

“Speaking the truth is no longer an acceptable substitute for doing the truth”. That sentence comes from a book by a modern South American writer, Hugo Assman, toiling, with others, against the ineffectiveness of the Church in dictatorship states. It might well have been the dictum of St. James the Apostle, patron of our parish church. For St. James was one of the first to challenge the order of his day in Jerusalem, and certainly the first of the Apostles to be martyred. He was determined to see that Christians did not allow themselves to slide into easy conformity but lived the new life in Christ. His actions got angry reactions; had he not been nicknamed ‘Son of Thunder’ by Jesus Himself?

We at St. James, Hampton Hill, would do well to remember him and ask ourselves whether we are “sons (or daughters) of thunder”. And if we are not, ought we to be so rather more than we are? Not a comfortable thought, but is comfort of this kind really desirable?

The letter of James in the New Testament is sometimes thought to have been written by the other James, the Lord’s brother. It is full of practical advice and is well worth reading through. Not the least bit theoretical. “If faith does not lead to action it is in itself a lifeless thing.” For your holiday reading I suggest at least one read through of the letter of James. I shall be surprised if you are not at some point challenged in your attitudes or actions. We cannot hide under the umbrella of ‘what happens at St. James’ Church’, but need to look at our own selves in the revealing light of Christ.

Nicholas Chubb



PENTECOST CELEBRATION

A Review

1. OPEN DAY

The Tuesday Club was privileged to be asked to decorate the porch so on Friday 20th we had what might be called a ‘Porch Eye View’. Looking in, all was bustle, masses of lilac, laburnum, copper beech, lilies-of-the-valley, bluebells, flowers and shrubs of every hue and colour were being trimmed, arranged, put in oasis, watered and sprayed, set on pedestals and tucked into niches. The arrangers, like busy bees, buzzed among the flowers and foliage and the whole church was filled with the wonderful scent of the blooms.

By Saturday all was ready, the decorated stands, manned by members of various groups, the displays of church linen and ornaments, the banners and the well illustrated history of St. James's Church and Hampton Hill and the excellent refreshments served in the vestry.

The Church, with its masses of flowers and the altar dignified and peaceful, with its red hanging and beautiful red and white floral arrangements, was alive and ready to welcome its many visitors.

Dorothy Weston

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In humble gratitude, O God,
We bring our best to thee,
To serve thy cause and share thy love
With all humanity.

We awoke quite early on the morning of 21st May to a glorious start to the day. The clock was striking nine as we approached the church. How pretty the railings had been decorated with jars full of bluebells, buttercups and other flowers. The entrance porch had been very tastefully bedecked with a display of flowers and shrubs and seemed to extend a warm welcome to us.

On entering the Church we found that the Baptistry had been adapted for young mums and their children; turning into the South Aisle we found displays by the Scouts and Cub Scouts, the Guides and Brownies, the Mothers Union, Tuesday Club, and Ladies Choir, the Wayside Monday Centre, the Social Committee, the Church Youth Club, the Hampton Council of Churches, and the Book Stall, all very attractive and full of interest. Crossing to the North Aisle we found exhibits giving much detail about Christian Aid, Welcare, Social Responsibility, the Church Army, the Church Missionary Society and other Charities supported by St. James. The Sunday School occupied the western end of the north aisle and walking back via that end of the church we noticed photographs of all the past Vicars including a recent addition, of Rupert Brunt. The ever popular Local History exhibition was arranged in the West Porch, and nearby was a table upon which was information about the Prayer Circle. Our footsteps now took us along the central aisle to a display of very fine Church Linen and Altar Frontals and from there we visited the Sanctuary and looked at the Church Plate all shining bright upon the altar.

The day proceeded with items of continuous interest (see account below) what a wonderful time we had, and what effort must have been put into the whole affair – we left for home after signing the Visitors Book with much to think about and be thankful for.

A world in need now summons us
To labour, love and give;
To make our life an offering
To God, that man may live.

(opening and concluding verses by permission of the Proprietors – The World's Need – 100 Hymns for Today).

