

"If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face — for ever". Sometimes this idea of what lies ahead of us all seems uncomfortably near the likelihood of the matter, especially as we are in the throes of another violent period in the history of mankind. For it seems that many leaders of nations, small as well as great, determine to try and assure their survival by eliminating their fellows. The attitude appears to rest on fear, the fear of allowing another to have a chance of behaving in the same way. It does not only appear as a characteristic of politicians. It occurs in many (if not all walks of life) in varying degrees. It even, sadly, occurs in the church. But what George Orwell wrote in his book "1984" need *not* be true for us even if his sharp perceptions and prophecies seem to be gaining an aura of inevitability about them.

For the christian aims to base his life and thinking on the reverse of fear, that much over used and misunderstood word "love". Many people equate "love" with "like". It is quite possible to love someone that one does not like at all. For to love someone means to care for them and wish them all that is best for them *in spite* of what we know or think they are. So we ought to love most of all those who do us the most damage! It is far from easy and none of us can do it in our own strength. St. Paul exhorted us to love our enemies and those that persecute us, even assuring us that we, in so doing, were heaping coals of fire on the heads of our adversaries.

The New Year will bring all sorts of opportunities to many of us to think again about how we live our lives and that means primarily how we go about treating and relating to others. If we follow the example of those in positions of authority in the world which is the subject of newspaper articles and the Television then we shall almost surely have a 'bad year'. If on the other hand we follow more closely than in the past the teachings and example of Jesus then we shall certainly have a much better year. For the word Jesus means 'Saviour'. The saving can affect every part of our lives. Many people restrict the saving to the narrow area of their own individual particular relationship with God. Of course the saving does act there. Jesus enables us to come closer to God than in any other way. He enables us to have a personal relationship with God. But he also enables us to save the world through the remaking of our human contacts with all men and women. And it is on the human level that politicians live and act. Perhaps the greatest mistake that politicians and economists make is to miss the point that they are dealing with people. They talk about 'demand' or 'supply' as if they were inanimate objects and forget that it is the people who do the demanding and the supplying. Surely one of the chief causes of social unrest is that people who are unsatisfied try and cause trouble to ensure they are treated as persons and not numbers on a dole queue. Another is the unbridled greed that allows men to put quite unwarranted prices on their services. I cannot really see why any man's services should be 'worth' say £50,000 or any other high sum. To assume that financial incentives are the only factor in spurring people on to give greater service is surely to give in to the notion that the most important things are greed and power. Christianity works the other way round. Jesus worked the other way round. Put God and people first and the rest falls into place.

A very Happy 1984 to you all.

Nicholas Chubb

HAMPTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AUTUMN LECTURES

Lecture No. 4 on Christian life behind the Iron Curtain painted a rather bleak pessimistic picture, possibly somewhat tainted by the bitterness of the speaker, Mr. Alexander Tomsky, an expatriate from Czechoslovakia, who works for Keston College.

In order to understand what it means to be a Christian behind the Iron Curtain it is necessary to understand what it means to live and survive in a Communist state. Even in Russia the initial belief in Communist ideology has become a facade and the people, paying lip service, dare not express what are their real feelings. Teachers teach what they do not believe, pupils repeat slogans and jargon which become meaningless in the light of stark experience. Existence under the Communist regime becomes schizophrenic — a father dare not voice his real thoughts to his children for fear they wittingly or unwittingly betray him. Communism is an ideology of power, setting up fear, psychological and spiritual suffering against which a dissident must be ready to risk everything necessary for survival — job, home, education opportunities; loss of liberty, possible incarceration in a mental institution for being crazy enough to try to beat the unbeatable, face him.

The Church is the prime enemy of Communism, so is open to crippledom and subversion. The Orthodox Church has been taken over by the State, its priests manipulated, its religious propaganda motivated by the state who aims to water down Christianity to a work ethic. A priest needs a licence from the State, candidates for the seminaries are chosen by the State and are of the calibre planned to best weaken the Church from within. The 'social gospel' of the R.C. church is particularly dangerous to Communism, as is the Protestant Church's emphasis on witness — which is obviously equally dangerous to those seeking to put these ideals into practice.

