

EASTER is both movable and fixed. Movable in date but fixed in meaning. Movable, too, in the way it can be celebrated but fixed in importance. It is up to Christians each year to find out when Easter is and to make sure that they keep the feast in an appropriate way. Those brought up in the Church of England tradition before 1980 will know that the instructions in the Prayer Book at the end of the Communion Service include this: "And note, that every parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter be one". The general public might be forgiven if they thought that Christmas was the more important of the two great festivals. Somehow the holiday spirit has tended to submerge the true meaning.

It is hard for us to recapture the excitement of the first Easter. Perhaps a similar attitude of relief, gratitude and disbelief would happen if we were to wake up one day in the knowledge that all nuclear weapons had been forever destroyed, banished and put away. To begin with we just should not believe it. The unthinkable had happened. Fear of a particular horror would be gone for all time. Only God could have turned man's hearts and minds in such a way. Then there would be an outburst of joy which it would be impossible to contain. As we realised the magnitude of the event we would want to share the good news with all we met. 'Have you not heard?' we would be saying as the disciples on the way to Emmaus said to Jesus of what had happened. And year after year we would want to remind ourselves, our families and our friends of this great deliverance from fear of annihilation. We should doubtless find all sorts of ways to do it. And we should insist that the children were instructed in order that they might not lose sight of what had happened.

This is what many people have tried to do with Remembrance Day. They have attempted to keep alive the memory of the great event which was the Armistice in 1918. But we have come to recognise that 'the War that will end War' did no such thing. And so we have become sceptical and wary of large statements. Of course The Resurrection did not abolish death; what it did abolish was the *fear* of death by replacing it with a knowledge that God in Christ had overcome it. It is this that we celebrate at Easter. The joyful knowledge of Christ's victory releases us from a shadow of fear and enables us to cope with life so much more positively. In the last resort it does not really matter what happens to our mortal bodies. We suffer much when those we love are taken from us by death but we know now that they, in one condition, and we, in another, have the Risen Christ walking with us at all times just as He walked with the disciples on the Road to Emmaus.

Nicholas Chubb

PARISH PARTY

The Social Committee gave us a most enjoyable evening on Saturday 22nd January when a mixed age-group attended the Victorian and Edwardian evening. We were welcomed by a glass of warming punch which suited the occasion admirably. The assembled company had done their best to enter into the spirit of the evening and there were quite a few false moustaches, long skirts and high-

necked blouses to be seen, but the prizes for the fancy dress were deservedly won by our friends Violet Clark, dressed as a nursemaid complete with baby, and Jack Gostling as a dashing Hussar. There followed a well-thought-out programme of games and dancing directed by Alan Taylor: a sing-song led by Ruth Mills; and an amusing sketch performed by Joe Brownlee and his Church Youth Club. In fact, there was something to suit everyone, both young and old. Halfway through the evening we were served by the ladies of the Social Committee (who all looked charming dressed as parlourmaids) with wine and a most varied assortment of refreshments, all prepared by themselves. A cup of tea was available for those who wanted it, and this was a thoughtful and welcome touch. The party ended with 'Auld Lang Syne', and I am sure everyone will feel as I did that we had a lovely evening. Thank you Social Committee — may we have many more!

Joan Canham

CANDLEMAS WELCOME SERVICE

Candlemas — the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple — when the aged Simeon, steeped in the Jewish religion and bridging the Old Testament times and the New, received into his arms the babe who was to become the light of the world.

The theme of the service was Light — in the hymns we sang "Awake, fling off the night for God has sent His glorious light" and "I want to walk as a child of the light"; in the anthem "Arise, shine for thy light has come"; in the readings — "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9), "You are the light of the world — you like the lamp must shed light among your fellows" (Matthew 5) and Luke 2, the Nunc Dimittis "The light to lighten the Gentiles".

Ron Bridges' address traced the theme, and the point was made that the flickering candles might not be deemed, in this modern age, as suitable to convey the idea of the light of the world as would perhaps be the piercing, penetrating laser beam — but the force of the laser is directed to one spot only, whereas the soft, silent candle light falls kindly on all.

