

This is being written in the days immediately after Easter when we are experiencing two unusual facets of life. One is the extraordinary event of the shooting from the Libyan Embassy (perhaps significantly given another name – the People's Bureau) and the other is the long spell of summer-like weather which has surprised us all. Both in their different ways are making us ask questions about matters which are at the root of our life. Have we got to rethink our attitudes about 'diplomatic immunity' if some are going to abuse the privileges so bestowed? Have we got to tailor our behaviour to what happens in the world at large despite our traditions in this country of respecting the customs and beliefs of others? Just what do we do? The fine weather jolts us into realising that Easter is associated with holidays, with a particular Holy Day. Do we really believe in what Easter stands for, for the christian? If we don't believe in the Risen Lord of the christians then what do we believe in? Have we got a belief of any kind that affects our day to day lives? That is a question for everyone. No-one can dodge it.

At the beginning of June we shall celebrate Pentecost (or Whitsun as the English have called it for centuries). On that day, June 10th, the Bishop of Kensington will be coming to confirm five children and one grown up. The candidates will all have to answer for themselves the questions 'Do you turn to Christ?' 'Do you repent of your sins?' 'Do you renounce evil?'. Then the Bishop will put three further questions: 'Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?' 'Do you believe and trust in God the Son who redeemed mankind?' 'Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?' It is a time when the regular practisers of christianity locally can ask themselves how their faith affects their lives. On the answer depends how we relate to those we meet in any and every situation. We shall, I hope, not have a slick and ready answer. But of one thing we can be certain and it comes straight out of the disciples experience at Pentecost; that the Holy Spirit will give us the confidence and strength to meet the most awe-inspiring situations and people without fear. In the Old Testament Aaron was given the courage to speak with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, when his immediate reaction was 'Not me. Not on your life'. In the New Testament the apostles and other disciples were given quite unexpected strength to confront all sorts of people with the Gospel of the Risen Lord. May you, whoever you are, who read this be given the strength to answer the questions above honestly and the strength to act on the answer at which you arrive.

Nicholas Chubb

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is the end of Lent and beginning of Easter and we come to church to prepare ourselves for the sorrow and penitence of Good Friday and the promise of the Joy of Easter and the Resurrection.

This year we had the blessing of the presence of Bishop Alan Rogers who is well known locally having been Vicar of St. Mary's Twickenham just over thirty years ago and has since been Bishop of Mauritius and Bishop of Edmonton (London not Canada!). In his retirement he is an assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough.

This was a beautiful quiet Communion service conducted by the Bishop and our Vicar in complete unison conveying peace as well as past sorrow to us all.

Adding to the depth of emotion came the Liturgical Dancers of St. James's Church and, owing to the elevated flooring, we all could see well. There were 5 dancers this time and they advanced slowly up the nave carrying a cross which was then erected by the pulpit.

When I have seen them previously I have been impressed by the beauty and sincerity of their movements. This was a different interpretation, less action but a series of changing tableaux, beautiful, harsh, imploring, despairing, as they portrayed the feelings of those who watched the crucifixion and death of Jesus. At times they could not bear to look and turned their drooping heads away.

I thought it a beautiful and deep demonstration and the whole service sent me out prepared to enter into the Meaning of Easter.

Alison Thompson

GOOD FRIDAY

Bishop Alan conducted the Three Hours' Service (incidentally St. James is the only church locally to keep this particular tradition going) with addresses on the Seven Words that Jesus spoke from the Cross. Such was the impact of his speaking that we had never less than 31 people in church at any one time and several who had planned to spend only a short period in church found themselves compelled to stay for the full three hours. At the end over 60 were present for the final hour of watching and praying. We surely all came away with a new understanding of God's Love for us and perhaps a renewed determination and prayer to be able to call God 'Father' whatever the circumstances of life, be they bitter or sweet. Bishop Alan spoke to us from the depths of his own real grief and sorrow recently experienced. We are grateful to him for coming to us and teaching us and showing us what it is to be a follower of Jesus.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 14-20

Christian Aid collected £4,538,000 in their appeal week in Britain last year – undoubtedly a generous sum given the number of charity calls on our pockets and purses. But a breakdown of the figure in time for this year's aid week may be worthwhile.