But at the same time light is dawning. Whilst, as the speaker suggested, people are at heart materialists, and mostly submit to the pressures of materialism for their survival, more and more recognise that Christianity offers the one real alternative; the one truth that will save people from drowning in the schizophrenic existence outlined above. The new generation is learning to reject, inwardly, the atheistic and ideological slogans and to sift them for items of relevance. Why spend so much time and effort they ask — in denying the existence of God if He really does *not* exist? They recognise that it is not enough to be private Christians afraid to be acknowledged as real followers of Christ. So people dare to attend forbidden house groups, dare to produce hand made books, hand copied literature; the underground Church is growing. The new Christian dissidents are not bowing to the desire for a quiet, comfortable life. They want freedom of thought and freedom which allows individuals to be what they are.

Margery Orton

Against this sombre background it was a joy to hear Speaker **No. 5**, the Rev. Yabeki, a Methodist Minister from **Fiji** who is currently serving a term of office in S.W. London. He gave us an interesting overall picture of the economic, political and cultural life of Fiji with its multiracial and multi-faith society. The first Western missionaries arrived there in 1835. Fijians are a happy, hospitable people. There are the usual modern danger signs of increasing urbanisation and the break-up of the extended family, but the speaker was optimistic. He told us that the Church plays a central role in the life of the Pacific peoples, and his most memorable statement to me was that to be a Christian in Fiji is to be a part

of the many. Here in London he had soon realised that the Church was a remnant – only the few are real Christians. As he said: "Here the church is a place where people walk past".

Hilde Bucknell

No. 6 – What it means to be a Christian in Africa and the Indian Ocean

It was a disappointment that through illness Bishop Trevor Huddleston was unable to be with us for the final talk in this series. But we were very fortunate that at such short notice (only that morning) the Reverend Humphrey Taylor was able to take his place. As a member of staff of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel he has worked in many of the same areas as Bishop Huddleston.

In a remarkable way in Africa issues seem very clear and in a stark way you can see right and wrong. Being a Christian here is very exhilarating. The Church seems the vehicle of expression for the meaning of life and the sense of God's purpose. Everyone joins whole-heartedly in singing and services.

The Diocese of Masasi is a rural area with peasant people scratching a living. It is the Church which gives meaning to their lives and is so valued that people walk ten miles each way for services. Here being a Christian means being involved in trying to find opportunities to improve the life of all the people.

In Mauritius, a very small island in the Indian Ocean, the situation is different. Here there is a great mixture of cultures and religions living close together. The population is largely Hindu or Moslem and the Christians are a very small minority. So here ecumenism is not enough. Christians must learn to see themselves not just in relation to each other but in relation to other faiths. So it was in Mauritius that earlier this year Bishop Huddleston organised the conference of World Faiths.

In South Africa Bishop Huddleston is greatly honoured and will go down in history as a prophet for it was his book "Naught for your Comfort" that brought the attention of the world to what was happening here. When you are in South Africa the situation comes into dramatic focus and you are aware of an enormous battle to do with events and people. It is going on in different ways in different places. In the urban areas the African National Congress Party, by guerilla activity, is fighting to stop the government dispossessing Blacks. Black people have no vote and no right to land except in areas designated "Homelands". They are sent to these resettlement areas which are away from the towns. For example there is one about fifty miles north of Pretoria. On the outskirts houses are of quite good quality and there are schools and hospitals. This is what the visitor usually sees. But a priest can go further into the settlement and finds housing deteriorating, no electricity, no water and then the people living in shacks. The land is so poor there is no living to be got here and so people have to go into Pretoria or Johannesburg for work. But here the Churches are full! All this seems to sharpen up church life and being a Christian here means to have a message of hope. This is in spite of the fact that in striving for fairness black people and those white friends who have their welfare at heart may find themselves imprisoned by their rulers.

