

With declining public services all around us we are very apt to grumble at our lot. And why not when we can always compare our situation with those who appear to be so much better off? Perhaps we can put things into perspective when we compare ourselves with those in unbelievably worse positions. This the speaker from Christian Aid did most effectively when he addressed a large mixed congregation at All Saints' Hampton on 13th May. He described how one old lady of 74 in Sri Lanka said how happy she was that she now had access to one cold tap to share with 12 other families — it was the best thing that had happened to her in her life! And that took place in a country which was part of the Commonwealth and used to be part of the Empire. This should not of course prevent us from striving for ever better conditions for us and fellow countrymen, but it might at least help us to be thankful for all the things we have got while we work for improvements. One of the hall marks of a christian ought to be joy and thankfulness which is infectious. If we can contribute that attitude to our society and community our time will not have been wasted.

Nicholas Chubb

"THE PROVING OF THINGS UNSEEN"

Just lately, by co-incidence (or God-incidence) I have been reading three books at a time and a certain theme in all of them has stood out for me — the power of the unseen.

Jim Wilson in "Go Preach the Kingdom and Heal the Sick" talks of the amazing changes in attitudes and thought over the past six decades. In science there used to be the belief that creation was inevitably moving forward under its leadership to a state where there was no need for God. Before the splitting of the atom, matter was thought to be indestructable — no scientist believes this today and there is far greater humility in science and far more scientists who are Christian. Psychology, from being rather a joke has been seen and proved to help man to understand the way in which his mind works and the importance of the subconscious in both medicine and religion. In medicine, from an almost entirely organistic approach, psychosomatic medicine has discovered the importance of the unsee-able mind and emotions on the physical body and has realised that it is the *whole* person who needs to be treated.

Religion, Charles Kingsley had jibed was just "pie in the sky when you die". Today there is revival abroad as men are rediscovering that God is concerned to bring His kingdom into being *on earth* through reconciling man to Him through His son and Spirit. Men all over the world are experiencing the faith and power of Jesus as a reality as did the first Christians, by really inspiring — breathing in — the truths of the Bible and coming close to God through actively believing the teaching and promises of Jesus who is God's living Word.

Michael Ramsay in "Be Still and Know" also writes of Jesus bringing unity, not only among men who really believe but individual wholeness with the Father, Son and Spirit. The world is now in danger of extinction through man's imperfections and limitations but there *is* hope through re-discovering faith in God, Christ's way, for "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the proving" — as many people in the world today *are* proving — "of things unseen".

In "Anything you Ask" Colin Urquhart sees every problem as a spiritual problem, as did Jesus. We men invariably limit God's unlimited power when we remain, like doubting Thomas, solely in the consciousness of our own limited conceptions; our unaided minds often bring us negative, defeated and hopeless reactions but the Spirit sees each hopeless situation as an opportunity for God's power to be manifested. The power of man's intellect *alone* cannot produce a miracle or answer in glory a prayer for the seemingly unattainable.

It is necessary for us to place our minds at the disposal of God, humbly and prayerfully, to seek and to find through His Spirit that "unseeable" which will enlarge our limited vision and understanding, expand our thinking and revive our hope until we realize that *nothing is impossible to God* and that His Power and Glory can be seen on this earth as in Heaven if we let Him take our weakness and give it His strength.

Religion and faith is learning how to be fed nourishing food by the Spirit here and now through Jesus so that God's presence and power can be experienced as a *living reality* – no "pie in the sky when we die" here, but the same power which fed the multitude out of five barley loaves and three small fishes and can save not only individuals but the world.

Margery Orton

COMMUNITY CARE CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST TEN YEARS

The first ten years of life are always very eventful, whether it be a person or an organisation. It is a time of growth and development and both these aspects of life have certainly been abundant in the ten years' span of the Community Care Group who celebrated their first decade in May with a variety of activities.

