging to a Christian community which had encouraged the seed implanted in them by baptism come to flower and fruit; to become aware of a community near at hand in which love was not just spoken about but lived out in all its authenticity. Such communities are coming to birth here and there - in the parish in Rome in which Joseph became a Christian seven years ago, there are now eight with forty people in each. Joseph has now dedicated his life to forming such communities wherever God directs him to go.

SCOUT GROUP

FETE AT LAUREL DENE ON SATURDAY, MAY 24

Those of you not going away are invited to come along and enjoy yourselves on this Spring Bank Holiday Saturday. There will be numerous Stalls, Sideshows, Teas, Music and Pony Rides for the children.

DON'T FORGET THE DATE ... MAY 24.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Laurel Dene is the home for the elderly in our parish. Some of us from St. James's have had contact with the home for the past twenty years, and when we were asked to form a Group of Friends, a few of us were happy to do so.

In the past year we have raised money to provide outings and entertainments, and we run a bingo session for the residents twice a week.

We are fortunate in having a cheerful and co-operative Matron who gives us all the help she can.

We are holding a Jumble Sale on May 17 in the Parish Hall and on June 28 there is an Open Day at Laurel Dene.

The residents are very appreciative of all that is done for them.

YOU CAN HELP by giving jumble, to be delivered at Laurel Dene, or at 2 Sherwood Road, or, at the Hall on the morning of the sale.

YOU CAN HELP by offering to assist in running a stall at the Open Day on June 28.

YOU CAN HELP by donating goods and articles for use on the various stalls or as prizes for a tombola or any small items suitable for our bingo sessions.

We would be most grateful for any help.
Please contact 979-7020 or 979-1589.

D.G., D.E.

THE NEW DAY CENTRE

On Monday March 24, The Hampton and Hampton Hill Older Citizens Centre Association saw the results of seven years hard work, when the new Linden Hall Older Citizens Day Centre in Linden Road, Hampton, was opened.

The Centre offers a permanent meeting point for local pensioners, and will later provide a mid-day meal, entertainment and a place where they can enjoy company in pleasant purpose-built surroundings.

The design is modern and original, and geared to the needs of the elderly.

There are no steps, the flooring is non-slip, and provision has been made for those in wheelchairs; the main room is light and airy and will seat up to 200 people; at mealtimes it serves as a dining hall. It has a raised stage and a radiogram for entertainment purposes.

The kitchen is stocked with the most modern equipment to enable the Centre to heat and serve the food in pre-packed portions.

A minibus has been provided by the Hampton Bookshop, and it is hoped to start a regular pick-up service in the Hampton Hill area two or three times during the mornings and afternoons from Monday to Friday.

When the meal service starts, those using it will be able to purchase a full dinner for 12p with a 3p charge for tea or coffee.

The cost of the food is subsidised by the Council, and membership is open to all elderly people in Hampton Hill and costs 25p per year.

Mrs. Marjorie McDonnell is the full-time organiser, and responsible for looking after the members and arranging the daily programme.

For further information please phone 941 2373 or, Cllr George Kenton
(Chairman) 979 4712.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- May 11 17.15 Senior members of congregation lead service at Laurel Dene.
18.45 UNITED CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE in St. James's Church, followed by refreshments and an opportunity to ask the preacher (Mr. Paddy Conway) questions. All offerings for Christian Aid.
- 12 10.30 Editorial Board (4 Ormond Drive)
- 13 10.30 - 12.00 Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy Sale, in support of Bishop Wand School (W); 20.00 Stewardship Committee (106 Park Road), 20.00 Tuesday Club: Miss Dines - 'Rhodesia' (W)
- 14 07.30 Holy Communion.
- 15 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue).
- 17 14.30 Friends of Laurel Dene: Jumble Sale (Hall)
- 18 WHITSUNDAY: Offerings in Whitsun envelopes and loose monies on plate for CHRISTIAN AID.
- 19 - 24 CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: House to house collections throughout the area organised by Hampton Council of Churches.
- 19 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Christian Initiation Sub-committee (69 St. James's Avenue)
- 20 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Wayside Project Training Session (W)
- 21 19.45 Deanery Synod (St. Augustine's, Whitton)
- 22 - 24 Play 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' every evening 19.45 in St. Margaret's Hall, Princes Road.
- 22 20.00 Community Care Group: A.G.M. (Day Centre, Linden Road)
- 24 14.30 Scout Group Fete (Laurel Dene)
- 27 20.00 Tuesday Club: 'Interesting Bits and Pieces' (W)
- 29 CORPUS CHRISTI: 07.30 Holy Communion; 20.00 Prayer Meeting (69 St. James's Avenue)
- 31 EVENING BARBECUE (Laurel Dene)
- June 2 20.00 Liturgical Committee (63 Park Road); 20.00 Properties Committee (21 St. James's Road)
- 4 14.30 Mothers' Union: Branch Meeting in Church
- 5 - 7 10.30 - 12.00 every morning: MOTHERS' UNION EXHIBITION in Church
- 14 PARISH OUTING TO BLUEBELL LINE.
The Wayside Monday Centre opens in welcome at the usual times every week, and Confirmation and Welcome Groups continue to meet as arranged.

BAPTISMS

- March 23 Andrew Robert Kirk, 28 Wolsey Road
Katharine Sophie Koukourakis, 100 Windmill Road
Mark Martin Iles, 2A Seymour Road
Mark Steven Rogers, 2 Vincent Row
Kirsten Margaret Wiltshire, 13 Seymour Road

MARRIAGE

- April 12 John Michael Frye to Jacqueline Breeden

BURIAL

- April 4 Nellie Elizabeth Stevens, Oketon, Hampton Road, Teddington, aged 89 years.