There is also a battle in East Africa, in Mozambique where there has been a long guerilla war and in this area being a Christian means living under perpetual fear of attack. Here the Anglican Church is deprived of buildings. Schools and hospitals have been taken over and the people harassed; but this has had an electrifying effect on the life of the church. There is an increase in interest and

in the number of confirmation candidates. Words of well-known prayers such as "From sudden death Good Lord deliver us" have a special meaning in this situation. This is also true in Namibia where in one district schools, hospital and seminary are all in ruins. Here being a Christian is enduring life where all around is destruction and still maintaining faith and hope.

It is impossible to meet Christians in Africa and the Indian Ocean without being uplifted for where there are so many difficulties the spirits rise above them. There is a humorous, generous and forgiving quality in the face of all deprivation. It is a humbling experience.

I am sure that all who were at All Saints' Church that evening were most grateful to Humphrey Taylor for such an excellent and thought provoking talk.

S. and P. Boarder

STEWARDSHIP REVIEW, 16th NOVEMBER

This evening gave us all, as usual, a splendid opportunity to enter into the life and experience of a worker for one of the charities which we support. The Stewardship Committee had invited Fred Bromham, Deputy Warden of the Spitalfields Crypt. In his introduction Dick Wilde used the famous quotation that it is "better to light a candle than curse the dark" reminding us that Stewardship gives us all the chance to light a candle.

When Fred Bromham described the work of the Crypt, where vagrant alcoholics are given a permanent home, "dried out" and above all introduced to the Gospel, the power of his personal commitment to God and the strength of his personality lifted the meeting to a higher level. We felt privileged to have met such a Mr. Valiant for truth and I am sure that for a moment the Spirit of God had come among us in Hampton Hill.

I shall end by quoting from Spitalfields' Newsletter describing the life of one of their many guests:

"The Irishman

The Irishman Pat is a legendary character in the folk lore of London's homeless alcoholics, and has been referred to in a number of books. Generally he was regarded as a hopeless case, often to be seen in a long black coat with his mouth organ. Most men who drink meths mix it with cider, wine or water, but Pat would drink it neat, and could easily drink two bottles between the times the pubs closed at night and opened again the next day.

For the homeless alcoholic life is painfully hard and sometimes tragically brief. Pat was deeply affected by the death of a particular friend of his. He began to realise what a destructive life style he was leading, so he became more determined to give up drinking. For the eighth time he was admitted into the Crypt as a resident and within two months he had a job working in a park. For years he went into parks to drink, now Pat was going in to work! Too often an alcoholic will use any excuse to return to drink, but not Pat, and now, for over three years, he has kept his job. During this time as a resident in the Crypt and Downham Lodge he was reunited with his family. Such is the change in him that physically he looks younger than he did fifteen years ago. Inwardly he has changed too, saying he now knows Jesus as his Friend, and this has been such a practical help to him as he has changed his life style and made new friends".

Margaret Taylor

TRAIDCRAFT SALE

The evening of November 22nd, the date fixed for our Traidcraft Sale unfortunately turned out to be an exceptionally cold one. Nevertheless quite a few people braved the elements and made it a worthwhile effort. Approximately £100 worth of goods were sold and an additional £18.50 was sent direct to Christian Aid. A warm thank you to all those intrepid customers and to the helpers who made this evening possible.

Hilde Bucknell

P.C.C. 14th December

An extra meeting was called on 14th December to 'tidy up' existing business and to ensure that we could start the New Year with a "clean sheet" (almost!). Even with no new business to transact we only just managed to get done in two hours. We were able to approve costs of £1,452.00 for building work, £1,188.00 for plumbing work and £876.50 for steel work in connection with the floor extension, which is well below the forecast cost and so within our limits as previously set (£5,000). The costs for the speech re-inforcement system are not yet finalised but we did approve the installation of a "loop" system to help yet more of those whose hearing has not so far been much helped by the equipment already put in. However we do know that costs are well within budget. Our warmest thanks to Jack Gostling and his helpers (as well as to the men who did the work on site) for the splendid and speedy way in which the project has been handled; and also to Paul Revis and his helpers for the installation of the speech re-inforcement system were recorded. The matter of carpeting for the floor caused much discussion. Eventually it was decided that the Church Uses Committee should draw up a short list of samples bearing in mind colour and quality which would then be submitted to the P.C.C. and the congregation for opinion testing. The cost is to be kept below £750. It was felt better to 'get it right' than to have it ready for Christmas and maybe make a mistake which we should rue. Easter will be a deadline. We also heard that we had been granted £1,000 towards the costs incurred on the Parish Hall and Wayside repairs as well as some on the church. However this good news was tempered by the revelation that our Parish Share was rising to £12,000 (from £8,000 in 1983) for 1984. We in this part of London are helping in some measure towards the maintenance of the church in the inner city areas of the Diocese. It was also **decided** to continue for the time being with the 'Notices' on Sunday in the existing format. While inaccuracies do occur from time to time and corrections are therefore necessary, overall it was a great improvement and again the cost was well within limits (£2.62 per week).

