

REAL POWER

For once the Spring Bank Holiday can be called quite properly Whit Monday. Ever since the Spring Bank Holiday was introduced a few years ago there has been confusion in many people's minds as to what to do with Whit Monday. The state tied the holiday to the month of May making it the last Monday in the month, but giving it no fixed date. The Church continued to tie Whit Monday to Whitsunday (or Pentecost) which was also not a fixed date but was itself tied to Easter which depended on the phase of the moon. So Whitsun could be early or late as the date of Easter varied. The result is that with Whit Monday no longer so important to most people, Whit Sunday also fades into the back of popular consciousness. What happened on the first Whit Sunday and why is it so important? Jesus' disciples found themselves after Easter a very frightened bunch of men and women. They did not know what had really happened to Jesus and they were afraid that the Jewish authorities would arrest them or at the least make life very difficult. They would fear being ridiculed by many of their friends and acquaintances and they just did not know what the future would bring. It seems that they were gathered together at one of their regular meetings when something almost indescribable happened. There was a sudden wind, fire too, and in no time at all there was a commotion of a very unusual kind. These ordinary men and women were quite unexpectedly able to speak in and understand foreign languages and all at the same time. Some of the onlookers described them as thoroughly drunk! But whatever the details, which may seem remote to us now, the experience changed them all. From being frightened and cowed Peter and the rest acquired a strength and conviction which carried all before them. Their preaching had a power unknown previously and hundreds of otherwise sceptical folk threw their doubts and misgivings away. And that preaching has continued to the present day. The Holy Spirit, spoken of in the Old Testament, had come with reality. From time to time the people of God have forgotten the reality of the Spirit and at such times the witness of Christians has had no cutting edge. When we acknowledge the Holy Spirit in our lives the same power is ours as was evident in the Acts of the Apostles where the story of Whit Sunday is recorded.

In a very real way Whit Sunday or Pentecost as it is now more widely being called was 'the birthday of the church'. So on 29th May make the worship wherever you may be a priority. If you are on holiday, still make it a priority. A few days before Pentecost Jesus appears to have left his friends for good. We call the day Ascension Day following the account in the Acts of the Apostles. In many places the day starts with an early morning service. At St. James' we will, for the first time in many years (?ever), have a service of Holy Communion at 06.00. It will make it possible for those whose work involves an early start to come to church before setting out. In the evening we shall have a Parish Communion at 20.00 (8 p.m.). In the morning at 10.30 a.m. there will be a Pram Service for the Young Families Group. Make a note of Ascension Day, Thursday, 20th May and see what you can manage. In case you think the early service will have no takers you are wrong — we already have a volunteer!

Nicholas Chubb

EASTER TIDE

Maundy Thursday – an unpleasant non-Easter day – the sun shone occasionally but the wind was bitter as it so often is for Easter. Nevertheless there was no coldness in St. James as we gathered for a quiet communion service at 7.30 in the evening. The Choir gave us a treat by singing a short version of the “Last Supper”. After the Service coffee and hot cross buns were served in the south aisle with plenty of friendly chat. Thus began the most important Christian festival of the year.

On Friday the three hour Meditation was well attended, many staying the whole time and those who couldn't come and went very quietly and did not disturb. As usual the service was divided between six speakers, each having half an hour for a talk, a prayer and a hymn, the theme for the whole being the seven words Jesus spoke from the Cross, thinking of others before himself. We went home with the joyful interpretation by Nicholas of 'It is finished'. Not to be thought of as 'That's that' to the daily dusting but more like the completion of a symphony, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel or the satisfaction of the Father's work with its sorrows and pains and joy, carried out without swerving to the very end. It is finished with the emphasis on IT: his life of dedication.

Saturday must be a sad day for Christ has died and not yet risen, but he has promised.