The charity does not itself like to give a breakdown of what a donor's £1 (or less?) will do. Such figures, it feels, may give the idea that Christian Aid emphasises emergency relief, whereas a large percentage of its work is in development programmes. It sees itself as a 'pump-primer', helping local groups and families to help themselves improve their food and water supplies, their jobs and health.

Volunteer collectors in all of Hampton last year raised about £2,400, slightly up on the year before. Using percentages supplied by Christian Aid for the way it spends its money, we may say that of Hampton's £2,400, education and race relations in the U.K. took £168, overseas students in the U.K. £96, inter-church aid £72, W.C.C. services £72, refugees £216, emergencies £360 and development programmes £1,416.

Those who rummaged through with a groan for 20p to put in the envelope when the collector called in effect gave just under 2p to the world's refugees, 3p to world emergencies and just under 12p to development programmes. Out of £1, 9p went towards refugees and 15p and 59p respectively to emergencies and development.

4, St. James's Avenue,
Hampton Hill.

To the Editor of "The Spire"

21st March, 1984.

Dear Sir,

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The article on nuclear arms ("The Spire", March) does not deal with the simple question, "Can it ever be morally right for a country to use nuclear weapons?" or to put the question in Christian terms, "Is it the Will of God that man should kill man in war?" (particularly the mass indiscriminate killing in a nuclear war?).

If the answer to these questions is "No" then it is clear that we should urge the British Government to disarm unilaterally. The fact that the super powers have these weapons is no reason for Britain to follow suit.

Let us look at some practical aspects of the deterrent policy. Realistic estimates of the death toll in a European nuclear war are about 150 million; that would make Auschwitz concentration camp look like a vicar's garden party. The argument for deterrence does not face up to the practical question "Is there ever going to be a set of circumstances where Britain is going to use nuclear weapons?"

If the answer is "No", then the weapons are no deterrent. If the answer is "Yes", then we have to contemplate the sacrifice of 150 million lives for some notional political issue. I cannot think of any issue which is worth that sort of sacrifice plus all the agony that would follow. In any case it can never be a Christian duty to inflict that suffering on other people.

What makes the situation more frightening is the possibility of a war starting by computer error or by the mistake of a trigger-happy general somewhere in the world — remember the shooting down of the Korean airliner last year — the deterrent policy did not stop that, it is more likely that it created the suspicion that led to the airliner being shot down.

There is one other point that ought to be given prominence, namely that in Britain there are 1,300,000 defence-associated jobs (Financial Times). This is a major obstacle to disarmament; there are so many people in U.K. and U.S.A. (and presumably U.S.S.R.) who have a vested interest in keeping the arms race going. As Alan Taylor said in his article, we ought to divert these resources to the Third World and other worthwhile projects. We need prayer and faith to find God's way forward.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard R. Bligh

AUSTERITY LUNCH

This year's Austerity Lunch organised by the Mothers' Union in support of Christian Aid was a very well attended affair, and very capably managed as is usual on these occasions. It was lovely to see so many new faces and all age ranges and indeed a few gentlemen. The amount raised was £47 a very creditable effort on everyone's part. Many Thanks to all those who organised the lunch and also to those who attended.

A TRUE STORY – AN EASTER BLESSING

It was just over a year ago, early in the morning of Good Friday that I was praying for a friend who had been discharged from hospital with "a medically irreversible condition" (to quote the specialist). She had a crippled leg and useless foot for which she had been fitted with a caliper. She could only walk with a Zimmer frame and a wheel chair had been ordered.