THE MAGAZINE APPEAL

This has raised £322 and the help given is much appreciated. The future of the Magazine will be discussed in detail at the January P.C.C.

SAVING THE PEACE

Following the coverage given to the peace movements in December I am prompted to make a few observations with a differing view. I am concerned that these views may be considered un-Christian.

One can only have the greatest admiration for the devotion and effort which the movements are giving to their cause. However I am inclined to the view that their proposed one-sided surrender of our defences is more likely to END the peace which we have been enjoying for so long than to preserve it. We would be strongly tempting our potential enemy to take advantage of our weakness. I am somewhat foolishly rushing into this hornets' nest being no expert in this field. The above is a brusque over-simplification of a complex subject. However I believe that mine is the practical common-sense view and that Christians are endowed with common-sense and would not advocate steps which logically could lead to War.

It seems that the real trouble lies in the heart of Man which ever since the Fall has been tempted by greed and mistrust. Until the teachings of Christ reach the hearts and minds of all men there will be the seeds of strife. We should try not to regard any country or anyone as an enemy but do all we can to engender trust and friendship. We must strive for entente and mutual disarmament but at the same time keep ourselves adequately prepared which in these modern times regrettably must include the hideous nuclear weapons. These are my simple views. I hope they are Christian.

Dick Waltham

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL - A Party for the lower Sunday School, 18th December

Fourteen children, two guitarists, lots of food and a visit from Father Christmas who had a present for all the children – the Christmas Party was a great success. Visitors to St. James's might well have had cause to wonder where all the noise was coming from. Even the shyest, quietest of the children seemed to let their hair down and when it came to singing carols, well, you could have heard them in Twickenham. Many thanks to all the parents and helpers. We look forward to seeing all the children after the Christmas break when we start our new term on January 15th at 9.20 a.m.

Pam Atkinson

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT – SALISBURY CATHEDRAL B.B.C.1.

I worked for a short time in Salisbury Infirmary and occasionally worshipped in the Cathedral but, beautiful and majestic as it is, I found it coldly austere and preferred a smaller church.

On the night of November 27th 1983, Advent Sunday, I watched the Candle Service on T.V. and there was no kind of cold austerity there. As bidden I turned out my lights to watch in the dark and oh how right they were!

The entry as little white spots on the dark screen becoming the ministers and choir singing joyfully with their lighted candles, the dark church and the steady lighting up of more and more of the thousands of candles, to the last hymn when the packed congregation by passing the flame from candle to candle along the pews turned the whole cathedral into a blaze of light, was so well screened that my little black and white T.V. gave me a vivid picture of how it was there, and a great sense of the Light being spread about the World!

Alison Thompson

A LEGEND

A long time ago in a distant forest there grew two trees which sprang from the same root. They never wanted to part from one another; they were of the same wood and they belonged together. The young trees grew up and the stronger they grew the more they came to fear the wood cutter for they had now grown very straight and the whole wood looked on them full of pride. "You", so the old trees said, "are destined for something special. You will have to die young, but no other wood is going to carry such a curse nor such a blessing as you — no other wood in the whole world; separated and yet united by God Himself". That was all they said. It was a strange saying and the young trees contemplated it and they did not know whether to be happy or sad about it. But one thing they were not, and that was proud. For everything that is created deep down wants to accomplish what it is created for. And so the trees let everything happen. And so the wood cutters came and cut one tree at first. They made a feeding trough from it, the sort that animals feed from. And that was in the stable where Mary was lying and did not have anywhere to put the child. And she laid him in the manger and it is a very special kind of wood on which the Saviour was laid for His first sleep in our human world. The second tree continued growing until it had developed a strong tall trunk. And then they made a big cross from it, the cross to which the Saviour was nailed when he had become a man.