G.I. Robinson

Our Open Day started and finished, appropriately, with services of worship, to place the events of the day in the right context. Our organist gave two main recitals of organ music demonstrating the fine instrument we possess. *[Subsequent comments showed how much Olive's splendid playing was appreciated. Ed.]* The first of the group presentations was another service, but on this occasion it was an informal "pram service", similar to those held regularly for families with small children, and conducted very ably by members of the Young Families Group and with guitarists to lead the singing. The Guides sang sweetly for us and the Brownie Guides not only sang but also showed what instrumental skills can be acquired at a young age. At midday attention was soon commanded by the Church Choir as they sang a number of anthems powerfully and joyfully, filling the building with their voices. A varied programme of music of a rather different nature was presented by the Monday afternoon Ladies Choir; and the Church Youth Club, somewhat in the manner of an updated Greek chorus, performed, with precision timing which was obviously the result of much careful practice, a meaningful present-day version of the parable of the Good Samaritan. They were followed by our Liturgical Dancers who, with their very special form of worship, danced, gracefully and extremely movingly, the Lord's Prayer, the Annunciation and then a lively representation of the joy and power of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Towards the end of the afternoon, members of the Koinonia and Good News Groups led the singing of choruses and arranged a forum for the discussion of questions about our faith.

Despite many doubts about what the weather might be like at dusk on a Saturday in May, especially after a rather cloudy day with some rain, we were blessed with a very pleasant mild evening for our barbecue on the church lawns. The many who had bought tickets were rewarded with an enjoyable alfresco meal and excellent company, and the day ended with the coloured lights shining in the trees and in the warm glow of candles.

It is not of course possible, in the artificial setting of an Open Day, to paint a full and accurate picture of the life of a church – of a community of people trying to walk with God: it is necessary to join in such a fellowship to discover what that can mean. Nevertheless many aspects of that life were presented during the day and a feeling of joy and praise and thanksgiving was generated.

Ron Bridges

A Vicar's Eye View of the Open Day: Great Activity – Great Enthusiasm – A sense of what the Church *is* and is trying to *do* – and in some measure achieving.

The Day really began a long time ago in the planning. Then the church itself was given a good clean and sparkled. It is never a good sign when Christians are shoddy about their church. I am reminded of a monk who once said 'Let no man try to pray to God who has not first polished his shoes'.

The stalls represented very well the activity and outreach of the Church, near at home and quite far afield. But this was all in the context of prayer and praise. I must admit to being surprised and delighted with the number who started the day with the office of Matins and ended it with Compline. During the day the Liturgical Dancers provided the highlight of the "presentations" for me. But best of all it was good to see the many *un*familiar faces mingling with the well known, and the *new* names in the Visitors' Book. For in this we know we are in some way reaching those among us who are, with us, searching for God.

Nicholas Chubb

A Thank You to everyone who gave such lovely flowers and flowering shrubs to the Church for our Open Day and Pentecostal celebrations. Thanks too, to our many helpers on the Friday morning who arranged all these gifts to such great effect.

I would like to take this opportunity also, to thank those people who bring garden flowers or give donations at any time during the year. They are much appreciated.

Roma Bridges

. on behalf of the church to all those who donated cakes for our refreshments during the day. The donors were very generous indeed, and the cakes really delicious.



2. WORSHIP AND PRAISE

The first part of our Sunday evening celebrations was a serene and moving occasion; the choir led us in some beautiful modern hymns, and Alan Taylor complemented the Whitsun story with most appropriate prayers. The remarkable thing was that all three speakers made an identical statement. Lesley Mortimer, Tony Lawrance and our Vicar had been asked to give a very brief account of their belief. They had not discussed their testimonies beforehand, their style was totally different, and they mentioned many facets of their faith which obviously grow out of their varying personalities, but the essential message in all three testimonies was the same. Firstly, that they had found in the living Jesus Christ a friend for their life. Lesley, deputy head of a large comprehensive school, witnessed to the fact that Jesus was the reliable guide she could turn to in every situation of her demanding job. Tony stressed the ever-growing understanding Christ grants if we ask him faithfully, and Nicholas related how people of great influence in his formative years had gradually led him to follow their examples of faith and rely on Jesus as the constant companion in all the changing situations of life. And secondly, that the love of a Christian community, the people walking hand in hand, was something they could not do without.

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The second part of that evening proved controversial. (Two separate comments follow). There were those who feel strongly that the kind of noisy enjoyment created by pop music and funny stories has no place inside a church building; a lot of the adult members of the audience felt that the "chatty bits" between the numbers were of rather dubious taste; everybody regretted that one could not understand the words of the songs, which no doubt contained a Christian message; and there were many, mainly youngsters, who had a thoroughly good time.