I was led by the Spirit to read Matthew 9, v.27-30 where Jesus asked the two blind men who wanted their sight restored, "DO YOU BELIEVE I HAVE THE POWER TO DO WHAT YOU WANT?". They answered "Yes Lord" and Jesus told them "even as you have believed so let it be". He touched them and they were healed.

I had read this passage many times as I expect you have too, but this particular morning the words in capitals stood out in my mind and I was asked the same question, "Do *you* believe that I have the power to heal V.?", "Yes Lord". "Does *she* believe that I have the power to heal her?", "Yes Lord". "Then go to her". I went, we prayed together, I touched her, asking the Lord to use my hands as a channel for His healing and love. Later that day V. was healed and could run and jump – caliper and frame discarded. For her the pain of Good Friday was truly translated into the rejoicing of Easter Sunday.

Following this, at a request from a Richmond minister who had heard of this healing, four of us from St. James' went to pray similarly with a lady in Richmond crippled with rheumatoid arthritis. She is now healed and was last seen a week ago running up the escalator at Bentalls! These are only two instances of God's healing power at work – there are more. All over the world there come evidences of the revival of God's healing ministry.

Read:- "I believe in Miracles" by Kathleen Kuhlman

"Nine O'clock in the morning" by Dennis Bennet

You won't be bored, these are exciting reading.

M.O.

RESURRECTION

Today there is a group of theologians who define resurrection in the following way: 'Christ has risen into His congregation, into His Word'. That is not wrong, for when we proclaim God's Word Christ is with us, when His congregation gathers Christ is with them. But it does not give a complete enough explanation of resurrection. All great men continue to live in their works and in their followers. When a poem lifts our gloom in a dark hour, the poet comes to life for us. Plato's fundamental thoughts about the state have more bearing on our political life even after 2300 years than many a recent politician's speech. If "resurrection into the Word" does not mean anything beyond that which also applies to all great figures in world history, we have not yet grasped the uniqueness of the Easter happening.

There is another misinterpretation which we need to beware of. The resurrection of Jesus must not be confused with the "resuscitation of a corpse". Otherwise the Risen Lord would be in no way different from his friend Lazarus. Even in the Old Testament there are accounts of prophets to whom God gave the power to raise men back to life. These miracles were pointers to the resurrection. But since all these people died again in due course, the resurrection of Jesus must be quite a different matter.

Nature at Eastertide breathes new life. But this image again is only partially right. Resurrection does not mean the restoration of a former status. It means a radical change of the bodily state. The Easter symbol of mediaeval mysticism was not the spring-time reawakening of nature, but the butterfly, which developed from the caterpillar. Here is a completely new creature, and yet caterpillar and butterfly are intimately connected. **Resurrection is New Creation!** The Risen Lord was not always immediately recognised by his disciples, and yet the historical Jesus of Nazareth is the Risen Christ. Just as God created the world in the beginning, so the New Creation starts with the resurrection. As the French Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin showed beautifully, at Easter God acted afresh in the history of creation, and at the end of time we also will receive a new, incorruptible body.

As of now we live in a state of tension: Christ has risen already – we have not. But Christ *has* won the victory and we may rejoice in it.

Translated from an article by Pfarrer S. Boneberger
of the German Lutheran Church in London

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Football: A combined team from the Gold and Brown packs won the Twickenham District Football League, also Brown Pack team won the District Six-a-Side Cup.

Sponsored Events: Gareth Evans who ran in the Half Marathon Reading Digatel offered to sponsor our Group. Gareth who is totally deaf completed the course in 1hr. 47mins. and we are very grateful to him for his help.

A walk was organised by the Group along the towpath from Chiswick Bridge to Teddington, over 40 Cubs and Scouts took part and we hope our funds will benefit from this effort. Thank you to those parents who came along and helped in some way.

Easter Camp: 14 Scouts and 2 Officers went off to Walton Firs on Easter Saturday for 4 days camping.