For Sunday Family Eucharist the church was full. Baby Hannah Atkinson having been baptised earlier during the Catechumenate all night vigil at St. Michael and St. George, was given her baptismal candle. She was so good all through the service, never a cry. You know that at first I was doubtful about the dancing during a church service but the liturgical dancing on Easter Sunday was beautiful in its graceful sincerity accompanied by recorded singing. First the bowed and sorrowing advance to the Crucifix, then the mimed wailing and agony of beholding Christ on the Cross. Then a slow and reverent bearing of the body to the sepulchre, finishing with the joy of beholding the Risen Christ. I almost felt I was there. The lovely Easter hymns turned our usual Sunday service into one of Easter Joy and Thanksgiving.

Sunday Evensong was such a lovely service – but so sparse a congregation. The Vicar's sermon stressed Peace, the Peace of God in ourselves, calming us to meet whatever comes. The peace in ourselves to spread around to others that we meet, and so wider and wider around the troubled world. Thank you Nicholas.

Alison Thompson

THE PROMISE

During the quiet hour in preparation for Easter in which almost 50 people gathered, Ron Bridges quoted a beautiful story by Dr. Leslie Weatherhead which illustrates the wonderful promise that every Christian has received from God. If we will only let Him, God promises that He will enable us to live a Risen Life, will enable us to please Him, will write His commands on our hearts, will allow Christ to be born in us, will make us perfect – all ways of saying the same thing, which is so memorably expressed in the story:

Michelangelo walked around his studio with a friend when they came across a dirty cracked block of marble. “That won't be good for anything”, said the friend. “Oh yes, it will”, replied the master. “I see an angel imprisoned in this marble. And I can set it free”.

Hilde Bucknell

EASTER MUSIC

During the Easter Festival we have had the opportunity to hear the Choir on several occasions in special presentations and to realise what contribution can be made by music to the worship of the congregation. On Passion Sunday evening we heard "Behold your King", described as a 'passiontide devotion for choir and congregation' and on Maundy Thursday there was another special choral work. To prepare this music the Choir and Choirmistress had obviously to work very hard and were perhaps disappointed that few people came to hear them.

The 'Behold your King' was a simple and effective work, a compilation of readings and Easter carols and hymns, some new, some familiar and well loved. The simplicity of the act of worship underlined the solemnity of the feelings of Passion Sunday, but I felt, as sometimes before, that although the Choir had obviously worked hard with the music and sang with feeling, they had perhaps been under-rehearsed and that it might have been better to have done a shorter work in which they could have concentrated their efforts.

Our Choir is small but enthusiastic, they have a good Choirmistress, and they would be even better if more of us would join them as singers and more of us would attend their special services.

Margaret Taylor

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

The Welcome Service on Mothering Sunday on 21st March, was an opportunity for the younger children to learn of the significance of the home and the family, not just in our own community, but worldwide. Slides were shown of typical homes in various continents throughout the World. A poignant reminder of the importance of love and the security it brings was given in a short talk by Mona Gow, based on her own experiences in looking after children deprived of their own families. A young choirboy, Matthew Williams, read a collection of pieces written by other young school children about their love for their own mothers. Hymns were accompanied by the children's recorders and cello and the highlight was when each child — even the very young — received a small posy of daffodils to take as a special gift of thanks to their mums.

As with our other special services for young children, it has been so very important to explain the meaning of Christian celebration as it relates to the family; how giving and sharing are more important than receiving. For the very young ones, of course, it is difficult to understand and for us to keep their restless attention. But the visual message of how the family is at the heart of our Christianity wraps their attention, and where better than in the Church.

Victor and Rosemary MacColl

LENT COURSE

During Lent a course was held on Thursday mornings at Hannah Stanton's house. About ten of us attended and Hannah had prepared two or three pages of notes for each of us every week. The subject was "The Kingdom of God" and I went with mixed feelings but after listening to Hannah the first time, I found plenty to think about. After all our discussion groups it was good just to listen and be taught. I think all who attended found Hannah's teaching inspiring and learned much.

Ruth Gostling

LITURGICAL DANCING – A WORKSHOP DAY

There cannot be many occasions when a clergyman taking a service finds himself entirely surrounded by colourfully dressed and barefoot dancing girls. But this is exactly what happened when the members of the Liturgical Dance Group from St. James' attended a workshop day of dance at the recently renovated United Reformed Church near the Apple Market in Kingston on March 20.