The dancers performed twice, if that word is the correct expression for such reverent and moving acts of worship. The music was from the ecumenical French Monastery of Taise — first the Paternoster where the dancers conveyed not so much the words of the Lord's Prayer but the moods of worship. The final tableau was a thing of pure artistry bringing to a fitting close the slow, graceful, devout movement. When the dance was over, Helen Taylor, in the centre of the group with the others in attitudes of prayer around her, prayed, eyes closed, most simply and movingly that those whose sufferings made the world seem a dark place might experience God's light and that we all might be filled with God's Holy Spirit so that our fellows might discern His light in us, to the glory of His name.

The dance for Candlemas was performed to Veni Sancte Spiritus — Come Holy Spirit. Each dancer lit two candles, one for each hand. It was very

moving to see the little lights growing from a single flame to ten separate small flames and being moved gracefully through various artistic patterns to culminate in a glowing cross. All was silence, the candles flickered on the graceful hands and arms and devout faces of the dancers — finally the candles were carried symbolically up the centre and side aisles to bring their light to the darkened body of the church.

The final hymn "Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord" was sung whole-heartedly with gratitude and joy. So much prayer, hard work and preparation goes into these special occasions; thank you, all of you for the offering of this Service.

Readers: Hal Severn, Roma Bridges, Rachel Lloyd.

Dancers: Eila Severn, Hilde Bucknell, Jennifer Lloyd, Roma Bridges,
Helen Taylor.

Margery Orton

The Service for Candlemas on Sunday 6th February was one of religious devotion, for the readings, addresses, singing and two dances by the Liturgical Dancing Group was very stirring and pleasing to me and all the congregation I am sure. Especially the final portrayal of the Cross with ten lighted candles was most moving — one lady was heard to say that she felt like crying. I felt the same. The Anthem "Arise, shine, for thy light is come" was most beautifully sung by the choir, so well trained by our accomplished Organist. Rachel Lloyd's reading of "The Presentation of Christ in the Temple" was gentle and sweet with clear enunciation. Thank you all those involved, and to my dear and kind friends who enabled me to attend this Service of Peace and Joy. Congratulations to the dancers and I hope that many other talented ladies will respond to Eila Severn's appeal for new members.

Coral McCarthy

CHURCH YOUTH CLUB — FUND RAISING FOR GIDEON MHAGAMA

On Sunday 24th October, 1982, Mr. Gideon Mhagama came to visit the Church Youth Club to give a talk and show some slides. He works for a hospital administration in Tanzania. He mentioned some of the things badly needed for the hospital. After this visit the Youth Club set their minds towards thinking of different ways of raising money to help the hospital.

Finally it was decided that the activities would be carol singing on Christmas Eve, a post box for Christmas cards in church and, on Sunday, 23rd January, a sponsored three legged walk round part of Hampton Hill. The carol singing was much enjoyed by all those who took part. The first place visited was the Laurel Dene old people's home. Having done that the Youth Club went round a few of the roads in Hampton Hill. At the end of the evening about £10 had been raised. Over the Christmas period a post box was placed in the west aisle for members of the congregation to post their Christmas cards for the Youth Club to deliver. The sponsored three legged walk took place about an hour after the end of the 9.30 service. It started from Wayside and ran down

St. James' Road, down Windmill Road, along the High Street, down Park Road and back along St. James' Road to Wayside. This was estimated at about 1 mile and was done five times. At the end of the activity over £80 had been raised.

On behalf of the Church Youth Club I would like to thank all those who helped by sponsoring or giving money to a very worthwhile cause.

Huw Taylor

THE CHURCH AND THE BOMB

Many people will have listened with intense interest on Radio 3 to the debate at the General Synod of the Church of England on February 10th when the report "The Church and the Bomb", commissioned by Synod and written by a Working Party appointed by the Board of Social Responsibility, was examined and voted upon.

It was a foregone conclusion that the recommendation of the Working Party, of a gradual transfer by the UK to a unilateral position on Nuclear disarmament, within a multi-lateral effort on all sides would be defeated. But when the Bishop of Salisbury, the Chairman of the Working Party spoke in support of this unanimous recommendation there was prolonged applause; when the vote was taken, however, only 100 out of the total membership of over 500 General Synod members voted supporting the proposals, 338 against, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, abstentions therefore were about 100.

At a conference on the Church and the Bomb at St. Katherines, Stepney, February 18-20, two powerful speakers, both Christians, spoke in support of the policy of deterrents currently followed by NATO and the USSR. Both spoke of the wish for power as an inseparable part of human nature, shared by nations; they spoke of justice, of reason, of balance, of the recognition that mutual fear would keep the peace. One of them was able to talk of the immense stability of the present situation, and outlined a process of gradual bi-lateral disarmament on both sides, even now being discussed in Geneva.