Summer Fete: This year we hope to revive our Fete at Laurel Dene, and this will take place on **Sunday, 15th July.**

Venture Unit: Plans are going ahead, and any young person interested, not necessarily ex-Scouts and Guides, should contact G.S.L. Mike Childs 977 5041.

A POINT OF VIEW

Some of you will have heard the Vicar quote a modern prayer at the Parade Service in April which went like this: "O Lord, Grant that we may not be like porridge, stiff, stodgy and hard to stir but like cornflakes crisp, fresh and ready to serve". After the service Dick Waltham said he had recently come across the exact opposite: "O Lord, grant that we may not be like cornflakes, lightweight, brittle and cold, but like porridge, warm, comforting and full of natural goodness".

COMMUNITY CARE GROUP

Congratulations on your Tenth Birthday, we hope everyone will read the special edition of Community Care News.

A MEETING IN GENEVA

I have written about the organisation, the World Conference of Religions for Peace, before in the Spire. It was preparatory meetings for the next World Assembly, WCRP IV, to be held in Nairobi in August 23 -31, 1984, which took me to Kenya in August and September last year.

This year in February I went to Bossey, near Geneva, for another conference. I had been put on the "Commission on the Future" as one of the European representatives, a great honour. The eight members of the Commission represented 8 nations, four continents and four religions. We had the help of 9 other additional inter-faith members of the Nominating Committee for the Officers for the next 4-5 years of WCRP/International and Ex-officio staff.

We were trying to assess what WCRP had achieved through the activities of the local groups, — in Japan, Malaysia, Africa, Pakistan, India, the USA, Canada, Europe, our UK group is part of Europe; through its World Assemblies, — in Kyoto, Japan, in 1970, in Louvain, Belgium, in 1974, in Princeton, USA, in 1979; through its multi-religious projects such as its work with the Boat People, and the Khmer refugees; through talks about peace with Governments, as was undertaken by a strong multi-faith delegation to the Chinese Government in 1982, in which Canon Gordon Wilson took part; through the "Initiative of Active Hope" initiated by WCRP/Europe where items of hopeful news are collected in an attempt to strengthen the witness of the *good things* which happen, but are not considered worthy of headlines; through peace education in school and colleges; through comradeship with peoples of other faiths; through interfaith meetings and shared religious services.

From the start of the Conference, 2 major concerns were voiced and at last were amalgamated. The horrific 660 billion dollars per annum spent on military, including nuclear, expenditure, and the poverty levels in the third world involving starvation, death daily, of hundreds of thousands, and widespread permanent hunger, — such as we cannot imagine. The link between the war economy and the suppression of human rights and dignity involved in world economic inequalities was spelt out, and must be in the fore-front of WCRP's endeavours to attain a step forward to world peace.

Otherwise we are to press on with the works and projects enumerated above. We want to involve more young people, and our new Secretary General, Dr. John Taylor, an English Methodist, has been asked to arrange a Youth Conference in 1985. We have in the UK some very promising young people: Gill Cressy who works in an Ashram in Birmingham, a young Muslim student doing his Ph.D., a young Dutch Buddhist doing the practical work on his thesis in Central America. We hope to send them all to Nairobi this next summer. Any other volunteers?

Further aims are: to encourage further WCR regional programmes. Please let me know if anyone would like to join us, we meet generally in London to promote more spiritual reflection and understanding and respect for each others faiths. and to do more to encourage the vital contributions of women and youth.

I have the Conference report if anyone would like to see it.

Hannah Stanton

THE APARTHEID PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

I gave a party for the members of the local Richmond Anti-Apartheid group in March, and I apologise that I didn't make it clear that any members of the St. James's congregation would also have been very welcome to come if they had been interested.

The recent experiences of my brother Tom must have brought it home to many that South Africa is a warped society. It is the only country in the world in which discrimination is enshrined in the Constitution and in the law of the land. There is undoubted injustice in that country, supported by the law, and this is condemned by many people in South Africa. My brother was among them in his refusal to give evidence against the young Afrikaans student, Carl Niehaus, who, as Tom said in his statement, "is concerned to bring about a more just ordering of society than exists here at present".