(Translated from the German — Ed.)

DEANERY LAY TRAINING DAY

The Deanery Committee for Lay Training which has organised various courses and single day events under the umbrella title of 'COVIS' (Communicating Our Vision) has arranged another day on February 11th, 1984 with the subject PRAYER. The day will be from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at St. Peter & St. Paul, Teddington and will cost £1.00. The morning session will be on Individual Prayer and will be taken by the Revd. Richard Buck who is Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill Road. The afternoon session will be on Corporate Prayer with particular emphasis on leading Intercessions and this will be led by the Revd. Richard Sowter, Curate of St. Nicholas, Shepperton. You are invited to take a picnic lunch which will be shared out by the helpers so that we all share each other's food as well as fellowship. Forms will be in church by the time you read this so, if you wish to come, please fill in your application and return it to Mrs. Patricia Simpson as soon as possible. Numbers will be limited.

Later in the year, or possibly in 1985, a more extensive course is being planned. Details will be published as soon as they are available. It will probably be more concerned with the practice of Christian Living but no more is known yet.

PARISH POST-CONFIRMATION TRAINING

The Staff are planning a Post-Confirmation Training Day on 3rd March at All Saints', Isleworth. It is intended in the first place for those who have been confirmed at St. James, whether as adults or teenagers, within the last five years. All *should* get a letter inviting them personally but if none arrives please let the Vicar know. We intend to place the whole day in the context of prayer and to have some teaching sessions on the Old and New Testaments. There will be time for listening and also for discussion and sharing. All Saints' is a modern

church built within the shell of an ancient one. It has good conference facilities and is ideally situated on the riverside. We can meet in both large and small groups.

We may be able to take others if numbers for the recently confirmed are small. If you would like to come on a back-up list please let one of the staff know.

THE RECTORY CENTRE FOR ADULT EDUCATION

This centre, part of the Richmond Adult Education Service, advises that there are vacancies for four evening courses planned to be held at Rectory School from January. If these vacancies are not filled, the courses will have to be cancelled. Those interested are therefore invited to enrol at the first lesson; details of time etc. from the Prospectus at Public Libraries. The courses are:

1. Computer Programming for Beginners
 2. Art – Drawing and Painting from Life
 3. Cookery – A General Course for All Comers
 4. Local History
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The Sports Hall of the White House on the Nursery Lands is open to the public at weekends. Block bookings for groups and walk-on bookings for individuals are available for the following facilities: badminton, table-tennis, tennis (outside), football, basket ball.

Apply at the Sports Hall, Saturday and Sunday only. Tel: 979 8659.

THE WAYSIDE MONDAY CENTRE

“A listening post for the anxious, lonely and those under stress”.

I believe that this is a very good description of the purpose and ideal of the Wayside Monday Centre which in April next year will have existed in this parish for ten years.

The Wayside Monday Centre consists of a team of helpers who welcome those who are experiencing in many and varied ways the difficulties of modern living. These helpers, who are both men and women, aim to provide a form of lay counselling which supports and encourages but does not advise. By this means people are able to consider their problems and difficulties in greater depth yet still come to personal decisions of their own. So the counsellor should clearly be a sympathetic listener and not an adviser.

For those who come the Wayside Monday Centre is able to give a one-to-one contact within a wider group of people. This personal encounter is particularly valuable when so much of life is directed to large groups of people. Here a personal encounter is exactly that and a form of Christian Ministry which is exercised with care and attention by the helpers.

The helpers are persons who bring a two-fold character to this ministry. These are personal conviction and experience of life. These are essential in exploring with others life's challenges and experiences.