A large group of people gathered at Rectory School for the Annual General Meeting which was followed by a part for all the volunteers. The retiring Chairman, Mark Robinson, opened the meeting and introduced the President, Hannah Stanton, who spoke briefly about the early days of the CCG and thanked a few of the many people who helped to get it started. It had been hoped that Canon Dennis Green would be able to speak at the meeting but as he was unable to attend Dr. David Woodroffe, one of the co-founders of CCG, spoke instead about the ideas that brought the organisation into being in the first place. He had, he said, been aware for a long time, as a Doctor, of people's physical and medical problems but he had never really appreciated the many other difficulties that such people have in, for example, getting about or knowing where to find help in solving certain problems.

Several times during the course of the evening the lack of volunteer drivers was mentioned. This is a very real service to the community and one that is very worthwhile. Mark Robinson spoke of the need for CCG to look forward to the future and to visualise what its role is to be in the next decade. He welcomed Diane White as the new Chairman and Brenda Smith as the new Vice-chairman, taking her, he said from a pile of books!

The party which followed the meeting was much enjoyed by all, a chance to meet old friends and make some new ones too. The refreshments were excellent and a beautiful cake was ceremonially cut by Mr. Toby Jessel and the Deputy Mayor Mr. Jeremy Pope, and distributed among the assembled company. It was a fitting end to a decade of service to the community.

Helen Taylor

MONKS? FRIARS? JUST WHAT ARE THEY?

Most of us have a fairly distorted idea of what monks or friars are. Nuns we think we know a little bit more about because there are more of them and we are quite likely to have come across them in their distinctive clothes. Locally there are nuns at Twickenham and Ham Common. A great many people believe that monks belong only in the Roman Catholic Church, but since the middle of the nineteenth century there have been many orders of monks and nuns in the Church of England. Again many people associate the idea of a 'religious community' with what used to be called 'Anglo-Catholic' practices. Of course some were but this is far from the case now.

Basically a monk or a friar or a nun is someone who seeks to find God and worship him within a community of fellow seekers who adopt a rather more strictly disciplined life than is 'usual'. Promises or 'Vows' are taken to lead a life without money for oneself, without taking a marriage partner, and without a self-centred career structure; more usually this is expressed in the words poverty, chastity and obedience. Most religious communities or 'orders' have a rule based on that worked out by St. Benedict who lived between 480 A.D. and 550 A.D. in Italy. It involved fairly detailed expressions of work and prayer and indeed at one time gave rise to the phrase 'to work is to pray'. Benedict also incorporated one key conception that a community was to be stable and a monk took an extra vow of stability i.e. he would not travel round the world looking for satisfaction in all different kinds of places. He was to be committed to his fellow monks through good times and bad.

In the 13th century St. Francis and St. Dominic founded orders of brothers with a rather different emphasis. Their brothers were deliberately not to live in stable communities with big houses and large abbey churches. They were to be available to meet people of all kinds and in every place. Their orders were to be flexible and to live alongside the poor, in squalor if necessary. They were not to own anything at all. Later Dominicans were to develop into an intellectual teaching order but Franciscans, apart from a very few individuals were not academic. St. Francis was afraid that books would divert their attention from praying and preaching. Their lives were characterised by simplicity, love and joy, as well as poverty, chastity and obedience. Over the centuries a great many have been attracted by these ideals and in the Church of England the franciscan life blossomed again in the 19th century. To-day the largest of these communities is the Society of St. Francis which has small houses dotted over the world concentrating on where the need is greatest and others are not already present. It is responding to the need of the inner cities and centres of deprivation and unemployment. One of these Friars, Brother Donald, will be preaching to us on June 17th at 6.30 Evensong. Don't miss him!

LUIS PALAU'S MISSION TO LONDON MAY 31 – JUNE 30

You may have seen the advertising: 'Luis Palau at QPR Bring your doubts'. Evangelist Mr. Palau is holding a mission to London at the Queen's Park Rangers football ground in Shepherds Bush throughout June, every night except Sundays, at 8 p.m. (The mission coincides with a three-month crusade around Britain by Billy Graham). At the age of 12, at a summer camp organised by British missionaries in his native Argentina, Luis Palau entrusted his life to Christ, and later as a young man decided to give himself to helping others on the same path.