Many participants at the conference were stunned by the sheer brilliance of these expositions. There were, however, penetrating questions put about the dangers of escalation through proliferation, of blackmail if a nuclear device fell into the hands of terrorists, of accident, of mental derangement in key personnel with their fingers on the button, of computer failure, all of which involved appalling risks. A medical professor present outlined the inability of the medical and social services to cope in any way with a nuclear bomb falling anywhere in Britain, and the resulting tragic fall-out.

What about a unilateral approach? Pooh-poohed by the pro-deterrent speakers, and yet an attempt must be made to give some support to the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968. Some more urgent attempt must be made to bring to a halt this arms race with an appalling expenditure, something like £30,000,000,000 a year and increasing, with arms firms making money, and countries in the Third World suffering acutely from poverty, hunger and disease, and yet a number of them, through fear and following examples, spending considerable sums on armaments.

The Dean of St. Pauls, Alan Webster, our Chairman gave us a profound Christian lead: "Blessed are the peace-makers"; and from 2 Corinthians 4.10 "Wherever we go we carry death with us in our body, the death that Jesus died, that in this body also life may reveal itself, the life that Jesus lives.": and also the wonder of the various languages spoken and the understanding of them at the first Pentecost with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In discussion, we talked of the women's protest at Greenham Common and their cry, "men have always made war, now it is the turn of the women to make peace". We remembered the huge protest marches in Europe and in particular the one in New York at the United Nations Special Session 2 in 1982 when a million people marched: described as a march of people enjoying life and wanting to go on living to continue to enjoy it. President Eisenhower at one time said that he hoped that at some point the ordinary people of the world would raise their voices and shout loudly to say they did not wish for war anymore. Was this now happening?

Led by the Dean, I and many others came away with a conviction that there must be education for peace; contacts as far as possible with peoples of other countries and of other faiths, a world fellowship, protest for peace, and prayers for peace. This is urgent, there is no time to lose. In short, Love, Hope, Trust and Faith.

A recent powerful speech by our Bishop, Mark Santer, on the moral aspects of the using and even possessing of nuclear weapons should be studied. I have a copy and will lend it. The debate will continue.

Hannah Stanton

THE PRAYER CIRCLE

"Is anyone among you in trouble? He should turn to prayer" (James 5, v.13-16).

Not only personal prayer is open to you and yours but the prayers of a group of caring Christians who wish to serve God and their fellow men by giving time to pray for those in need of comfort, strength and healing.

"Jesus answered them, I tell you this if only you have faith and no doubts — whatever you pray for in faith you will receive." (Mat.21, v.22).

If you would like the Prayer Circle to pray for you or those known to you who are in trouble., contact Margery Orton 979 5868 who will make your request known to a Circle of caring people who feel drawn to this particular kind of service to their fellows.

"Prayer one-th the soul to God." (Julian of Norwich).

Margery Orton

THE CHALLENGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

John Appleyard's talk on 26 January in the United Reformed Church Hall on this subject was informative and thought-provoking: it was a pity it was not better attended. The speaker described his own "bereavement" when he had lost his job as a senior executive a few years ago, and how grateful he had been at that time to find useful work with the Community Care Group who had arranged the talk. He had then begun to realise the importance of people and the need to move away from materialism, and became a founder member of the self-help and mutual-support Richmond Unemployed Group where experiences, skills and information (eg about cooperatives, re-cycling the waste from our consumer society, and the benefit of payments that are available) can be shared and a sense of purpose re-developed.

He explained that much could be done not only at local level to encourage such groups and to help their members to help each other and to do useful (if unpaid) work in the community, but also, at national level, to secure modifications to the benefits regulations so as to encourage initiative, risk-taking and part-time working, rather than putting them out of the question, as do the present rules, at least for those with families to support.

With the drive in industry and commerce for ever greater efficiency to maintain competitiveness associated with increasing use of automation and computerisation, the problem is sure to grow: and it was clear from the discussion, chaired by Hannah Stanton, that the work ethic, as we have known it, has to be re-appraised and attitudes have to be changed.