Much informed, patient protest is needed in order to build up international disapproval and to convey to the South African Government that legislation implementing apartheid must be radically altered. We must also try to see things from South Africa's point of view; what is being done there is the result of fear, and this fear has made them pass legislation involving the deliberate removal of millions of African men, women and children into areas, Homelands, which cannot support them and where they die.

As Christians we need to be involved in this violation of human rights. Archbishop Trevor Huddleston is the President of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in this country. He is addressing a public meeting on "Southern Africa" in the Church Hall of Richmond Methodist Church, Kew Road, Richmond, at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 4th. This may well be over by the time this issue of the Spire appears, but I, as Chairman of the local Anti-Apartheid Group, will welcome most warmly names of people from St. James's who may not wish to join the group, but who will like to be told about our future talks and projects.

We are having a stall, home produce, at the Richmond May Fair on Saturday May 12th, and our autumn programme will include meeting a Conservative MP whom we are inviting to an exchange of ideas on what our Government could do to help to effect change in South Africa before the African people in desperation resort to tragic violence.

Hannah Stanton

SOME IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 20th May | Speaker after shortened Evensong: The Revd. Michael Atkinson who is a member of the Board for Social Responsibility at Church House. His special interest is research and Penal Affairs and he also edits the Board's Magazine 'Crucible'. |
| 17th June | The Speaker after Evensong will be Brother Donald of the Society of St. Francis. His speciality is mission in an ecumenical setting. |
| 22nd July | St. James's Day. We are keeping our Patronal Festival this year on the Sunday before 25th July. Please keep this free if at all possible so that we can have our usual family gathering on the Sunday afternoon. Details of the day itself later. |

AN ALPHABET OF BIBLE PROMISES

- M** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10 v.27).
N No man cometh to the Father but by me. (John 14 v.6).
O Open wide your mouth and I will fill it. (Psalm 81 v.10).
P Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. (John 14 v.27).
Q Quicken thou me according to Thy word. (Psalm 119 v.25).
R Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy Youth. (Ecclesiastes 12 v.1).
S Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near. (Isaiah 55 v.6).
T The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6 v.23).
U Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. (Isaiah 9 v.6).
V Verily, verily I say unto you, ye must be born again. (John 3).
W What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul. (Matthew 16 v.26).
X 'Xcept a man be born again he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. (John 3 v.3).
Y Ye must be born again. (John 3 v.7).
Z Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must abide in thy house. (Luke 19 v.5).

This alphabet has been supplied by Violet Clarke, who writes: "I learnt all these texts when I was 9 years old (actually it amounted to 100). I have made some into an alphabet and during illness or fear I have been able to recall the promises of God and to find much comfort. Take the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God."

The first half of the alphabet appeared in March.

THREATENED CLOSURE OF PIONEER CLINIC FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Maddison Clinic, founded in 1958 by Dr. John Maddison, at that time Area Medical Officer of Health for South West Middlesex, has been of proven value ever since. Five thousand patients have been seen, many have been able to dispense with hospital treatment completely or to defer becoming in-patients until much later in life. Applying for examination at the qualifying age of 55 years, waiting time has been conditioned by the number of medical sessions each week and these were recently cut from 14 to 9.

Taking advantage of the present financial crisis due to the last reorganisation of the Health Service, the District Management Team of the Richmond, Twickenham & Roehampton District Health Authority not only proposes the *Cessation of Older People's Clinic Sessions* in the four clinics, of which the Maddison is by far the most important, but to introduce a visiting service of Health Visitors to people of 75 years of age in their own homes, completely ignoring the value of PREVENTIVE MEDICINE advocated by the late Dr. John Maddison, M.D., D.Ph.