The London mission, to which entry is free, will include youth emphasis nights on Mondays and Wednesdays and family nights on Thursdays. A 1,000-voice choir will take part, with special guests. There will be Commonwealth nights, with proceedings beamed to Canada, Australia and New Zealand by radio, women's coffee mornings, including two at Cobham, on June 4, and Croydon, June 13. A children's 'rainbow special' will be held at QPR from 10.30 a.m. on June 23, and lunchtime services at All Souls, Langham Place, on May 31, City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, June 5-7, and Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate, June 12-14.

MISSION TO LONDON – COACHES FROM TEDDINGTON

A coach has been booked to go to QPR Stadium from Teddington every Wednesday and Friday in June. It will leave at 6.30 p.m. from outside Teddington Baptist Church in Church Road. Anyone is welcome to travel on the coach – space permitting. Fares will be £1.50 adult return; 75p return for students and Senior Citizens. Seats at QPR are free, a block booking has been made for everyone travelling on the coach.

SUNDAY NIGHT AT ST. JAMES'S 24th JUNE

In addition to our normal cycle of A.S.B. Evening Prayer and sermon on Sunday evenings, we have varied the pattern with three excellent speakers who have challenged and informed us after shorter Evening Prayer over the past few weeks. We are continuing this arrangement of occasionally varying our style of worship on Sunday 24th June at 6.30 p.m. with a simpler style of service incorporating more modern music and liturgical dancing. This Sunday we also celebrate the birth of John the Baptist and our service will reflect this.

The arrangements are designed to have a broad appeal to the whole congregation and we do very much hope that you will all come and perhaps bring along someone who rarely goes to church.

STEWARDSHIP – NEW MEMBERS MEETING

You will all have seen on the weekly notices and elsewhere in the church that St. James's is a STEWARDSHIP church, and everyone who looks to St. James's as their church is invited to join the Stewardship scheme. What this means will be common knowledge to most of the congregation but for our more recent members we provide the opportunity to find out what it means during a very pleasant informal evening, at Wayside. These events happen every eighteen months or so and the next one is on June 21st at 8.00 p.m. We will try and contact and invite those recent members of the church who are not in the Stewardship scheme to come along. It is quite possible, however, that someone who should be invited will be accidentally missed; but please if you would like to come, or know someone who would, but has not received an invitation, please let a member of the Stewardship Committee know.

Of course the evening is not restricted to "newer" members of the church, if you have in the past decided not to join the scheme but would like to rethink your decision you will be very welcome.

Stewardship has done much for our church, for us as individuals and for the Church nationally, and we ask you all to help keep the momentum going.

EMPTY CHURCHES? NO!

"Our Empty Churches". How often this remark on the media filled me with annoyance. No theatre could survive if the Press insisted that the seats were almost empty and no one was interested. Through many years "The Mousetrap" attracted audiences maybe because everyone else had seen it. So why this insistence that our churches are empty?

I think of the Remembrance Service in Holy Trinity Church, Windsor, where I had to obtain my ticket three weeks in advance, but a seat was not guaranteed although I was a regular attender. That of course was a special occasion.

This has all come in to my mind at present because I have been to Bathampton and my hostess remarked "We'll have to leave by 10.15 as it will take us quite ten minutes to drive down and park the car and any later we might not get a seat". So we went early to this dear little church of St. Nicholas and we found a seat and the church filled up as predicted by 11 a.m.

After the service I let the crowd depart and then had a word with the Church Wardens, newly installed that morning, and I looked at the beautiful windows and the chancel and altar and then went out into the well-kept churchyard where I looked unsuccessfully for the grave of artist Sickert pupil of Whistler and friend of Degas. I read that there had been Christian worship on the site for 750 years.

Of course we of St. James are fortunate to live in a Christian community with a beautiful and well run church where the congregation is steadily growing. At most services I attend I glance over my shoulder with a feeling of pleasure at the increasing numbers.

Please BBC do not insist that our churches are empty.

Alison Thompson

THE EASTER PEACE PILGRIMAGE

(Christian CND, Pax Christi, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Iona Community, Mennonites, Quaker Peace Section)

Under the landing lights of USAF Mildenhall, the deep silence of fifteen people round a camp fire was slightly disturbed by the rustle of sandy earth poured over each other's legs by my twin sons. I moved to sit between them and took their hands – others joined us, and we all rose spontaneously to say together the Lord's Prayer. Later we discovered that the seventy pilgrims during their week's journey from Greenham Common to join us were accustomed to make this a feature of their daily worship.