The Wayside Monday Centre is open each Monday (except Bank Holidays) from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. During the morning session a light and inexpensive lunch is provided if required. In addition, tea and coffee are always available.

David Dore

AN APPRECIATION

As we sat in the P.C.C. meeting last Tuesday night we heard a report from the Chairman of the Hall Committee. A tank had burst causing a flood 2 inches deep resulting in damage to floors and under floor cables. The water had been all mopped up, the damage repaired, the heating restored, the tank inspected and a replacement arranged. We had just heard a detailed report on the progress of the work being done in the church. All well up to schedule and well under the estimated cost – again hours and hours of brainwork and also skilled manual work – a real sacrificial offering of time and talents by all who have been concerned in it for so long.

A Christmas tree had been ordered, volunteers for its erection and decoration were immediately forthcoming, also for the preparation of the Christingle oranges; the parish Christmas Party is being arranged, church cleaning done, flowers ordered and will be beautifully arranged – all at a time when many of us “haven’t a minute to spare”.

As I listened I felt my heart filling with love and gratitude and this feeling has prompted this article. I continued pondering – minutes skilfully taken and reproduced, necessary paperwork appearing on time year after year; parish breakfasts arranged, Wayside maintained, hours spent by a devoted few in the churchyard, services prepared, sermons too, study for the prayer groups, accounts kept professionally, needs thought about and budgeted for, stewardship recorded, The Spire lovingly and carefully produced, Community Care practised in so many time-consuming caring and strengthening ways – the list could go on and on.

Let us take a few minutes apart from the busyness of this season to think, with gratitude and wonder of all the things we often take for granted and praise God and his people for them.

Margery Orton

We have just heard that **Hazel Reese** (nee Gubbins) in Johore had a little girl, an early Christmas present. She apparently looks just like her grandmother. Congratulations to the happy family.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

11th Dec. Benjamin Francis James MacGranthin 23 St. Philip's Road, Surbiton

Funerals

24th Nov.	John William Henry Bullock	6 Cannon Close	aged 76
25th Nov.	Arthur Jackson	85 Uxbridge Road	aged 83
25th Nov.	Eva Florence Dutton	4 Hartland Road	aged 84
6th Dec.	Doris May Chapman	32 Hanworth Road	aged 79
20th Dec.	Stephen Robert Toms	16 Sanders Close	aged 25

DATES TO NOTE

January

- 8 EPIPHANY 1 Morning services as usual
16.30 Christingle Service
- 9 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry
- 10 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James's Avenue
20.00 Tuesday Club, Social, Wayside

- 11 14.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
20.00 Liturgical Committee
- 12 10.30 Young Families Group, Toddlers Club, Wayside
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
20.00 Hampton Council of Churches
- 14 19.30 Parish Party, "Characters", St. James's Hall
- 15 EPIPHANY 2 Services as usual
- 17 09.30 Holy Communion
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins
- 18 10.30 Young Families Group, Visit Dental Hygienist
- 19 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 22 EPIPHANY 3 Morning services as usual
18.45 United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
- 23 14.30 Ladies Choir, Vestry [United Reformed Church
- 24 09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 P.C.C., Vestry
- 25 THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL
14.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 26 10.30 YFG T.C.
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
20.00 Hall Committee, 18 St. James's Road
- 29 EPIPHANY 4 Services as usual
- 31 09.30 Holy Communion

February

- 1 14.30 MU, "The Samaritans", Wayside
- 2 THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
10.30 YFG, Visit by Hampton Hill Librarian
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 5 EPIPHANY 5
08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion with Parade
16.30 Parish Communion
- 6 14.30 Ladies Choir
- 7 09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 Tuesday Club, Bring and Buy Auction, Wayside
- 8 14.00 Liturgical Dancing, Church
20.00 Good News Group, 75 Burtons Road
- 9 10.30 YFG, T.C.
19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Koinonia
- 11 Deanery Lay Training Day – Subject Prayer, SS. Peter & Paul, Teddington
- 12 EPIPHANY 6 Services as usual
- 14 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Editorial Board, 75 St. James's Avenue