The day's activities were organised by the Kingston Partnership Group of Liturgical Dancers, whose members are drawn from several Churches in the area. The morning was spent doing various movements to music including a short introduction to the use of light projected on to a plain wall surface.

The music, and indeed the whole theme of the day, was based on the Taize way of worship, which uses chants built on short musical phrases like mantras. At the service in the afternoon the dancers swapped legwarmers for wrap around skirts and all joined together in dancing to the music of the Gloria and the Sanctus. To be one of fifty or so people all moving at the same time was both a joy and an inspiration.

After an excellent tea and a short question time we prepared to watch the Epiphany Dancers and see what we could learn from them.

Before they actually started I thought I felt too emotionally exhausted to appreciate their dance. In order to communicate feelings or attitudes of repentance, despair, joy, praise in appropriate movements one has genuinely to enter into these emotions. As Jenny Sandler, who led the workshop, pointed out frequently, mere gestures that do not come from the heart, will not mean anything to any watchers. However, despite our tiredness, we were soon captivated completely by the outstanding performance of the Epiphany Dancers. Performance is of course an inappropriate word; that was the main thing the workshop practice and the Epiphany Dancers taught us: Religious Dancing can never be thought of as a theatrical performance – it is always worship. Like any other component of a church service it does two things: it is an offering to God, and it conveys a message to the congregation.

The beauty about dancing is that it can say so much in a very brief gesture. If it is properly done, a short dance sequence can express as much as a long sermon. As I am finding now, a lot of words are needed to explain how one short scene in the Epiphany Dancers' "Everyman" sequence on the Saturday night showed me the same as the readings and sermon of the next morning's communion service.

It was the 4th Sunday in Lent when we considered the Transfiguration. What I mean is this: Any man who sees the glory of God becomes aware of his own sinfulness and knows he cannot approach God. (In the dance the way into the golden presence of God was barred by banners. The sinful man, who had so far been quite happy, collapsed in despair.) When this same awesome glory is revealed in the person of Christ, it ceases to be frightening. He opens the way to the Father. (In the dance Christ in the crown of thorns touched the sinner who knew himself condemned outside the banners and lovingly led him through into the splendour of heaven.)

Helen Taylor, Hilde Bucknell

JUST A THOUGHT

A headline in a national daily on Monday 12 April read as follows:-

"Poll finds most oppose risking British lives."

I find this quite a sad statement. Should one not "oppose risking *any* lives"? Foreign lives are not less precious than British ones.

CANON ALAN GOWDAY VISITS THE CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

On Sunday, 7th March, Canon Alan Gowday, chaplain of Heathrow Airport, came to visit the Church Youth Club. With him he brought a map of the airport and also an aerial photograph. He showed us the different parts of the airport on the map and then told us about the people who work there and where they work. He also told us about the different airlines which operate into and out of Heathrow and which terminals they go to.

He then took questions from members of the Church Youth Club. Altogether the evening was very interesting and I would like to thank Alan Gowday for giving up his valuable time to come and talk to us and also Joe Brownlee for organizing the visit.

Huw Taylor

MOTHER'S UNION AUSTERITY LUNCH

This year's customary Austerity Lunch organized by the Mothers' Union raised a record sum of £44.49 for Christian Aid. The lunch was well attended and the food itself was different from the usual bread and cheese of recent years to soup and baked potatoes, a welcomed innovation and a tasty one too. (So glad it *was* Butter and not margarine on the potatoes). The raffle and bring & buy table helped to swell the total. Thank you to everyone who helped and to those who came and supported this cause.

HAMPTON HILL AT HOME

The dates for these were in last month's Spire but in case you have mislaid them they are:-

May 17th At St. James' Parish Hall

June 16th At St. James' Parish Hall

July 13th At Rectory School, Hanworth Road. **NB Change of Date.**

When you receive an invitation it will be for the first date after delivery of the letter, but if you cannot manage that one, please come to one of the others. The introduction and slides will start promptly at 20.00 so please try and get to the At Homes by 19.45. We hope very much that there will be a good mixture of established residents and newly arrived who will enjoy one another's company and benefit from it.