On Palm Sunday, around the time that the pilgrims met at Greenham, John Hurst from Twickenham CND was driving us through the East Anglian countryside to Molesworth, where we helped to plough a disused portion of the USAF base there – on Easter Day there would be a sowing of wheat to reclaim the land for food, and other members of Twickenham CND were to join us in the peace camp that night. For the time, however, John, after seeing us settled in the pleasant woodland site, left us to make our home for Holy Week, and to remember, during our happy prayer times of silence, readings, and extempore prayer, all the people who had with their loving friendship prepared us for the venture – the clergy and people of Twickenham, Hampton Hill and Abingdon, the CND local groups of Twickenham and Hillingdon, the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and Christian CND.

Every day the children and I went into Mildenhall, where the boys swam, I shopped for the camp, and chatted to residents and shopkeepers, some friendly and welcoming, others puzzled but curious and interested in the peace camp. One night, after chats with US servicemen in the town, an amplified voice from the base wished us, 'Good night, all you campers, sleep well'. The camp co-ordinator complained with reason that decision-taking meetings were difficult when we lost half the party every time a plane came in – everyone rushed to wave to the pilot from the end of the landing lights. Prayer, cooking, washing up, writing to the friends we were representing, took up a great deal of the day – but there was time to welcome visitors, to decorate the fence of the base with loving messages and crosses, and to turn the squares sent from all over the world into a banner for The Easter March. On Maundy Thursday and Easter Day most of us attended the local service of our own denomination. On Good Friday we attended the open air reading of the Passion outside the parish church, then moved to hold our own silent vigil in the market place. On Easter Saturday the pilgrims arrived. Apart from the feelings of the vegetarians our pet cockerel Sunday Lunch might not have gone very far – so we shopped and cooked in camp for 100, before sharing with the pilgrims in a vigil, and the Easter Celebrations at dawn. Easter Day was a non-stop party for those who weren't asleep – then there was the March on Monday.

Anne Malins

EASTER MONDAY APRIL 23rd

A march was organised by Christian CND on Easter Monday, and in its course we thought of the Easter Message of Resurrection. There are 7 miles between Mildenhall USAF base and Lakenheath USAF where the US F-11 nuclear bombers are based, both in Suffolk, and 2500-3000 people from all over Britain took part carrying crosses, balloons, posters saying "We want peace, Peace is the Way", and many condemning nuclear weapons.

We sang "Jesus Christ is risen to-day", – not easy to get half a mile of procession singing – and started off with the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt. Rev. Tony Dumper, (ordained priest in Southwark Cathedral, he said, on the same day as my brother Tom), and Mons. Bruce Kent in the forefront.

The police walked alongside, very friendly and chattable to. It didn't matter that one lost one's friends immediately, one walked along talking to fellow marchers, sharing their sweets, offering them sandwiches, and at a pause, when the tail of the procession had to catch up with the main body, we had a hasty drink, a policeman nearby accepting an orange drink. A very small group of National Front protesters, shouting their songs at us, were kept well away by a lot of police; and again, in one village where a set of bully boys were waiting for us, we were glad of our escort. We walked through the lovely Suffolk countryside and it was very hot. We were asked on the way to think of the road to Emmaus, and to get to know the Christ in the stranger we found ourselves walking beside. It was the happiest march I have ever been on: men, women, young and old, children, mothers with babies in push-chairs, a man had brought his dog, many friends both new and old from Pax Christi, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Quaker Peace and Service, the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, and many parish organisations.

At Lakenheath we all sat in groups on a hillside over-looking the vast area of airbase. It was at a United Nations talk at a later date that Professor John Ferguson, President of the UNA in the UK, told the story of how in 1956 a US fighter plane crashed in flames at Lakenheath, frighteningly close to the hanger where three nuclear bombs were stored, and how most of the airport personnel raced for their cars and motor cycles to put as many miles as possible between themselves and the expected nuclear explosion which would have devastated huge tracts of East Anglia for many years. Fortunately brave firemen stayed to fight the flames and the catastrophe was avoided. The incident was not made public until 1979.