Ron Bridges

HAMPTON DISTRICT GIRL GUIDES

Were you ever a Guide or Brownie or have you a little spare time you could give us once in a while? Hampton District needs some people who would be willing to test Guides and/or Brownies for their interest badges. Perhaps you have a skill or an interest yourself and you would like to be a tester for that particular badge. Maybe you have young children and can't get out very much but would be glad to have the girls come to your home for their badge tests. Maybe your children are grown up and you'd like to keep in touch with youngsters. If you would like to help us and are interested in becoming a badge tester we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact our District Commissioner Mrs. A. Friswell 979 5335 who will be happy to give you further details.

Hampton District Guides

Did you know that Noah was the first entrepreneur? He floated a company when everyone else went into liquidation.

THANK YOU

..... for the substantial anonymous donation for Gideon Mhagama's hospital in Tanzania. Would the donor note that this money has been forwarded together with a further sum from the Church.

..... to the Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides who raised £33.71 of the total of £61.74 which was sent to the C of E Children's Society after the Christingle Service.

..... to everyone who takes home various items for laundering from time to time, especially tea towels and table cloths. Please could you make sure that they are returned to the sideboard drawer in church as the stock seems rather depleted. While on the subject of linen, if anyone with old pillowcases or mattress covers to spare would like a home for them, they are ideal for storing church linen and would be gratefully received for this purpose. Please contact Helen Taylor.

A LOOK AHEAD

A few special events are in store for us to which we would like to draw your attention particularly. Please make a note in your diary now. More information will follow in due course as appropriate.

Furthest ahead is the annual **Hall Clean** on the 23rd and 30th July for which very many hands indeed are needed to make fairly light work.

The nearest one is the **Mothers Union Deanery Day** at St. James' on Friday 25th March. The day will start with a celebration of the Eucharist in church at 11.30. After lunch (please bring your own sandwiches) at 2pm visitors are invited to hear the Diocesan President Mrs. Rosemary Johnson speak in the Hall. Mrs. Johnson used to be chairman of the Young Families Department, and the whole day will be directed at young mothers in particular. If it would help, a creche could be made available. Since prior notice is needed for this, please ring Dorothy Edmonds on 979 1589 if you would like to use a creche.

Wednesday of Holy Week, 30th March, sees our annual **Austerity Lunch** from 12 till 2pm. There will be a minimum charge of 50p. Please support this event to raise much needed funds for Christian Aid.

During the Maundy Thursday Parish Communion we will have the pleasure of hearing a work composed by our own organist.

Another musical event is the second production of the "**Leaves of Life**" by William Godfree on 1st May. This work had its memorable first performance at St. James's in 1979. Rehearsals are on Friday evenings at 8.15; it is not too late to join.

The **Annual Church Meeting** will be held on 27th April at 8pm in St. James's Parish Hall. There will be a reminder of this in the April edition of 'The Spire' but it is good to think now about some of the business which will be transacted. One of the most important will be that part of the meeting known as the Vestry Meeting. At it two Churchwardens will be elected for the 12 months following. Last year we had the first election at St. James's for many years. This year we shall be doing the same again. After serving as Churchwarden for a long time Bill Robinson will be retiring. We shall pay tribute to him later, but we ought to be thinking now about his successor. A Churchwarden is the Bishop's officer in the Parish and is responsible for a wide range of things, notably the furnishings and ornaments of the church, the churchyard, the allocation of seats and monies. He does not *have* to be Treasurer of the P.C.C. although many are. He does have to see that everything is properly kept in order. A Churchwarden may be a man or a woman. He is formally admitted to office by the Archdeacon some time after the annual meeting. It can be a difficult moment in a Parish's life, making an appointment. But it is an *election* and the Vicar only appoints if an impasse of some sort arises. There is no reason why we should not elect Deputy Wardens as some parishes do. Pray about this matter. Above all come to the meeting and take part. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll take a Form from the church and hand it to the Vicar or Margaret Lawrance.

And finally, and most importantly this year the PCC have decided to celebrate **Pentecost** with a special weekend celebration. The final format has not yet been decided, but it is likely there will be some kind of Open Day on the Saturday 21 May inviting all the Parish to see and hear about the varying roles the Church has to play in the parish and beyond. Hopefully we shall have a barbeque in the evening on the lawn. Sunday evening worship will be arranged to reflect the praise and joy traditionally associated with the outpouring of the Spirit and we hope to have a group of Christian musicians to help us. We expect this to appeal to people of all ages.