Nicholas Chubb

UPKEEP OF THE CHURCHYARD

As reported in the March issue Janet and David Nunn have arranged working parties to keep the churchyard grass under control for every first Saturday in the month. The first such occasion on 3 April fell on an extremely agreeable day when work in the peaceful churchyard was a real pleasure. What a pity our party consisted of no more than three people! What a difference a few more willing hands would make. Not all the jobs are strenuous, and even one hour's help will make itself felt. Please make an effort to support the Nuns in their untiring work for the upkeep of the churchyard!

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CONFIRMATION

On 9th May the Bishop of Kensington will confirm twelve of our people at 6.30 p.m. The service will be the Eucharist and we shall be joined by some candidates from St. Mary's, Teddington and Holy Trinity, Twickenham. It will be a great day for them but I wonder whether it will be as great a day for the rest of us? We tend in the English church to allow such an occasion to be solely an individual experience when it should also be an occasion for great rejoicing on the part of the whole parish. We are witnessing the public profession of Christian promises and we should do our best to welcome those prepared to make those promises into the fellowship of the church with all that that means. Amongst other things it means that the newly confirmed can be assured that they are beginning a new life in the company of fellow Christians who will help them and support them in all that lies ahead. It will not always be easy and we must let them know by our actions of love that we are there to be turned to if need be. We must not let them slip away from the company by default on our side — it is so easy to let that happen. Perhaps the congregation ought to have a bigger part to play in the service itself to emphasise the point. But what we have to do goes far beyond the one occasion — for as long as life lasts. We would do well to think again about our own promises and renew them at the same time as the candidates are making theirs for the first time.

Question: Do you turn to Christ?

Answer: I turn to Christ.

Question: Do you repent of your sins?

Answer: I repent of my sins.

Question: Do you renounce evil?

Answer: I renounce evil.

Question: Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

Answer: I believe and trust in him.

Question: Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed

Answer: I believe and trust in him. [mankind?]

Question: Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the

Answer: I believe and trust in him. [people of God?]

Please remember in your prayers June Boan, David Britten, Paul Carter, Clare Hewitt, Jane Hewitt, Lesley Hayter, Carol Ives, Jill McNamara, Huw Taylor, Ruth Taylor, Richard Tipper and Ellen Wilde.

SOWETO SISTERS

The Samami Soweto Sisters Council is an umbrella group representing and helping to train members of self-help clubs throughout Soweto. In 1980 two women sponsored by the Maggie Magaba Trust came to England and France and while in England attended patchwork classes in London. Now with Christian Aid funds buying new sewing machines they are setting up craft workshops. An Exhibition of their work together with a film "Awake from Mourning" at St. James' Church, Picadilly from 3rd - 25th June from 10.30 - 5.30 (Mon. to Sat) and 3.00 - 5.00 p.m. (Sun), the film is shown on 4th, 11th and 18th June at 7.00 p.m. All contributions of cotton or cotton/polyester fabric will be so gratefully received and there will be a box for your spare pieces at the back of the church. Further details from Carol Tipper: 977 3782.

AROUND THE SPIRE

Ian Fisher, who will be remembered as a keen supporter of the YPF was married to Janet Trappmann, a nurse at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on Saturday February 13th at St. James's. They now live in Edinburgh where Ian is employed at the Botanical Gardens. Our very best wishes go to Ian and Janet.

Ian and Vernon Bridges and Robert Brittain were contemporary members of St. James's Young People's Fellowship and it is with pleasure that we also congratulate Robert and his wife Sharon on the birth of their first child, a daughter.

Vernon Bridges has not been so fortunate as his two friends. He has had a bad time in hospital recently and we do wish him a speedy recovery.

More hearty congratulations go to Debbie and John Nunn on the birth of their daughter, Suzanne Deborah — a sister for Geoffrey.

A much sadder event recently was the funeral of Rosamund Miller, who died just before Easter after a short severe illness. She had made many friends during her comparatively short attendance at our church, and we all miss her sadly.