The League of The Friends of the Maddison Clinic had its inaugural meeting on 6th November 1963. There are today 1,400 Friends, many of whom assist in the running of the Clinic and its three Day Clinics for patients each week. There are 57 Voluntary drivers who collect patients from their

homes and return them in the afternoon and also, when requested take patients to the Clinic for examination. The drivers are offered 15p per mile and are also insured against loss of 'NO CLAIM BONUS' should they be unfortunate in having an accident while on Clinic business.

Over £23,000 has been raised by the Friends for equipment and building modifications and extensions.

Many of you who read this will have benefited from the care and attention received at the Maddison Clinic. Please write to me expressing your appreciation of the treatment there and condemning the proposed closure of such a valuable institution.

Leonard Rockliffe
Chairman of The Friends

CHILDREN'S EASTER SERVICE, GOOD FRIDAY

If you'd had a diary 1,954 or so years ago, it may have read like the order of service for this gathering. In hymns, prayers and readings we were taken through Holy Week day-by-day as if by someone who had witnessed it; Palm Sunday, the clearing of the temple, betrayal by Judas, the Cross. There was a part for each member of the good-sized group, if only in singing and praying, and some parents and children also took the roles of some of the week's leading characters.

The story of the bamboo plant made an impression on those of us who had not heard it before (and probably those who had). A healthy, tall-growing bamboo is told by its master that it can serve him best by being cut down, stripped of its leaves, split in two and de-cored. It protests that this will result in its death, but agrees to abide by the master's will. The half sections are then used to make a channel to carry life-giving water from a spring to the master's parched rice fields. For those pondering the meaning of Easter, it was a story worth thinking about.

Our children then moved on to their own garden, and got great enjoyment out of helping to create the Calvary scene in miniature. In all, it was a thought-provoking service for all ages.

FAMILY SERVICE, EASTER DAY

I'm told that the Easter bunny of my childhood is old hat now. So much, then for the Easter bird of the vicar's young boyhood. Both were generous creatures, however, leaving chocolate eggs in the garden early on Easter Day for children to find. With great excitement the finder would rush off to tell his brothers or sisters the good news, until they made their own discovery and did likewise.

Of course, what one forgets – and it was good to be reminded of it – is that such treats should serve to help us remember the Easter story and the excitement of the disciples as they told each other of the news that Christ had risen.

During this happy service we walked around to look at one of the church windows to see how Jesus may have looked when he appeared to the various followers on the first Easter Day. We ended with a look at the Easter garden its blooms, and its mixed message of sorrow and joy.

Chris Richards

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

14th April Jeffrey Jude Bullmore and Pamela Kathleen Dyer

Funerals

10th April	Fanny Collins	26 Cranmer Road	aged 87
19th April	David Edward Boswarva	16 Byron Close	aged 31
24th April	Norah Lilian Towers	55 Park Road	aged 84

SOME DETAILS FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
25 March	102	123	103	9
1 April	118	178	182	32
8 April	107	116	113	13
15 April	146	163	270	25
22 April (Easter)	175	190	72	152

DATES TO NOTE

May

14 Christian Aid Week
15 09.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Magazine Committee
19.30 Community Care Group AGM at Rectory School
17 19.15 Holy Communion
20.00 Properties Committee (5 Sanders Close)
19 Morning Parish Hall Spring Clean
20 EASTER 4
18.30 Speaker at Evensong: Revd. Michael Atkinson
22 09.30 Holy Communion
23 20.00 Good News Group
24 19.15 Holy Communion
25 18.30 Confirmation Class
27 EASTER 5 Services as usual
29 09.30 Holy Communion
31 ASCENSION DAY
20.00 Holy Communion

June

1 18.30 Confirmation Class
2 10.00 Churchyard Clearing
3 SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION Services as usual
5 09.30 Holy Communion
20.00 Tuesday Club AGM
6 20.00 Good News Group
7 19.15 Holy Communion
8 18.30 Confirmation Class
10 PENTECOST
09.30 CONFIRMATION by the Bishop of Kensington