It seems to me that the message Burnt Oak tried to convey – that you do not have to be stuffy and dull to be a Christian, that in fact it makes you extra happy – is a valid one. They could have made this point in a slightly more responsible fashion. Other groups or individual performers might have a more sensitive way of approaching their audience. It would be interesting to hear another Christian folk group to find out how they express the eternal Christian truths in modern musical terms.

Hilde Bucknell

BURNT OAK

On Sunday 22nd May the members of the church were entertained by a Christian rock group called Burnt Oak. The group, who travel around visiting churches, arrived at the church in their mini-bus which was packed full of their equipment. The equipment was set up, I must say that it was very impressive, and the group retired to have some tea before their act. They had also very kindly set up microphones in the church for the Evening service. One of the microphones was in the pulpit, and sitting quite near to the back of the church as I was, I found it much easier to hear.

Their act not only consisted of songs but between each song they spoke for a short while telling various amusing stories. The music itself, written by various members of the group, was very well performed. It ranged from the slow serious music to the swing-a-long tempo that really gets the feet tapping. I, for one, being keen on music, thought that this sort of entertainment was a nice change to what we are usually used to on a Sunday evening. It just goes to show that music under the heading of rock isn't always the same and can be accepted gratefully, as it was, in church.

On a final note I'd like to say thank-you very much to Burnt Oak and the organisers for a good evenings entertainment and I hope that this could be done again in the not too distant future.

Huw Taylor

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I was present on the evening of Sunday May 22nd when the rock group "Burnt Oak" gave a performance in church. The group was equipped with all the paraphernalia of modern musical performers and managed to make enough noise (complete with flashing coloured lights) to raise the dust from the rafters (the only place in the church that was still dusty after the Open Day clean up!). Most of the songs seemed to have been written by or for the group, and, although not especially memorable, were quite well performed. The two lead guitarists were very energetic and did their best to amuse and get participation from the audience of 80-100 people. The show was overlaid with a simplistic 'Christian' message and the whole performance appeared to be aimed at the youngsters in the audience, of whom there were many, and could be considered a success in terms of the jumping up and down and wriggling in the seats. Perhaps the question that needs to be asked is whether the show had any significant Christian content. We would all like to see our children grow up to be Christians, but they must find their own way to Jesus Christ as they mature. To use a modern pop group to entice them into church seems unlikely to help

spiritual development and may well prove to be counter-productive by bringing Christian values down to the level of "Top of the Pops". We create a false impression of our faith by trying to be "with it" and match the world on its own terms. Our strengths lie elsewhere, in attempting to live Christian lives, and it always pays to play to your strengths.

Many people, including me, find the standard church services to be inadequate, of themselves, to get the maximum benefit. We need to find other ways to evolve the forms of our worship to enable each member of the church to be fulfilled, but I think that "Burnt Oak" is not the way. We must surely aim for the highest common factor – not the lowest common denominator.

P.A. Lawrance

PEACE PENTECOST – Christian CND at Upper Heyford 21-22/5/83

Two thousand people marched, and gifts were received by Defence Minister Peter Blaker on behalf of the USAF at Upper Heyford, during a torrential thunder-storm. At an open air service of reconciliation and agape we listened to George Zakelka, chaplain to the Hiroshima air-crew. How do I select incidents to describe to you?

In the only dry corner of the field, designated as children's creche, we found ourselves, in place of the planned programme of songs, stories, and games, acting hostess to the small proportion of marchers too tired or wet to cope with the outdoor activities. There was the moment when bedding and blankets were frantically stowed overhead, while one of us stemmed with a spade the flow of water under the barn door. There were peaceful times, when we could hear and join the worship outside, when even the little ones stood still during the Lord's Prayer, when the bread broken in the agape was distributed to adults and children hushed by the eternal symbolism of feeding and being fed.

After the festival was over, there was splashing through churned up mud to a grassy place for our tent. A good sleep, tucked up three to a double sleeping bag, then off to the dawn Eucharist at Gate 6 of the base. The boys were given candles – with the help of a glass jar we kept them burning till our return to the barn, to remind us of the long night vigil kept by others while we slept.

Our first overnight CND meeting – come with us next time!

Anne Malins

PS: After we left Upper Heyford, some went over the wire. They were initially asked to leave by the police, but after discussion, a service took place. No one was arrested, though all taking part had fully prepared themselves for that possibility.