IN MEMORIAM

To be asked to write about someone who was so recently with us and who was also a good friend is very difficult since recent memories tend to crowd in to the exclusion of more distant ones. In the case of Mary Harper this would be most unfair, since her contribution to our affairs covered a long period of time. For many years she and Frank were loyal supporters of numerous Church functions, and in addition they both gave a great deal of help in organising many of those functions.

Mary first became involved with St. James in 1952 when as a young mum with two little girls, Ann and Susan, she became an enthusiastic supporter of the Young Wives Group. She progressed from this through the Social Committee, and active support of the Young People's Fellowship, to a regular and much appreciated member of the Church flower arrangers.

With Mary's untimely death on 18th February we lost a good friend and worker. Our sympathies go out to all her family in their great loss.

Hal and Eila Severn

DATES TO NOTE

March

- 12 10.00 Churchyard Working Party
14.30 Scouts Jumble Sale, Hall
- 13 4th SUNDAY IN LENT, MOTHERING SUNDAY
Morning Services as usual
16.30 Mothering Sunday Welcome Service
- 14 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
- 15 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James's Avenue
20.15 Liturgical Committee, 75 St. James's Avenue
20.00 Tuesday Club, History of Bentalls, Mr. Downing, Wayside
- 16 20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 17 10.15 Lent Study Group, 63 Park Road
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia, Vestry
- 18 20.15 Rehearsal "Leaves of Life"
- 19 13.30 Jumble Sale, Mothers Union, Hall
Jumble Sale, Bishop Wand School
- 20 5th SUNDAY IN LENT, PASSION SUNDAY
Services as usual
- 22 09.30 Holy Communion
- 23 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 24 10.15 Lent Study Group, 63 Park Road
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia, Vestry
20.15 Properties Committee, 21 St. James's Road
- 25 Mothers Union Deanery Day at St. James's (See Separate Notice)
20.15 Rehearsal for "Leaves of Life"

HOLY WEEK

- 27 PALM SUNDAY Distribution of Palm Crosses at all services
Please Note: Summer Time begins
08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion
18.30 Evensong with Readings from Dorothy Sayers Palm Sunday
- 28 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry [Sequence]
20.00 Holy Communion
- 29 09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 Holy Communion
- 30 12.00 - 14.00 Austerity Lunch, Wayside, for Christian Aid
20.00 Holy Communion
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 31 MAUNDY THURSDAY
20.00 Parish Communion
Choir sings "Maundy Thursday" by Olive Hayward
followed by Agape with Hot Cross Buns

April

- 1 GOOD FRIDAY
10.00 Children's Service with preparation of Easter Garden
12.00 - 15.00 Three Hour Devotion

- 2 EASTER EVE
19.00 Quiet Hour of Meditation and Preparation for Easter
- 3 EASTER DAY
08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion
18.30 Festal Evensong
- 5 09.30 Holy Communion
- 6 14.30 Mothers Union, Wayside
10.00 Lirturgical Dancing, Church
- 7 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia, Vestry
- 8 20.15 Rehearsal for "Leaves of Life"
- 9 Churchyard Working Party
- 10 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
Morning Services as usual
18.30 "Risen with Christ" – a Devotion for Congregation and Choir
- 11 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
- 12 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James's Avenue

FROM THE REGISTER

Baptisms

- 13th February Thomas Simeon Norman 23 Longford Close
20th February Andrew James Poyntz Gloyns Yateley

Wedding

- 19th February Stewart Murray King and Nicole Liz Wood
84 Wordsworth Road

Funerals

- 27th January Andrew Ralph Muckle 202 Uxbridge Road (aged 87)
25th February Lilian Grace Smith 125 Burtons Road
25th February Florence Mary Harper 249 Uxbridge Road (aged 65)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
23 Jan.	122	134	87	12
30 Jan.	105	120	213	16
6 Feb.	102	157	138	11
13 Feb.	101	121	162	14

CHEMISTS ADDITIONAL DUTY ROTA

March	13	Martin, F.G., 28b Priory Road, Hampton
	20	Kirby, E. & R., 53 High Street, Teddington
	27	Martin, F.G., 3 Station Approach, Hampton
April	1	Martin, F.G., 3 Station Approach, Hampton
	3	Thomas, D.R., 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
	4	Thomas D.R., 113 Stanley Road, Teddington
	10	Hall, H., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill
Weekdays (except Saturday)	6 - 7 pm	Early Closing Days 6 - 7 pm
	Sundays & Public Holidays	11 - 12 noon