On that hillside on Easter Monday we viewed the huge expanse of the base with curiosity: no F-111s in sight, but the area, the largest US air base in Europe, is served by 5000 American personnel. A place indeed to be feared. But nothing on that day dampened our hope and our trust. A light-hearted service was conducted and our leaders spoke briefly and movingly about the purpose of the march. We were asked to share our provisions, what we hadn't eaten on the way, with neighbouring groups; this we did and made even more friends; there was a most moving feeling of togetherness about the event. The whole march was a really Christian, light-hearted and very joyful happening. Finally, the sign of peace was shared by all. There had been cheerful resolution, prayer and hope in that demonstration and I, with thousands of others I am sure, felt that we had experienced a truly Christian expression of love, hope, trust and fellowship.

Hannah Stanton

SUNSHINE CORNER

In September 1983 my god-daughter Louisa Mortimore suggested that we started a handicraft club for children. We started with four girls and now we have nine. Our Sunshine Corner as it is called meets on Wednesdays and we have made decorations, seasonal cards, dolls from a sock, a bit of patchwork, etc. The girls make up their own prayers and we read the Bible and have a story. Sometimes we play games so as not to be too serious – we even had a concert which some mothers attended.

I would like to congratulate Louisa for, like a disciple of Jesus, she has brought others in.

Violet Clark

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING EVENING

The Children's Society Box Opening Evening will be held on Monday July 9th at 68, Park Road from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Everyone who has a box is asked to bring it along that evening to have it emptied, if you cannot bring your box on this date please give it to me in church on the previous Sunday or the one following. Coffee and refreshments will be served while you wait for your box to be emptied and there will also be a bring and buy in aid of the Children's Society. If you have any unwanted jewellery whether in good repair or not we shall also be collecting it for the Society.

THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN

Because of the concern of the Rev. Chubb for the Vietnamese children under the care of The Save The Children Fund at Hampton Court House, I went to visit my neighbours and received a very friendly welcome from Mr. David Pacey in his office where he was surrounded by cheerful children. As he talked to me about them and how they had integrated into our life style it was obvious how much it meant to him. One of the bigger children made me a very good cup of tea and then they quietly faded away while we talked.

It is such a happy place to visit and, as Mr. Pacey said, so ideal for the children who have settled into school ways at Rectory and Hampton Hill Schools and also made friends in the area.

Two years ago when they moved in there were 32 children and language was the big problem but they worked hard and the record shows that they succeeded with the help of part time evening lessons. At present 9 of the new residents are attending the Language School in Hounslow. Six school children are taking O Level Exams and 3 are taking A Level. Sport is also catered for and 8 of the boys play football with the Hampton Manor Team run by two policemen. This is a good team which was represented in the League Match against the Isle of Wight.

There is activity now preparing for another Grand Fete to be held on 24th June with stalls etc. and the Dragon Dance for which a new Dragon is being made.

Help on the day would be welcome such as manning the stalls, providing cakes, books or jewellery. Also help is needed when it comes to furnishing homes for those who move out to jobs after leaving school. Mr. Pacey said he was constantly amazed at the amount of help that they receive.

Since last I visited them 2 families have moved to their own homes, by finding an older member, maybe in another country and bringing them together as an independent unit. Since November there have been 16 new arrivals so putting the number up to 33.

Of the future they do not know — their lease has been extended to August 1985 but that is as far as they can look at present.

I did not see Mrs. Robina Brand who so kindly wrote for us some time back. She was on a well deserved holiday.

Alison Thompson

THE REVEREND MICHAEL ATKINSON

On May 19th after Evensong the Rev. Michael Atkinson from the Board of Social Responsibility of the General Synod talked to us about the moral bases of the Board's work. He discussed briefly "how people decide what to do in society", how they relate to one another and stressed the vital role of the laity in leading and influencing the clergy. He listed the basic suppositions on which the work of the Board is based instancing many men who all have been redeemed by the same God, their likenesses rather than their differences, their points of unity and the all embracing importance of the infallibility of God and the sinfulness of man.

Michael Atkinson is interesting and eloquent and many of us would have appreciated his views on his own field of work "Crime, Penal matters and Policy": another time perhaps with a longer period for discussion.