The arrests one read about subsequently, were taking place, not within the specialist group of Christian CND, but as a result of a four-day blockade organised throughout the wider CND movement. Those arrested had been fully trained for non-violent civil disobedience, and were committed to this possibility.

THE LEAVES OF LIFE

The second performance of the Leaves of Life, a musical presentation of the passion based on a traditional poem with extra verses by Joanna Robertson, composed by William Godfree was indeed a delight.

The cast all suitably clad after many hours of rehearsing gave of their very best. Part I Palm Sunday had crowd scenes made particularly authentic by the children in their excitement. The Vicar gave a dignified portrayal of Jesus throughout the Trial, Crucifixion and Resurrection scenes, and Helen Taylor as Mary acted and sang with great conviction and made us feel the pathos of the event. The augmented choir sang and acted with great deliberation and clarity. The instrumental group and pianist added tone and colour to the splendid organ accompaniment. Special mention must be made of Robin Smith's trumpet playing which was a joy to hear.

Our Liturgical dancers once more astounded us with the beauty of their movement and the worship involved in it. A most difficult job is to narrate to music, and this Margery Orton did in her own inimitable style with great precision. The congregation was invited to stand and sing verses 3 and 4 of 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord'. I found this the most moving moment of the whole drama.

Our thanks and congratulations to Olive Hayward for producing such a worthwhile performance, and indeed to everyone who took part and gave up their spare time to provide such a memorable evening. It was pleasing to have William Godfree in our midst and to meet with people not of our parish, both old and new friends.

Janet Jeffries

A MEDITATION

"Be still and know that I am God, I am peace within you, says the Lord. Therefore be still and learn of that stillness.

I am content to wait upon the Lord my God, for in His service is stillness and strength justified. They that wait daily and at all times and in diverse places shall be fed with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Strengthener. They shall act beyond the powers of their own strength, their own wisdom and shall achieve be they true and faithful servants of the Lord, sonship with Him and brotherhood, not only with Christ but with their fellows. Therefore in stillness and strength and discipline, patience and selfcontrol, wait on the Lord. Remember that He is Holy, remember that He is merciful. Remember that He is your Father, swift to strengthen, swift to chide but also swift to send enlightenment, repentance, forgiveness. Wait on Him constantly, wait on His word speaking in the peace within thee that lies in thy soul. Go there, son of Man, stay there as long as the Lord shall deem necessary for you, for this should be your first concern, first wait on the Lord who is the Giver of Life – that life, through the donor, shall be made perfect to you, that it shall worthily magnify Him whose gift it is.

Oh foolish Man, wherefore do you put last that which should be first"

M. O.

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Our **OPEN DAY** display contained an interesting map showing the position of The Triangle and the ground to be traversed before the necessary amenities of water and electricity can be brought to our new Headquarters. A very costly item indeed which has been deferred for some years through lack of funds. Until this project has been completed the use of our Headquarter's is very limited indeed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped on Saturday, both boys, Committee members and Scouters.

CAMP At 10.30 a.m. on the Spring Bank Holiday Saturday in very damp conditions we set off for the Brecon Beacons in mid-Wales, but by the time we arrived at our Camp site at the foot of the Black Mountains the weather had cleared and we were able to erect our tents on dry land. It was a very nice field which we shared with a flock of sheep, chickens and a donkey – there was a lake at the bottom of the site ideal for swimming, also the boys did abseiling and pony-treking, and a variety of other camp activities. Our nearest village was Llangadog, but we also visited Llanelly and Swansea. The District Commissioner and his A.D.C. paid us a visit on the Monday and after inspecting the Camp expressed great satisfaction with everything they saw. The standard of camping seems to be improving all the time and all 3 patrols performed very well and despite the variable showery weather we were able to complete a full Camp programme. 15 Scouts and 3 Leaders thoroughly enjoyed their week in the Welsh Mountains.

The District Commissioner attended Troop night on 10th June and during the evening presented Nicky Cruickshank with his Warrant as A.S.L.

Scouts Sampson Low, Colin Lea and Barry Walker attended a District Patrol Leader's Training Course weekend.

SUMMER CAMPS: An innovation this year when all 3 Sections are joining in a combined Camp at Braggers Wood in the New Forest, Sunday 24th July – Saturday 30th July.

Michael J. Childs, G.S.L.

W A N T E D – A Guillotine. Has anyone a guillotine at home or in the office or works which is no longer needed? Margaret Leatherdale 979 6999 would be very happy to know of it.