We do like to have news of "the family" of St. James. We are conscious that our field of knowledge of events is sometimes very limited and there is a lot of "good news" that we don't print because no one tells us of it!

LEPRA

I should like to express my thanks to all who contributed so generously to the appeal I made for LEPRA on Mothering Sunday morning. As a result I have been able to send a cheque for £38.50 in response to Sebastian Coe's special appeal for this fund.

Those who wish to donate rings to the "RING FUND", founded to give tendon manipulation and post-operative physiotherapy to those whose hands are affected by leprosy, should send them to:- LEPRA, British Leprosy Relief Association, Fairfax House, Causton Road, COLCHESTER, Essex CO1 1PU.

Vera Rockliffe

During the baptism service the vicar asks: "What do you name this child?" "Spindonna" comes the answer. Slightly surprised, the vicar proceeds and the child is baptised Spindonna. Afterwards the distraught parents complain to him "Why did you give her that dreadful name? We wanted her to be called Mary Elizabeth." "But you said so yourself.", protests the vicar. "No," says the father, and points out a little label on the baby's dress, "I said, 'It's pinned on her.'"

CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

May	9	Boots the Chemists, 59 Broad Street, Teddington
	16	Thomas, D R, 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
	23	Moss, E Ltd, 14 Broad Street, Teddington
	30	Hall, H, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill
	31	Hall, H, 62 High Street, Hampton Hill
June	6	Martin, F G (Chemists) Ltd, 28b Priory Road, Hampton
	13	Manley, D G, 122 High Street, Teddington

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
March 28	99	109	114.00	17.00
April 4	116	212	186.00	30.00
	11	213	80.00	164.00
	18	94	72.00	24.00

Pledged Giving by Bankers Order :	January	£554.00
	February	£259.00
	March	£188.00

LOST PROPERTY

Several items of lost property from Wayside as well as the church are being held by Mrs. R. Bridges, 19 St. James' Road. Any that are not claimed by the end of June will be given to a jumble sale.

DATES TO NOTE

May	9	4th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER Morning services as usual 18.30 Confirmation by the Bishop of Kensington
	10	14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
	11	10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James' Avenue
	14	19.30 Scouts AGM, Parish Hall
	16	5th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (ROGATION SUNDAY) Morning Services as usual 16.30 Open Air Rogationtide Service, Laurel Dene
	17	19.45 for prompt 20.00 start, Hampton Hill At Home, Parish Hall
	19	10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church 20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
	20	ASCENSION DAY 06.00 Holy Communion 10.30 YFG Pram Service 20.00 Parish Communion
	23	SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY Services as usual
	24	14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
	30	PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY) Services as usual

Dates to Note continued

- June 2 Mothers Union outing to Old Arlesford/Winchester
10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
3 20.00 Properties Committee, 36 St. James' Road
5 Parish Summer Outing
6 TRINITY SUNDAY
Services as usual
7 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
13 2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Services as usual
15 10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James' Avenue
16 19.45 for prompt 20.00 start, Hampton Hill At Home, Parish Hall

Regular Weekday Events

- Monday 10.30 - 13.00 and 20.00 - 22.00 Monday Wayside Centre
Tuesday 19.30 Choir Practice, Vestry
Thursday 10.30 - 12.00 Young Families Group, Wayside
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
Sunday 19.30 Church Youth Club, Wayside

MARRIAGES

- 3rd April Simon David Collins and Deanna Julie Angliss
24th April Paul MacGranthin and Phillipa Ann Francis
Graham Edward Joel and Kathleen Bertha Mary Bell

FUNERALS

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-----------------|------------------------|---------|
| 13th | April | Rosamund Miller | 71 Burtons Road | aged 69 |
| 20th | April | Mary Stagg | formerly of Park Place | aged 61 |
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Here is a second chance for you to let us know that you would like to continue receiving the Spire. Please complete the slip below and return to either of these two addresses:

Hilde Bucknell
75 St. James' Avenue
Hampton Hill

Alison Thompson
21 Laurel Road
Hampton Hill

Name

Address:

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