Margaret Taylor

AROUND THE SPIRE

Congratulations to Roger and Hilde Bucknell on the premature arrival of their daughter, Rosalind Maria Nicola who weighed in at 5lbs 12oz on 2nd May, a month or so earlier than expected. Mother and baby are both now at home and getting on very well, we look forward to seeing them back among us very soon and hope that Alison and Colin are pleased to welcome the new arrival into the family.

Roger and Ann Severn's baby, Annalea Jane, was Christened at the recent Parade Service and it was a very happy occasion with a large congregation in Church to welcome a new member into the family of God's people. We wish all the babies and youngsters who were baptised that day to grow up knowing something of God and about Christianity so may we remember them in our prayers and do everything we can to encourage them to grow in the faith.

Congratulations are also in order to John Taylor who was confirmed here two years ago, on being appointed a Deputy Head at Drayton Manor School. This is the same school where Lesley Mortimer is also a Deputy Head so we can feel sure that that school is in excellent hands and we wish John every success in his new post.

Being made redundant is not a pleasant experience but one that is all too common in certain parts of the country, mercifully it is an experience that few of our parishioners have had to suffer. However this has just happened to one of our Readers, Don Rawlins, but who, we are pleased to report, managed to get himself another job within a few days; we wish him well in that appointment.

David Nunn is still not very well and we very much miss his drive and energy about the place trying to bring order out of chaos. We send our love to both David and Janet and hope to see them both among us again soon.

Rosalind Bucknell sends thanks for all the congratulations received on her safe arrival – from Hilde 24.5.84.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

6th May	Annalea Jane Severn	4 Milton Road, Hampton
	Arabella Janeszka Boyce	227 Hampton Road, Twickenham
	Ashley Kay Clifford	29 Staines Road, Twickenham
	Brett Clifford	66 Park Road
	Catherine Julie Jenkins	5 Hampton Road

Weddings

28th April	Martin Francis Atkinson and Nicola Jane Clements
12th May	David Malcolm Lewis and Kim Rosina Oliver
19th May	Hervey Breese and Carol Patricia Nield
	Michael Anthony Cox and Anne Maureen Tatnell

Funerals

18th May	William Herbert Parker	33 Rectory Grove	aged 62
21st May	William George Thomas Vigar	10 Edward Road	aged 64
25th May	Margaret Ceris West	39 St. James's Avenue	aged 40

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Pledged Giving</i>	<i>Other Giving</i>
29th April	115	145	85	47
6th May	148	198	101	41
13th May	116	140	293	10

DATES TO NOTE

June

10	PENTECOST
09.30	CONFIRMATION BY THE BISHOP OF KENSINGTON
12	09.30 Holy Communion
	10.30 Magazine Committee
14	10.30 Study Group, 81 Park Road
	19.15 Holy Communion
15	06.30 Holy Communion
17	TRINITY SUNDAY
	09.30 Holy Communion
	18.30 Evensong — Speaker Bro. Donald, A Franciscan Friar
19	09.30 Holy Communion
	20.00 Tuesday Club
20	20.00 Good News Group
21	19.15 Holy Communion
	20.00 Stewardship Introduction to New Members
22	06.30 Holy Communion
24	PENTECOST 2
	09.30 Holy Communion
	18.30 Do It Yourself Folk Evening
26	09.30 Holy Communion
28	10.30 Study Group, 81 Park Road
	19.15 Holy Communion
29	14.50 Maddison Clinic Bring and Buy Sale

July

1	PENTECOST 3
	09.30 Holy Communion
3	09.30 St. Thomas. Holy Communion
	20.00 Tuesday Club
	20.00 Social Committee, 68 Park Road
4	14.30 Mothers' Union Service in Church
	20.00 Good News Group
5	19.15 Holy Communion
6	06.30 Holy Communion
7	14.00 United Nations Association Garden Party, Homestead, Tedd.
8	PENTECOST 4
	09.30 Holy Communion
10	09.30 Holy Communion
11	20.00 Properties Committee, Vicarage
12	10.30 StudE Group, 81 Park Road
	20.00 Hall Management Committee, 21 St. James's Road
13	06.30 Holy Communion
14	Hampton Hill Association Childrens' Sports, Holly Road Ground