THE PARISH OUTING

The Social Committee is inviting the parish to a day trip to Rustington on Saturday 16th July. Coach departs from church at 9 a.m., return in the evening. Rustington is near Seaford and Littlehampton. The price of £4 includes food.

ST. JAMES'S DAY

We celebrate our Patronal Festival on the 24th July this year. The Archdeacon of Middlesex, Timothy Raphael, is coming to preach at the festive afternoon service. We hope to welcome friends from other local congregations and very many members of the extended St. James's family. There will be some special arrangements for children, and the afternoon will be rounded off by the now traditional Parish Tea on the church lawn.

THE HALL "SPRING" CLEAN

Our annual clean is once again to take place during the Summer holidays. On Saturdays 23rd and 30th July we shall be looking for help between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. in the task of removing a year's accumulated grime.

As usual, we plan to wash all the paint work: walls, ceilings, window frames and doors; clean all the windows inside and out; wash all the tables and all the chairs; and finally scrub and seal all the floors. Steps and ladders, detergents, and some buckets will be provided, but past years have shown that there are seldom enough buckets to go round – so do please bring you own, together with a suitable sponge and/or cloth. Hoping to see you!

Jack Gostling

HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

A series of six talks has been arranged for this autumn on the theme "What it means to be a Christian in" They are to be held at 8.00 p.m. on alternate Mondays at All Saints Church, Hampton. Do not miss your chance to hear these outstanding speakers.

BRAZIL 19th Sept. Fr. A. Metcalf, SJ., who has worked in Brazil for many years.

INDIA 3rd Oct. The Rev. M. Mackenzie, who was ordained in the Church of S. India and worked there for many years.

IRAN 17th Oct. The Rt. Rev. H.B. Dehqani-Tafti, The Bishop in Iran.

USSR 31st Oct. Miss Jane Ellis from Keston College.

FIJI 14th Nov. The Rev. Akuila Yabeki, who is a Fijian Methodist Minister who came to this country 5 years ago.

AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN 28th Nov. The Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston, CR. Lately Archbishop of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

MAGAZINE APPEAL

We thank everyone who has responded to this appeal. We are grateful not only for the gift of money but for the encouragement expressed in the letters of appreciation which have accompanied the donations. Some donors are anonymous, but those for whom we have a name and address will receive – or have already received – a letter of thanks on behalf of the Editorial Board.

Margery Orton

THANK YOU TO BILL ROBINSON (2)

An article in last month's 'Spire' paid eloquent tribute to Bill Robinson's twenty-one years of service to St. James's as Churchwarden, treasurer, and chairman of the properties committee. In response to many enquiries, a fund has now been set up for a presentation gift, through which we can mark Bill's retirement and in some measure record our appreciation and gratitude for all that he has done on our behalf. Contributions may be made to me or to Ron Bridges, preferably before 30th July, so that we may then arrange for a presentation at an appropriate date in the late summer.

Jack Gostling

DATES TO NOTE

July

- 9 10.00 Churchyard Working Party
- 10 PENTECOST 7
Services as usual
St. James's run evening service at Laurel Dene
- 12 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James's Avenue
20.00 Hampton Council of Churches
- 13 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 14 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 15 20.15 Liturgical Committee, venue to be advised
- 16 09.00 Parish Outing to Rustington
- 17 PENTECOST 8
Services as usual
- 18 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
- 19 09.30 Holy Communion
16.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 PCC, Vestry
20.00 Tuesday Club, Summer Supper, Wayside
- 21 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
20.15 Hall Committee
- 22 ST. MARY MAGDALEN
- 23 09.00 Hall Clean
- 24 PENTECOST 9
Morning Services as usual
16.30 Festal Evensong for St. James's Day, followed by Parish Tea on
[Church Lawn]
- 25 ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE
- 26 09.30 Holy Communion
- 27 10.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 28 19.15 Holy Communion
- 30 09.00 Hall Clean
- 31 PENTECOST 10
Services as usual
20.00 Organ Recital by Olive Hayward

August

- 2 09.30 Holy Communion
- 4 19.15 Holy Communion
- 6 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
- 7 PENTECOST 11
Services as usual
- 9 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James's Avenue
- 11 19.15 Holy Communion
- 13 10.00 Churchyard Working Party
- 14 PENTECOST 12
Services as usual
- 16 09.30 Holy Communion